

## 2024: A look back on the year in Salado

By **TIM FLEISCHER**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Saladoans were in the path of totality of a total solar eclipse, broke ground on a new high school and stadium, saw a parade featuring the Clydesdales, found out that Sirenafest is moving to Belton, elected a new mayor and two new aldermen and found out that the Village is broke with a \$1.4 million deficit budget.

The community also saved a historic old church and moved it to a new location on the grounds of the Salado administrative building.

These are a few of the highlights of the year 2024.

Salado voters chose Bert Henry as the new Mayor on May 4 and added two new aldermen: Michael MacDonald and Zach Hurst.

The new board chose to allow the vacancy created by Henry's election as Mayor to remain unfilled until May 2025 when voters will choose three aldermen.

Michael Coggin and Paul Cox were defeated in their re-election bids for Mayor and Aldermen, respectively.

The other local race was for two three-year terms on the Salado ISD Board of Trustees. Chris Diem was successful in being re-elected to the board with 701 votes. Write-in candidate Cooper Gill was also elected with 494 votes. Michael Apodaca received 483 votes.

Bobbie Ann Adair White went off the SISD board after serving six years.

### TXDOT to expand FM 2484

Texas Department of Transportation gave formal notice in May to the Village of Salado and other entities that it proposes construction on FM 2484 from I-35 to Park Rd. and from Park Rd. to FM 3481.

The proposed construction will be to widen the roadway by adding shoulders and turning lanes.

The project was scheduled to be ready to let by Oct. 2024, according to Waco District Utility Coordinator Dustin L. Deaton.

TXDOT sent notice to area utilities and governments for them to show their facilities which might be affected by the expansion of FM 2484 from I-35 to FM 3481. TXDOT is seeking information on facilities that might be encountered during construction of the projects as well as the approximate boundaries of easements and other interest inlands that those entities hold along and/or across this route.

With recent growth, FM 2484 has become a heavily traveled road. The addition of Salado Town Center and subdivisions along FM 2484 and FM 1670 have caused frequent congestion.

### Mustang Springs at Salado

Mustang Springs at Salado was given a drilling permit for a well in the Lower Trinity River aquifer after public hearings in early 2024. The developer will have to apply for an operating permit.

The developer petitioned with the Village for the formation of a Public Improvement District. After public hearings on the proposed PID were held over more than three times, aldermen closed the public hearing in December taking no action.

The developer has also applied for a wastewater permit for the development. The hearing is set for 7 p.m. Feb. 3, 2025 at the Salado ISD Administrative Building, 601 N. Main St.

### Local budgets

Salado I.S.D. adopted a \$1.12 million deficit operating budget for 2024-25. Total revenues in the adopted budget are \$21.88 million. Total expenditures in the adopted operating budget are \$23.13 million. The budget was adopted on a tax rate of \$1.1669 with a maintenance and operation rate of \$0.669 and a debt service rate of \$0.50.

Following an Aug. 22 public hearing on the FY 2025 budget and an Aug. 26 public hearing on the tax rate, Village of Salado aldermen unanimously adopted the budget and set the tax rate at \$0.4860 per \$100 valuation. The tax rate is composed of \$0.3019 for maintenance and operations and \$0.1841 for debt service costs.

Aldermen unanimously adopted the FY budget on a motion by alderman Jasen

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Salado ISD broke ground on the 250,000 sq. ft. high school on July 29. Shown above, from left, are SISD Trustees Cooper Gill, Savannah Hennig, Chris Diem and Amy McLane, SISD Superintendent Michael Novotny, Trustees Eric Malmin and Jim Reed and State Representative Brad Buckley. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)

## SISD breaks ground on HS

With heavy dirt moving equipment as a backdrop, Salado ISD broke ground July 29 on the 250,000 sq. ft. high school on Williams Rd.

Dirt work on the project had already begun and the new high school will be ready for occupancy for the 2026-27 school year, according to Dr. Michael Novotny, who welcomed a crowd of more than 50 for the short ceremony.

Dr. Novotny told the crowd that the ground breaking was a result of work by the facilities planning committee during the 2022-23 school year that resulted in a Nov. 2023 election in which voters approved two bond proposals totaling \$270,450,000.

The new high school and stadium complex are expected to open for the 2026-27 school year.



These children broke ground on a school where they will hopefully attend class one day. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)



### Budweiser Clydesdales parade down Main St.

Hundreds of folks gathered at the Salado Civic Center and lined Main St. March 2 to watch the famous Budweiser Clydesdales parade down Main St., turn around south of Salado Creek and make their way back to the Salado Civic Center. Jack Hilliard Distributing brought them to Salado. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)



(PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)

The April 8, 2024 total solar eclipse in Salado was marked by overcast skies, but could not darken the spirits of Saladoans gathering together for the lifetime event.



(PHOTO BY KATINA COSTERISAN)

Lot #25: Reserve Grand Champion Market Steer, Carter Morris, Salado 4-H, brought in \$20,000 at the Bell County Youth Fair and Livestock Show Auction in February. More than 40 Salado students had projects sell in the annual auction.



# 2024: Looking back on Salado

FROM PAGE 1A

Graham that received a second from Zach Hurst.

The budget raises more total property taxes by \$604,467 than the 2024 FY budget, an increase of 48.47%. Of that, \$205,031.98 is tax revenue from new properties added to the tax rolls this year.

Aldermen also voted unanimously for the \$0.4860 per \$100 valuation property tax rate. Graham made the motion, which received a second from Hurst.

The tax rate is composed of \$0.3019 for maintenance and operations and \$0.1841 for debt service costs.

The adopted tax rate is \$0.0913 higher than last year's rate of \$0.3947 per \$100 valuation. Of last year's tax rate, \$0.1786 was for maintenance and operation and \$0.2160 was for debt service.

The average homestead taxable value increased by 12% to \$350,015, up from \$312,263.

The taxes payable on the average homestead last year was \$1,232, while the taxes payable on the average homestead in 2024 will be \$1,701, an increase of 38.01%.

The total tax levy on all properties in 2024 will be \$1,851,555, an increase of 48.47% over last year's total levy of \$1,247,088.

A petition to force an election to rollback the tax rate to the Voter Approved Tax Rate of \$0.3711 per \$100 was filed and determined to be valid, forcing aldermen to set a May 3 election.

If the election passes, the Village will then have to pay back the difference between the amount of taxes paid at \$0.4860 and the amount of taxes that would be due at the Voter Approve Rate of \$0.3711.

For the average homestead value of \$350,015, it would be the difference between paying \$1,299 and \$1,701.

The Voter Approved Tax Rate of \$0.3711 is composed of \$0.1798 in maintenance and operations taxes and \$0.1841 in debt service.

The adopted tax rate of \$0.486 raises \$1.15 million in operating revenues, according to the adopted budget. If the election rolls back the tax rate to \$0.3711, it would generate \$684,894 in operating revenues, a loss of more than \$465,000 in operating revenues.

How will the Village pay taxpayers back the \$465,000 and meet its escrow obligation of more than \$950,000?

Aldermen on Dec. 19 froze new hires and salaries and took several other steps to address the looming issue after the petition was accepted.

The board also adopted a final, amended budget for FY 2023-24 that showed a deficit of more than \$1.4 million. Much of this was due to capital projects, including road surfacing and the All Abilities Playground.

Bell County Emergency Services District #1 adopted a tax rate of \$0.098277 per \$100 valuation.

The tax rate will fund an operating budget of \$1.36 million for fire department operations. Of that, \$1.16 million will be for salaries and benefits. The budget will fund the hiring of six full-time firefighters to allow the department to have two firefighters at the station for 24 hour protection.

E.S.D. administration costs are \$181,615.00.

Capital expenditures are \$425,000, including \$275,000 for a pumper, \$25,000 for turnout equipment and \$125,000 for other equipment.

The debt service fund will include \$379,105.18 in capital lease payments.

Salado Public Library District Directors at their Sept. 23 meeting approved the fiscal year 2024-25 budget with \$836,050.00 in revenue and \$786,964.88 in expenses.

Of the 2024-25 revenue, \$100,000 is being transferred from the District's savings to operations to cover \$100,000 expansion planning of the library into the duplexes adjacent to the library property that the district purchased in 2021. The district budgeted \$40,000 for expansion planning in the 2023-24 budget. The duplexes sit on .29 acre and total 1,944 square feet under air conditioning with another 569 sq. ft. feet of garage and 532 sq. ft. of open porch, according to Bell County Appraisal District.

The Library District has engaged 720 Design, a Texas firm experienced in library designs, to assist in creating a district master plan and an expansion concept.



(PHOTO BY MARILYN FLEISCHER)

The 1908 Old Church Place was moved from its home on North Main St. April 2 to its new home on the grounds of the Salado Civic Center. The move required the closing of Main Street while the one-story frame sanctuary was towed across the road. The Salado Historical Society will restore the building at its new home on the grounds of the Salado Civic Center. The 1908 building is a duplicate of an earlier Salado Church of Christ sanctuary that burned.

The Library currently employs six staff members, according to its website: Library Director Lively, Adult Librarian Julie Hoy, Teen/Young Adult Librarian April Gatliss, Customer Service Specialist Manuela Smith, Librarian Assistant Jane Hackley and Library Clerk Megan Wood.

Payroll expenses total \$454,714.21 for 2024-25. Last year, \$348,167.39 was budgeted for payroll expenses. Another \$12,642.67 is budgeted for retirement, compared to \$9,634.27 in 2023-24.

## Village hires

The Village announced Deanna Whitson as the Tourism Marketing Manager and Gina Pence as the City Planner earlier in the year.

## Chamber Awards

Salado Chamber of Commerce held its annual awards banquet April 25 at The Venue, recognizing the Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year, Hall of Fame, Volunteer of the Year, Rising Star, Shooting Star and Chairman's awards.

Afterward Bill Hall gavled an auction of items donated by local businesses to raise money for the Chamber.

Dr. Michael Novotny presented Kim Bird with the Citizen of the Year award.

Bob and Laura Hargrove presented Salado Glassworks owner Gail Allard II with the Business of the Year Award.

The names of the late Chris Hale and his widow



Dr. Michael Novotny presents Dr. Kim Bird with the 2023 Citizen of the Year award during the Salado Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet April 25. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)

Karen Hale were added to the Hall of Fame. Christy Goodfellow and Kaye Coachman presented the award to Karen Hale, who traveled from Tennessee to accept the reward honoring her and her late husband. She told the audience that she would soon be returning to the Village.

The Volunteer Excellence Award was presented to Glen Bowen for his work on the Golf Tournament and Membership committees of the Salado Chamber of Commerce.

The Salado Shooting Star Award was presented to the organizers of the Salado Elves, who raised money to decorate the street lamps on Main Street during the Christmas season. Accepting the award on behalf of



Bob and Laura (out of frame) Hargrove of Bentons presented Gail Allard II, owner of Salado Glassworks, with the 2023 Business of the Year award. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)

the Elves were Brandy Sandor, Lynn Greenfield, and Ashley Lewis.

The Salado Rising Star Award was presented to the Salado boys soccer team, who volunteered to take down the Christmas deco-

rations after the season was over. Accepting for the varsity boys soccer team was their Coach Jared Cruddas.

Chairman Leslie White presented her predecessor Deanna Whitson with the Chairman's Award.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDY WATSON/BULL STOCK MEDIA)

Seven-time PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association) champion Sage Steele Kimzey (Strong City, Oklahoma) won the 2024 PBR World Finals May 18 in his second appearance at the prestigious event. "Man, this is special," Kimzey said. "This year's been rough. To come in and cap it off in front of this great crowd, it doesn't get better. Hats off to Cassio Dias. He's an absolute animal. Seeing him come back from injury inspired me. His winning the gold buckle is no accident." Sage Steele Kimzey is shown above with his winner's check as the 2024 PBR World Finals Event Champion. Joining him are his wife Alexis (Bloomer) Kimzey and son Steele.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Firefighters responded to a structure fire at Salado Supply House, 10359 FM 1670, at 4:05 p.m. Oct. 15. The structure was engulfed when units arrived. Units responded from Salado, Belton, Jarrell and Central Bell fire departments. Units cleared the scene at 9:55 p.m. Salado fire chief Jim Franz stayed on scene until 7:30 a.m. Oct. 16 to monitor for any potential hot spots and flare-ups.



## SLCL to tour Water's Edge

The New Year of 2025 presents the opportunity for a change of venue for the Salado Ladies Community League's Jan. 9 General Meeting.

The League Members will view the newly-constructed premium apartment homes at Water's Edge, in Salado, where company representatives will present an overview of the apartment homes, their community amenities, and property grounds. A private tour of one of the furnished model homes will be given to those present.

A social time will be held for the Ladies League in the Community Clubhouse of the Water's Edge

Apartment complex at 9:30 a.m. followed by the General Meeting at 10 a.m.

Drive south on Main Street past the Stagecoach Inn. Continue south on Main Street to the sign "Do Not Enter," then turn left into the Sanctuary Development and follow the road as it curves to the right. Turn left on Nottingham Lane and follow the road to the Water's Edge Apartment Homes Office at 210 Nottingham Lane. Enter through the main doors.

Members who would prefer to carpool to the Apartment Homes will meet at the church of Christ Activity Bldg. parking lot at 9:15 a.m.



The Erwin Family.

## Revival at First Cedar Valley Baptist Church Jan. 5-8

First Cedar Valley Baptist Church at 12395 FM 2843, Salado, Texas, will hold revival services starting at 11 a.m. Jan. 5 with Rev. Dennis Erwin preaching. The church will host the Erwin Gospel singers in concert at 6 p.m. Jan. 5.

Nightly revival services feature Rev. Erwin preaching at 7 p.m. Jan. 6-8.

The Erwins' dedication to musical excellence has garnered them numerous accolades and recognition within the industry. The group's Grammy nomination stands as a testament

to their exceptional artistry and distinctive sound, while their Dove Award win solidifies their place among Southern Gospel music's finest.

Beyond their musical achievements, The Erwins remain grounded in their faith. Their unwavering commitment to integrity, both on and off the stage, has earned them the respect and admiration of their peers and fans alike.

"Singing is all we know and all we want to do. It's our life and our joy to serve the Lord," they say.

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**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!**

Schanna (254) 421-5173 213 Mill Creek Dr., Suite 160

## Centering Prayer Workshop

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The community is invited to join a unique Centering Prayer Workshop. Learn about this contemplative style of prayer in this first of six sessions (future dates TBD). Donations accepted. To RSVP, or for more information, email Vicki Joy at [Clanmclure@yahoo.com](mailto:Clanmclure@yahoo.com).

## Tonkawa Native Plant Society meets Jan. 6

Tonkawa Chapter Native Plant Society of Texas will hear from Ali Frank and Pearl the Golden Retriever on "Feeding the Hungry and Canine Comfort Therapy" and Tom Olsen representing "Feed My Sheep" at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 6 at Barrow Brewing. Tom will be serv-

ing "Soup Kitchen Fare" chicken soup, baguette, and fruit salad to the chapter.

Bring canned and non-perishable food, coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, blankets to the meeting to share with the Killeen Food Care Center and Feed My Sheep.

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9:00 AM - Worship Service  
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**Wednesday Evenings**  
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6:00 PM - Midweek classes for all ages

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Sunday School 10 am  
Sunday Service 11 am  
Sunday Night 6 pm  
Gospel Singing  
4th Friday each month

Pastor Donnie Jackson  
254) 308-0010  
[CedarValley1942@gmail.com](mailto:CedarValley1942@gmail.com)  
12395 FM2843 Salado, TX 76571

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**WEDNESDAY**  
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# Crops Conference Jan. 15

Send your engagement, wedding, baby & anniversary announcements to [news@saladovillagevoice.com](mailto:news@saladovillagevoice.com)



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9677 Lark Trail, Salado, Texas 76571  
[heritagecountrychurch@gmail.com](mailto:heritagecountrychurch@gmail.com)  
254-239-7106

### St. Stephen Catholic Church

Religious Education Classes - Wednesday K thru 12<sup>th</sup> 5:30 - 8 p.m.

#### Mass Schedule

Tuesday - 6 p.m.  
Wed & Thurs - 8:30 a.m.  
Friday - Noon  
Saturday - 5:30 p.m.  
Confessions 4:30-5:15 p.m. or call for an appointment

#### Friday

Adoration (Holy Hour) 11 a.m.

#### Sunday

(English) 9 a.m.  
(Spanish) 11 a.m.

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - Noon & 1:30 - 3 p.m.

601 FM 2268

947-8037

[www.saintstephenchurch.org](http://www.saintstephenchurch.org)

### St. Joseph's Episcopal Church

Sunday Service  
10 a.m.



881 North Main Street  
(254) 947-3160

[stjoseph@stjosephsalado.org](mailto:stjoseph@stjosephsalado.org)  
[StJosephSalado.org](http://StJosephSalado.org)

Seaton Star Hall 10842 Hwy-53, Temple, will be the location of the 2025 Bell County Crops Conference to be held on Jan. 15.

Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. with the program slated to begin at 8 a.m. The program will conclude at 2:30 p.m.

For years, the Bell County Crops Conference has provided pertinent, up-to-date education on new technologies, best management practices, and strategies to increase crop yield and profit margins.

The conference will offer five hours of CEU's (one in Laws and Regulations, two in IPM and two in General) for renewal of private applicator license and certificate holders. The conference will also offer the 2025 Auxin Specific Applicator Training for use of approved Dicamba and 2,4-D herbicides for licensed and non-licensed applicators.

Speakers and topics will include: "2024 Auxin Herbicide Training" -Dr. Benjamin McKnight; "Commodity Market Update & Outlook" -Dr. Mark Welch; "Blackland's Small Grains Production Update"



(ADOBE STOCK PHOTO)

The Bell County Crops Conference will be Jan. 15.

-Dr. Brandon Gerrish "IPM Strategies to Prevent Corn Stunt and Grain Mgmt. Overview" -Dr. Ronnie Schnell; "Contrasting Bermuda Grass Hybrids for Beef Cattle Production" -Dr. Vanessa Oleson; and "Row Crops and Forage Herbicide Selection and Application" - Mr. Zach Howard

As in years' past, the Conference will host an industry trade show with vendors such as Ag Southwest, BASF, BH Genetics, Bayer Crop Science, Capital Farm Credit, Clearwater UWCD, Corteva, Cropstek, Evans Ranch, Georgia Pirtle Crop Insurance, LG Seeds, Lonestar Ag Credit, Marek Ag, Martinez Spraying, Pioneer, Schaeffer Manufacturing,

Shepard Crop Insurance, Texas Corn Producers, Texas Wheat, WC Tractor, Wilbur Ellis, and others. Door prizes and special offers from these vendors will be drawn for at the conclusion of the day.

Call 254-933-5305 and let the Extension service know if you are planning to attend or you can sign up online at <https://bell-crops-committee.square.site/>. A registration fee of \$30 will be charged. This fee offsets the cost of a catered lunch, refreshments, venue, and printed materials handed out at the program. Pre-registration is important for an accurate meal count and to ensure we have enough printed material. RSVP deadline is Jan. 10.



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## Spay/neuter clinic set Feb. 14-16

The Human Animal Support Coalition is hosting a Lower Cost Spay and Neuter Clinic Feb. 14-16. Spaces are limited to 200 animals. Registration is now open.

The clinic will be held at Slice of Heaven Educational Farm at 17851 FM 1123 in Holland.

Cost is \$200 per dog and \$150 per cat. This includes

rabies and HCP (cats) or DAPP (dogs) if needed. Microchip can be added for an additional \$10. Full payment is required at time of registration. No refunds.

Pets must be at least two pounds and eight weeks old.

To register or for more information, please visit the Facebook page of the Human Animal Support Coalition. Questions only may be emailed to [hascoalition24@gmail.com](mailto:hascoalition24@gmail.com). Registration is not accepted through email.



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# Salado Village Guide

Section B • Marketplace, Dining, Overnight, Events • [saladovillagevoice.com](http://saladovillagevoice.com) • December 31, 2024

Launch  
Launch  
Launch

Village Spa

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## New businesses opened in 2024



The Rose & Bee Boutique owner Randi Spinks cut the official Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Feb. 6. Randi describes her boutique as "A unique, trendy, reasonably priced women's fashion boutique!" The Boutique is located at Old Town Salado shops 600 N. Main St. Suite A. You can visit in person or shop online at [www.theroseandbee.com](http://www.theroseandbee.com) (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)

Wine Tastings Wine Club Live Music  
Karaoke Private Events

Wine Down  
Wednesday 4-8  
Half-Price Glasses

1420 N. ROBERTSON RD. NEXT TO ROBERTSON'S HAMS  
[axiswinerytx.com](http://axiswinerytx.com)



On March 7, Salado Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for Sterling Meadows, a new subdivision being built by DR Horton located at the corner of FM 2268 and Armstrong Loop. Phase 1 is 50 homes. Phase 2 will be 49 homes. With easy access to IH 35, Sterling Meadows is just 25 miles from shopping, restaurants, entertainment, and major employment centers in both Temple and Georgetown. Sterling Meadows will offer a variety of quality interior and exterior features along with thoughtfully designed floorplans. Model home is open 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 12:30-7 p.m. For more information, call 254-935-2610. (PHOTO BY TIM FLEISCHER)

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Salado Chamber of Commerce welcomed Provecho Restaurant with an April 2 ribbon cutting. Owners Brooke May and Anuar Aych with their children, crew and well wishers are shown above. Brooke says "Provecho means Enjoy your Meal. We serve fresh, craft comida inspired by Mexico and el mundo tambien." Provecho is located at 109 Royal St. Dining is available inside or outside in the relaxing atmosphere of the patio. PHOTO BY MARILYN FLEISCHER

Cheers To  
The New  
Year

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## SALADO SENIOR CENTER JANUARY ACTIVITIES

EVERY MONDAY	EVERY THURSDAY
9:00-10:00 — Exercise (Chair Yoga w/ Joette)	9:00-10:00 — Exercise Class w/ Alice Cooper
9:00-11:00 — Pinochle	9:00-11:00 — Canasta
9:00-11:30 — Rummikub	9:00-3:00 — Cornhole
9:00-3:00 — Open Pickleball Courts	10:00-12:00 — Dominoes 42 Game
9:00-3:00 — Cornhole	10:00-12:00 — Learn to Play Mahjong
10:00-12:00 — Dominoes 42 Game	10:15-11:15 — Chair Tai Chi w/ Richard Trautman
10:00-12:00 — Quilting w/ Lyna	12:00-3:00 — Mahjong
10:15-11:15 — Stretching (Beginner Yoga w/ Gary)	12:00-3:00 — Bridge
11:00-12:30 — Hooks & Needles w/ Joette	1:00-2:30 — BINGO
12:00-3:00 — Bridge	

### POP-UP EVENTS

<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 2nd</b> * 11:30-1:30 — Basic Watercolor Class w/ Elizabeth	<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 20th</b> CLOSED: Martin Luther King Day
<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 6th</b> 11:00-12:00 — Beginner's Pickleball Lesson w/ Cindy * 12:00-2:00 — Digital Literacy: Basic Internet (1-hour sessions)	<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 23rd</b> * 10:00-11:00 — One-on-One Technology Time w/ Salado Public Library * 11:30-12:30 — Simple Scrapbook Page Kit or Trio Card Kit
<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 9th</b> * 10:00-11:15 — Arts & Crafts w/ Salado Public Library * 11:30-12:30 — Writing Class	<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 27th</b> 9:00-10:00 — Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast * 10:00-11:00 — Fraud Prevention Class w/ Cadence Bank * 12:00-2:00 — Digital Literacy: Basic Internet (1-hour sessions) 1:30-2:30 — Learn How to Play Handbells w/ Wes Roach
<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 13th</b> 11:00-12:00 — Volunteer Fair 11:30-12:30 — Lunch/Birthday Celebration 12:00-1:00 — Estate Planning w/ Cedarwood Financial Partners 12:00-3:00 — Siamese Mahjong 1:30-2:30 — Learn How to Play Handbells w/ Wes Roach	<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 30th</b> * 11:30-1:30 — Basic Watercolor Class w/ Elizabeth
<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 16th</b> * 10:30-11:30 — "Mindful Walking and Thought Surfing w/ Bev Hodges, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension * 12:30-1:30 — Book Club w/ Salado Public Library	

\* To ensure sufficient supplies, this event requires participants to RSVP at the Senior Center registration desk or contact the Senior Center the week prior on Monday or Thursday during the hours of 9:00-3:00.

Salado United Methodist Youth Activity Center (650 Royal St)  
[saladoseniorcenter.org](http://saladoseniorcenter.org) | 254-271-2415





**SALADO Winery CO.**  
 Open 7 Days A Week  
 841 N. Main Street  
 SaladoWinery.com

## Chamber welcomes businesses in 2024 continued from 1B

David Hayes and representatives from Alexa MGMT cut the Salado Chamber of Commerce ribbon on the relaunch of The Stagecoach Inn & Restaurant. The restaurant, which will be led by Chef Rusty Winkster from Monument Cade and El Monumento, will offer guests breakfast, lunch, and dinner fare. (PHOTO BY TIM FLEISCHER)




**STAR NAILS & SPA**  
 254-308-2084  
 805 N Main St #B Salado  
 Tues - Sat 9:30 am -7:30 pm Sun 11 am-5 pm  
 Monday -Closed

Owner Jason Bisceglia cuts the official Salado Chamber of Commerce Ribbon on May 21 for Bird Creek Roofing, 371 Mill Creek Dr. Suite 4. Bisceglia can be reached at 512-431-9477 or Jason@birdcreekroofing.com. (PHOTO BY MARILYN FLEISCHER)



**Iron Orchid Bodywork**  
 605 Thomas Arnold Rd, Salado Tx  
 Kristin Love  
 Licensed Massage Therapist  
 By Appt. 254-541-5659

Salado Chamber of Commerce welcomed Firefly Yoga to the village with a ribbon cutting June 27. The yoga studio is located at 113 N. Stagecoach Rd., #3. Yoga instructors offer a variety of classes such as Breathe & Flow, Slow Flow, and Vinyasa yoga to suit all levels. For more information, call 254-218-4072 or e-mail fireflyyogasalado@gmail.com. Firefly Yoga is owned by Kelly Partyke. (PHOTO BY TIM FLEISCHER)




**SALADO GLASSWORKS**  
 HAND BLOWN GLASS MADE IN SALADO, TEXAS  
 interactive experience | live demonstrations | custom art & commissions  
 #2 Peddler's Alley, Salado, TX 76571 | 254.947.0339 | SALADOGLOSSWORKS.COM

Terlingua on Main ribbon cutting was held March 28. Salado Chamber of Commerce members, family, friends and children were on hand to cut the ribbon. The business owners Devin and Colleen Zepeda and Travis and Rebecca Zatopek have provided a place to shop with a Men's Outfitter's and a Women's Boutique. Live music, events and games present a family atmosphere with outdoor seating. A full bar is available with Food trucks Visit TerlinguaonMain.com for more info. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)




**Cowboys Bar-B-Q**  
 Exit 285 • 1300 Robertson RD  
 Slow Cooking Fast Service  
 Catering, Take Out or Dine In  
 254-947-5700  
 Miguel Perez, owner



**CHUPACABRA BEER**  
 Lunch Dinner Late Night  
 Daily Specials  
**AND CHUPACABRA KITCHEN**  
**401 S MAIN**  
 CORNER OF ROYAL AND MAIN  
 LIVE MUSIC THUR | FRI | SAT  
 60 TX CRAFT BEERS ON TAP  
 400+ WINES  
 254.308.2220  
 254.308.2019 KITCHEN



Salado Chamber of Commerce welcomed Salado Eagle Storage with a ribbon cutting held Aug. 2. Wesley Friedrich cuts the ribbon of Salado Eagle Storage to his right are his son, Tristan, his wife Lori and his daughter Lorelai. Salado Eagle Storage is located at 11315 Blackberry Rd. The storage units feature cut-free locking plates and provided locks, coded door entries, and surveillance system. Call 254-328-1234. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)



**iPROVECHO!**  
 ENJOY YOUR MEAL  
 Mexican Inspired Craft Comida  
 109 Royal Street, Salado, TX 76571  
 254-308-2098 Provechotejas.com

Continued on Page 4B



**Salado Creek Antiques**  
 Fine American Antiques & Accessories  
 Restoration & Touch Up  
 Mon - Sat 10 - 5 Sun 12 - 4 or by appt.  
 Delivery & Shipping(254) 947-1800  
 511 Stagecoach Rd. E. Access Road IH35 saladocreekantiques.com



**TEX TWENTY EIGHT**  
 OUTFITTERS & APPAREL  
 NAME BRAND APPAREL  
 CUSTOM HATS  
 FOOTWEAR  
 SPECIALTY ITEMS  
 MENS ACCESSORIES  
 MENS HYGIENE  
 SALADO SPIRIT GEAR  
 112 ROYAL ST.  
 SALADO, TEXAS  
 VETERAN OWNED & OPERATED



# Village of Salado Calendar of Special Events

## 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, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Game Time, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Pickle ball 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, 12-3 p.m. Quilting with Lyna, 1-2 p.m. Crochet with Joette, 1-2:30 p.m.

Village Artists- knitters, crocheters and stitchers meet, 1-4 p.m. Salado Village Artists' red building behind the Civic Center.

Bikes & Brews, 6:30 p.m. for a no-drop ride, Barrow Brewing Co.

Floor practice at Salado Masonic Lodge #296, 95 S. Church St., 6:30 p.m. except on Stated Meeting nights.

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

Tonkawa Chapter Native Plant Society of Texas meeting, 6 p.m., first Monday of month, Barrow Brewing Co.

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

Salado Democrats meet the third Monday of each month, 7 p.m., in the conference room of Salado Public Library.

Salado American Legion, fourth Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Barrow Brewing Co.

## Tuesdays

Village Artists- artists and crafters meet 9:30-11:30 a.m. Salado Village Artists' red building behind the Civic Center.

Knitting Group at Salado Public Library, 10 a.m.

Storytime with Ms. Mia at Salado Public Library, 11 a.m.

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.

Salado VFW Meeting, 7 p.m., First Tuesday of each month, Barrow Brewing Co.

## Wednesdays

Guest food truck day at Barrow Brewing Co., 4-9 p.m.

Wine Down Wednesday at

Axis Winery, 4-8 p.m., half-price glasses of wine.

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.

Not Rocket Science Trivia, 6:30 p.m., every Wednesday, Barrow Brewing Co.

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

Word out Wednesday every week at Provecho, 109 Royal St., featuring a different local group and non-profit each week. Most of these WOW groups need volunteers, awareness, and a little cash doesn't hurt. 10% of the daily sales will go to the group of the week. Check out social media for this week's WOW.

## 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, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 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 Jongg, 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, 12-3 p.m. Bingo 1-2:30 p.m.

Kids eat free, 2-5 p.m. at Provecho with purchase of adult entree.

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

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

"Party on the Patio" 7-10 p.m. with live performer Rockin' Rick (karaoke), Axis Winery.

Teen Writing Group, Salado Public Library, 6 p.m.

Run Club, 6:30 p.m., Barrow Brewing Co.

Weekly curated wine tasting hosted by Hannah Hendrick 6-8 p.m. at Salado Winery, 841 N. Main St. Tickets available on-line 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.

The Bell County Master Gardener Association holds a free monthly seminar on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Texas Agrilife Extension Office, 1605 N. Main in Belton.

Heart and Hands Ministries food distribution day, 4:30-6 p.m. third Thursday of each month, 213 Mill Creek Drive, Suite 135. Heart and Hands Ministries serve the Salado, Bartlett, and Holland areas. You can register by bringing a valid ID or current bill with an address in our service area. If you are in need of food, they are here to help.

Storytime with Ms. Mia, Salado Public Library, 11 a.m.

Fajita Friday at Provecho, 109 Royal St. All you can eat fajitas for \$20.24.

Special guest performers, 5-8 p.m. at Axis Winery.

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

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

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

Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., grounds of Barrow Brewing Co.

Live Music at Axis Winery, 5-8 p.m.

Live Music at Barrow Brewing, 7 p.m.

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

College Football at Johnny's Outback. Full bar, snow cones, BBQ, burgers and more.

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

December 31  
New Year's Eve Party at Bar 1859, 21 N. Main St., 6 p.m.-1 a.m. Jan. 1. Colin Boutwell performs, 6-8:30 p.m. Dueling pianos, 9:30 -m.-12:30 a.m.

December 31  
Watch Night Service, First Cedar Valley Baptist Church, 12395 FM 2843, singing begins at 7 p.m., pot luck at 10 p.m., singing through mid-

## January 2

Live music at Barrow Brewing Co., 7 p.m., Trick Pony.

January 3  
Live music at Bar 1859, 7 p.m., Colin Boutwell.

January 3  
Live music at Barrow Brewing Co., 7 p.m., Wed Perryman.

January 3  
Live music at Chupacabra, 7 p.m. Ray Palousek Piano Bar.

January 4  
Live Music at Axis Winery, 1420 N. Robertson Rd., 1:30 p.m. Travis Roland; 5 p.m. Sid Grimes.

January 4  
Guest brunch food truck Frenchie Daddy and live music at 7 p.m. at Barrow Brewing Co., Eley Buck Davis.

January 4  
Celebration of the renovation of the historic Tyler House, 6-9 p.m. After five attire and reservations required. Tickets \$75 per person at [centraltextastickets.com](http://centraltextastickets.com).

January 4  
Live music at Bar 1859, 7 p.m, Ben Irom, jazz pianist.

January 4  
Live music at Chupacabra, 8 p.m., Josh Jaccard.

January 5  
Feast of the Epiphany, St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, 881 N. Main St.

January 5  
Live Music at Barrow Brewing Co., 4 p.m., Jayme Wade.

January 6  
Tonkawa NPSOT meeting, 6 p.m., first Monday of month, Barrow Brewing Co. See Calendar, Page 4B

## January 1-31

Annual Texas Stagecoach Wine Trail. You will have 31 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 Wine Garden, Dancing Bee Winery, Moose & Goose Winery, Red Caboose Winery, Salado Winery Co., and Valley Mills Winery. Tickets are \$40 (\$135+ value) available [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com). Or visit [stagecoachtxwinetrail.com](http://stagecoachtxwinetrail.com) for more information.

January 2  
Village of Salado Aldermen meeting, 6:30 p.m. 301 N. Stagecoach Rd. Meeting will be cast via Zoom. Link will be posted at [saladotx.gov](http://saladotx.gov) 72 hours before meeting.

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## January 2

Live music at Barrow Brewing Co., 7 p.m., Trick Pony.

January 3  
Live music at Bar 1859, 7 p.m., Colin Boutwell.

January 3  
Live music at Barrow Brewing Co., 7 p.m., Wed Perryman.

January 3  
Live music at Chupacabra, 7 p.m. Ray Palousek Piano Bar.

January 4  
Live Music at Axis Winery, 1420 N. Robertson Rd., 1:30 p.m. Travis Roland; 5 p.m. Sid Grimes.

January 4  
Guest brunch food truck Frenchie Daddy and live



# Salado Chamber of Commerce welcomes new businesses



## Ribbon Cutting

Salado Chamber of Commerce welcomed Salado Eagle Storage with a ribbon cutting held Aug. 2. Wesley Friedrich cuts the ribbon of Salado Eagle Storage to his right are his son, Tristan, his wife Lori and his daughter Lorelai. Salado Eagle Storage is located at 11315 Blackberry Rd. The storage units feature cut-free locking plates and provided locks, coded door entries, and surveillance system. Call 254-328-1234. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)



Salado Chamber of Commerce and Temple Chamber of Commerce held a joint ribbon cutting for Professional Pool Solutions, located at 1422 Berger Rd. in Temple. Professional Pool Solutions offers pool cleaning and maintenance, inspections, repairs, pool school, winterizing and more. They install pools and hot tubs and resurface in-ground pools among the myriad of service. To learn more, visit [pro-poolsolutions.com](http://pro-poolsolutions.com). Shown above are owners (center, from left), cutting ribbon Ashley Mulch, Caleb Almanza and Morgan Mulch. (PHOTO BY TIM FLEISCHER)



CastleRock Communities, which is building the first phase of homes in Sanctuary, held a ribbon cutting July 25 with the Salado Chamber of Commerce. The first phase will have more than 150 homes. Peggy Smith with Castlerock Communities is shown at center cutting the ribbon. According to the developer's website: "Discover serenity inside one of CastleRock's most charming communities - Sanctuary. This prominent, 300-acre mixed-use, master-planned community in Salado, Texas is a hidden gem of central Texas." Homes range from \$353,990 to \$660,000. (COURTESY PHOTO)



Tejas Land & Title Company located at 74 Van Bibber Rd, in Salado, also have offices in Temple and Waco. Owner and Branch Manager Andrea Johnson cut the official Chamber of Commerce ribbon with Chamber officials and well-wishing friends were among those attending. Visit [TejasLandTitle.com](http://TejasLandTitle.com) for more information regarding the services they offer. (PHOTO BY MARILYN FLEISCHER)



Salado Chamber of Commerce welcomed Salado Scooter Rentals owner Lee Pointer and Vice President Melanie Ringstaff with a ribbon cutting at their location at Stagecoach Inn on July 9. You can easily rent their scooters and e-bikes by scanning the QR codes on the vehicles to set up an account. (COURTESY PHOTO)



The Local Vine owners Stephen & Kolene Perschler cut the Salado Chamber of Commerce ribbon to officially open The Local Vine at their new location at 19 N Main St Suite 5E. Co-owners Scott & Marie Sitek were also present to cut the ribbon. The Local Vine is a wine bar where you can enjoy wine, relax and have fun. Chamber officials and members as well as community friends were on hand to celebrate. You can follow them on Facebook The Local Vine in Salado and on Instagram #thelocalvinesalado. 21 Main owned by Frank & Kaye Coachman with Christy's of Salado owned by Christy & Scott Goodfellow hosted the Salado Chamber mixer for the evening. (PHOTO BY MARILYN FLEISCHER)



Salado Chamber of Commerce welcomed the new Salado McDonald's with a ribbon cutting on Dec. 10. Shown above cutting the ribbon is franchise owner Maria Lim (wearing the red scarf). Her parents joined her in the ribbon cutting (seated): Ding and Lou Salvador. Store supervisor is Henry Knabb. (PHOTO BY TIM FLEISCHER)



Salado Chamber of Commerce welcomed Water's Edge apartments with a ribbon cutting on Dec. 12. The apartment and townhome development is part of Sanctuary Development. Water's Edge boasts an ideal location surrounded by a vibrant neighborhood with entertainment, restaurants, schools and essential services. (PHOTO BY TIM FLEISCHER)

## Calendar continued from 3B

### January 7

Salado VFW Post 12335 Meeting, 7 p.m., Barrow Brewing Co.

### January 8

Salado Lions Club luncheon meeting, 11:30 a.m., Salado Civic Center.

### January 8

Barrow Brewing Co., guest food truck, 4-8 p.m., Lula Mae's Cajun Cuisine.

### January 9-11

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 10

Live Music at Axis Winery, 1420 N. Robertson Rd., 5 p.m. Colin Boutwell.

### January 10

Live music at Barrow Brewing Co., 7 p.m., Wayworn Traveler.

### January 10

Live music at Chupacabra, 7 p.m., Kelany Brent.

### January 10

Heart and Hands Ministries food distribution to those in need in the Salado, Holland, Bartlett area, 9-11 a.m., 213 Mill Creek Drive, Suite 135.

### January 11

Live Music at Axis Winery, 1420 N. Robertson Rd., 1:30 p.m. Kristen Taylor; 5 p.m. Richard Watson.

### January 11

Live music at Barrow Brewing Co., 7 p.m., Songbird

Jones.

### January 11

Live music at Bar 1859, 7 p.m., Ray Palousek, pianist/singer.

### January 11

Live music at Chupacabra, 8 p.m., Dean Paul Willeford.

### January 11-12

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

### January 12

Live Music at Axis Winery, 1420 N. Robertson Rd., 2 p.m., Aiden Quick.

### January 12

Live music at Barrow Brewing Co., 4 p.m., Earle Nelson.

### January 12

Ecumenical Taizé, St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, 881 N. Main St., 6 p.m.

### January 14

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

### January 15

Barrow Brewing Co., guest food truck, 4-8 p.m., Check Point Germany.

### January 16

Heart and Hands Ministries food distribution day, 4:30-6 p.m., 213 Mill Creek Drive, Suite 135. Heart and Hands Ministries serve the Salado, Bartlett, and Holland areas. You can register by bringing a valid ID or current bill with an address in our service area. If you are in need of food, they are here to help.

### January 16

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, Tokyo.

### January 16

Village of Salado Aldermen meeting, 6:30 p.m. 301 N. Stagecoach Rd. Meeting will be cast via Zoom. Link will be posted at [saladotx.gov](http://saladotx.gov) 72 hours before meeting.

### January 16

Live music at Barrow Brewing Co., 7 p.m., Russell Weller.

### January 17

Live music at Barrow Brewing Co., 7 p.m., Al Shire.

### January 17

Live music at Chupacabra, 7 p.m., Daniel Johnson.

### January 17-February 8

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 now open. Register online at [saladoglassworks.com](http://saladoglassworks.com).

### January 18

Live Music at Axis Winery, 1420 N. Robertson Rd., 1:30 p.m., Eley Buck Davis; 5 p.m., Wayworn Traveler.

### January 18

Live music at Barrow Brewing Co., 7 p.m., Gabriel River Band.

### January 18

Live music at Chupacabra, 8 p.m., Andrew Jones.

### January 19

Live music at Barrow Brewing Co., 4 p.m., Brian Mullin.



# Salado schools mark successes, challenges, tragedy in 2024

The year of 2024 for Salado school was marked by new faces, many successes and a tragedy.

This week's school section looks back on those events.



Kim Kosh-Ruiz

The district community was rocked by the death of fourth grade teacher Kim Kosh-Ruiz on Oct. 23.

She was involved in a head-on accident with a Ford pickup truck driven by a Salado man on Thomas Arnold Road at about 5 p.m. Oct. 23 after picking up her fourth grade son Grant.

She and her son were



Valente Hernandez and Sydney Grace Lange were crowned the 2024 Salado High School Homecoming King and Queen during the halftime of the Salado-Jarrell football game on Oct. 25. The Eagles won 14-7. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)

transported to Baylor Scott and White, where she was later pronounced dead.

The driver of the Ford Pickup was also transported to the hospital.

"This is a profound loss for our Salado ISD family," Superintendent Michael Novotny said in announcing her death to Salado ISD staff and parents.

On Pages 2C, 3C, 4C and 3D, we share some of the successes Salado students have had in athletics, academics, vocational studies and the arts.



Salado Starlets and Salado Cheerleaders performed in the iconic Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade Nov. 28 in New York City as part of the Spirit of America Productions. Shown above are Salado Starlets just before the parade Shelby Maples, Presley Lochridge, Kristen Clifton, Hannah Gearhart, Aubrey Forrest, Grace Tipping and Director Traci Tipping. Shown below getting ready to march and perform in the Parade are Salado Cheerleaders (from left) Bella Elliott, Addison Messick, Kensley Free, Kate Doerr, Lauren Allison, Katie Beene, Jackie McNamara, and Daytona Sturges. (COURTESY PHOTOS)



Salado head football coach Ricky Beaty is shown above with his wife Abbey and son Rhett. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)

## Beaty takes reins of SHS football program

Ricky Beaty took over the Salado football program when he was hired by SISD trustees Jan. 29. He led the Eagles to a 7-5 record and two rounds into the 4A-2 playoffs. He came from Georgetown HS.



The top two graduates for the 2024 Salado High School graduating class were announced in May. Valedictorian for the class is Paige Fariss, with a final grade point average of 113.5. Paige (above left) is the daughter of Greg and Debra Fariss of Salado. Luke Drigalla (above right), son of Dorian and Jessica Drigalla of Salado, was named Salutatorian with a final GPA of 113.2.



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**Good Luck from your 'Home' Team**



Pictured: Peyton Whitaker, Adelaide Shenkir, Krystle Vazquez, Wesley Engleking. (COURTESY PHOTO)



**Laura Ball qualifies for Nationals**

The SHS Speech and Debate Team competed at the Heart of Texas National Speech and Debate District Tournament on March 23. Two students qualified in each event to the 2024 National Speech & Debate Tournament.  
 Laura Ball qualified in US Extemp. The National Speech and Debate National Tournament was June 16-21 in Des Moines, Iowa.



Noah Stephens competed at the State Powerlifting Meet in Abilene March 22. Noah was going into the meet 13th place, but accomplished personal records to put himself in fourth place. He had the following lifts: Squat, 400 lbs.; Bench, 190 lbs.; Deadlift, 385 lbs. and Total, 975 lbs. (COURTESY PHOTO)

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**SHS debates in state tournament**

The Salado High School Speech and Debate Team participated at the UIL CX State Tournament on March 15-16. Fifty teams competed in the 4A division.  
 Salado High School was represented by two teams: Wesley Engleking/Krystle Vazquez and Peyton Whitaker/Adelaide Shenkir.  
 Engleking and Vazquez qualified for the second day of competition, but lost in octofinals on a 2-1 decision. They both received finalist state medals.

**Lady Eagles take 5th in powerlifting; Walrath earns state championship**

Salado varsity girls powerlifting team placed fifth in the 4A Division 2 State Championship with 13 points.  
 Jordan Schaub, Olivia Walrath, Lindsay Sula, Reese Lange and Maddie Casper represented Salado at the State Meet March 15 at the Comerica Center in Frisco. Salado received 13 points as a team.  
 Olivia Walrath is the state champion in her weight class: Squat, 380 lbs., Bench, 255 lbs., Deadlift, 345 lbs., Total, 980 lbs.  
 Jordan Schaub is the third place medalist in her weight class. She is now a two-time state medalist. Her lifts were Squat, 405 lbs., Bench, 250 lbs., Deadlift, 325 lbs., Total, 980 lbs.  
 Lindsay Sula is the third place medalist in her weight class. Her lifts were Squat,



Salado Lady Eagles varsity powerlifters competing at state were (from left) Reese Lange, Maddie Casper, Lindsay Sula, manager Melina Solis, Jordan Schaub, Olivia Walrath. (COURTESY PHOTO)

360 lbs., Bench, 230 lbs., Deadlift, 325 lbs., Total, 915 lbs.  
 Reese Lange placed ninth overall in her weight class. Her lifts were Squat, 320 lbs., Bench, 205 lbs., Deadlift, 330 lbs., Total, 855 lbs.  
 Maddie Casper placed 10th overall in her weight class. Her lifts were Squat, 340 lbs., Bench, 220 lbs., Deadlift, 295 lbs., Total, 855 lbs.

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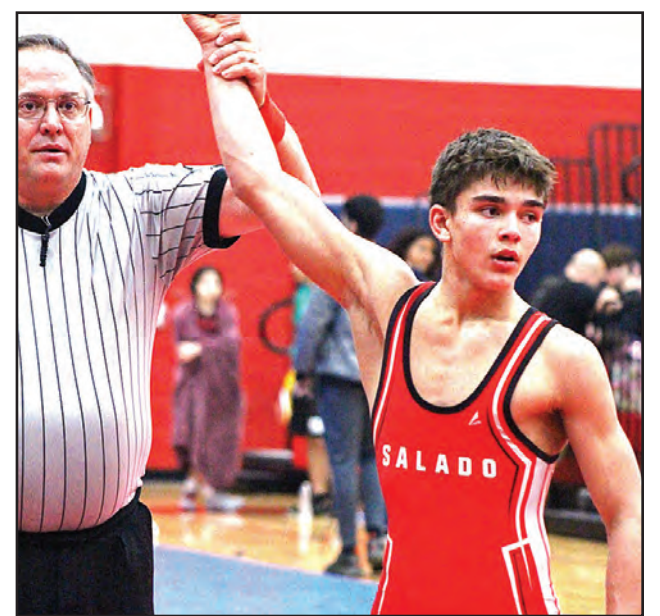
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**Wrestlers grapple in 5A State**

This year Salado High School had three athletes qualify for the UIL 5A State Championship Tournament at the Berry Center in Katy: Sophomore Keagan Sieracki, Junior Nathan Rechtfertig, and Junior London Woods.  
 All the Salado Wrestlers made it through the first day of hard wrestling.  
 After the end of the second day final results: Keagan Sieracki is State Runner Up Silver Medalist at 126 lbs; Nathan Rechtfertig was sixth place at 138 lbs.  
 As a team Salado High School placed 17th out of 91 5A Schools.



Keagan Sieracki State Silver Medalist. (Courtesy photos)

**Filmmakers win state awards**

The UIL State Filmmakers Festival was held Feb. 28 at the LBJ Auditorium at the University of Texas.  
 Amanda Sgobbo, Ben Wickert and Mea Fuller

won the state championship in narrative filmmaking with their film Torn.  
 Amanda and Ben set a UIL record by winning three state championships in a row. If they win the championship their senior year, they will set an un-

breakable record.  
 Freshman Segiv Eldridge placed second in traditional animation filmmaking with his film called Compensate.  
 You can watch their films on the Salado Film Squad YouTube channel.



Segiv Eldridge, Ben Wickert, Amanda Sgobbo and Mea Fuller with their UIL Young Filmmakers State Awards. Sgobbo and Wickert have done something no one else has: won three straight UIL Filmmakers State Awards. Next year, they go for four!

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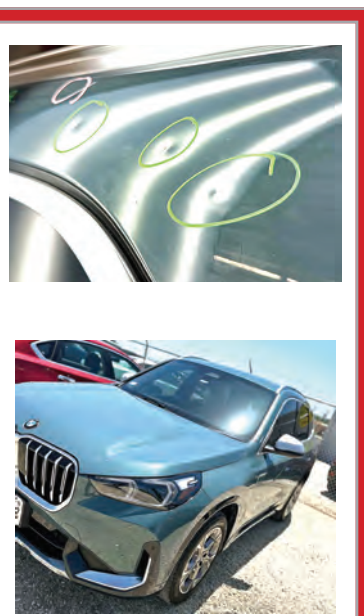
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Salado Eagles Cross Country (from left) Coach Michael Goos, Brody DeLukie, Coulson Boyd, Jonathan Brauchle, Luke Anderson, Camden Aycock, Cash Drigalla, Daniel Anderson, Seth Anderson. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)



Lady Eagles Cross County (from left) Coach Corey Baird, Ally Ihler, Addison King, Hayden Griesemer, Annalee Bryant, Penelope Anderson, Sydney Engleking, Anna Redelsheimer, Cade Harris, McCall Boyd, Zoie Adcox. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)

**Boys take second, girls win third in UIL XC State meet**

Salado Eagles boys cross country team came in second place at the UIL 4A State Meet held at Old Settler's Park in Round Rock. Luke Anderson, led the team with his ninth place finish, 15:54 (top 10 medalist).

The Salado Lady Eagles placed third in the 4A state cross country meet in Round Rock. Freshman McCall Boyd was an individual medalist placing seventh (11:30).



Salado High School had seven students named to the ATSSB Region 8 All-Region Band with six advancing to the Area Round in January 2025. Front row, from left) Micah Redelsheimer, Third Chair Trumpet, Symphonic Band, Area Qualifier; Kiera Flynn, Fourth Chair Flute, Symphonic Band, Area Qualifier; Valente Hernandez, Second Chair Alto Saxophone, Symphonic Band, Area Qualifier. Back row, from left Cole Stanton, First Chair Contra-Bass Clarinet, Symphonic Band, Area Qualifier; Cash Blado-Hardman, 17th Chair Trombone, Concert Band, Area Qualifier; Cole Foster, Sixth Chair Tenor Saxophone, Concert Band; Allan Soto, Eighth Chair Tuba, Concert Band, Area Qualifier.. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)



Sydney Engleking and Wesley Engleking.

**Speech fall success**

Krystle Vazquez and Wesley Engleking will represent Salado High School at the 12th Annual UIL Congress State Meet on Jan. 7-8 at the University of Texas at Austin and the Texas State Capitol. Salado has won six of the 12 state meets.

They competed in the Region 12 Congressional Debate Meet in November and qualified with the following results: Krystle Vazquez, first, Outstanding presiding officer; Wesley Engleking, second.

Three Salado debaters have earned bids toward the



Krystle Vazquez

2025 National Individual Events Tournament to be held May 16-18 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Wesley Engleking has fully qualified with two bids. Sydney Engleking and Krystle Vazquez have one bid each.



Salado High School choir members were named to the TMEA Region Choir: Front row, from left: Piper Gillette, Emily Gamble, Isabella McHaney; back row, from left: Sean Hogue, Sean Murray, Eleftherios Nikolaidis, Will Tracy. Not pictured: Selestte Hubbard, Gracin Platt (Honor Choir). (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)

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# SHS Academic team takes 2nd in 4A

Salado High School UIL Academic Team placed second at the State Meet in May, scoring 186 points. Lindale won the meet with 186 points.

The Salado One Act Play took fifth place with their performance of *The Chicago 7*.

The Speech Team took second place in their competition.

Laura Ball won the Lincoln Douglas Debate.

Wesley Engleking won the Persuasive Speaking competition.

Krystle Vazquez placed second in Persuasive Speaking.

Laura Ball placed third in Informative Speaking.



Salado One Act Play Cast members are (front row, from left) Eric Soto, Olivia Kelley, Sean Murray, Eleftherios Nikolaidis, May Davis, Rylie Buck, Alex Gruber, Ella Mouton; (second row, from left) JJ Jonas, Harper Schreiner-Brown, Brooklynn Winkler, Ellie Bragg, Ivan Montesinos, Renee Arnett, Daniel Sanchez, Chasen Jagers, Gunner Peterson, Callum Campbell, Kennedy Hewitt, John Montoya, Laura Ball

Luke Drigalla placed third in Mathematics.

Ty Castro placed third in Calculator Applications.

Paige Fariss placed fourth in Calculator Applications.

Luke Drigallas placed fifth in Number Sense.

Ethan Sunshine placed fifth in Spelling.

Austin Hollas placed sixth in Computer Applications.

# Lady Eagles fall 2-1 to Boerne in overtime of state semi-final

By TIM FLEISCHER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In the 88th minute of the 4A state semi-final soccer match between the Salado Lady Eagles and the Boerne Lady Greyhounds, Kailey Stringfellow took a pass from Sophia Namvar near the corner of the penalty box and eked it past Cambry Edmondson to put the Greyhounds up 2-1 in overtime on April 10.

A shot by Reese Lange in the 82nd minute went over the cross bar in the first overtime period.

Boerne's Kinsley Sawyer made a save on a shot by Shelby Hollywood, her third of the match, in the 83rd minute of the match to keep the score knotted at 1-1.

The Lady Eagles could

get no shots off in the second overtime period and Boerne held on for the 2-1 overtime win, sending the Lady Greyhounds to the state final at Birkelbach Field in Georgetown.

Boerne scored early on a low shot from 20 yards out by Avery Ukeiley that slid just inside the right post in the eighth minute of the match.

Salado scored in the 74th minute on a shot from the near right sideline by Shelby Hollywood that curved into the back post from 30 yards out to tie the match at 1-1.

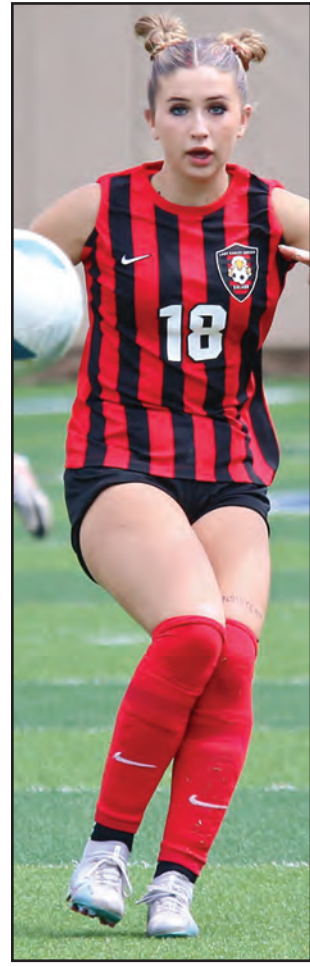
Junior Shelby Hollywood and Junior Midfielder Skylar Gardner were named to the All-Tournament Team.

The Lady Greyhounds lost to defending state champions Celina 1-0.



Junior Forward- Shelby Hollywood was named to the 2024 UIL Soccer State All-Tournament Team.

(PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)



Junior Midfielder- Skylar Gardner was named to the 2024 UIL Soccer State All-Tournament Team.

(PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)



(PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)

District 13-4A-2 All District Football Offensive Lineman of the year #55 Tyler Blackwell.

# Eagles go 7-5

Ricky Beaty's Salado Eagles went 7-5 and 4-2 in District play in his first season as head football coach.

They were the third place team from 13-4A-2 and beat Devine 48-21 in the bi-district round before falling to the #2 Sinton Pirates, who lost to Wimberly Texans (from 13-4A-2) in the Region Final. Carthage won the 4A-2 State Championship.

# Eagles cagers struggle

The Salado varsity Eagles struggled to a 9-24, 1-9 in District 23-4A in 2024.

So far this fall, they have put up an 8-10, 0-1 in Dis-

trict 24-4A record. The Eagles moved south out of the competitive Waco district with the biennial UIL Re-alignment.



(PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)

# Ladies fall in Region quarterfinals

Riley Guthrie puts up a shot against Waco Connally in Regional Quarterfinal. Salado Lady Eagles lost 52-44 in overtime to the Waco Connally Lady Cadets in the Region III 4A Quarterfinals Feb. 20. The loss ends Salado's season at 23-13 and 7-3 in District 23-4A.

# Bragg, Anderson set school records, earn state medals

For Jackson Bragg and Luke Anderson, Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin became the highlight of their careers as each set personal records and brought home medals from the UIL State Track Meet May 2.

Bragg set a personal record and a new Salado High School record in the Pole Vault at 16-4.75, after he had secured the gold medal in the event at 15-6.00.



Jackson Bragg set a new school record of 16-4.75 after earning the gold medal in the Pole Vault at the State Meet. (PHOTOS BY TIM FLEISCHER)

Anderson also has a new school record and personal best, as he earned the bronze medal in the boys



Luke Anderson set a school record in the 1600M Run with his third place time of 4:13.97.

dez as all three were within a second of each other at the first turn and at the finish.

1600M Run. He dogged the heels of FW Diamond Hill-Jarvis's Angel Sanchez and Canyon's Ryan Fernan-

# Eagles finish 23-2-1

Salado Eagles could not find the back of the net in their 1-0 loss to Castleberry in the Region I quarterfinals April 2 in Alvarado.

The one time they did find the net, on a shot by Luke Anderson to tie the match with just over three minutes left, the goal was called back on an offside play.

Salado beat Decatur 3-1 in the Area Round March 29 to get to the Region I quarterfinals.

Thad Heckman scored two goals for the Eagles. Ryley White also recorded a goal for the Eagles. Assists were by Jackson Husung and DaMonte Foster.

The Eagles finish the season with a 23-2-1 record, 11-0-1 in District play.



(PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN) Cody Roquemore heads the ball in one of the Eagles' attacks on goal in Regional Quarterfinal.

# Ladies fall to state champs in semis

Salado Lady Eagles had four Superlatives, five First Team players, a Second Team player and two Honorable Mentions named to the District 24-4A All District Team, which was released after the Lady Eagles lost to #1-ranked Wimberly in the 4A-2 State Semi-Final Nov. 19. Wimberly went on to win the State Championship.

Second-year head coach Clint Brown was named the District 24-4A Coach of the Year as his Lady Eagles finished with a record of 40-8

and 12-0, sweeping all of their District matches except one, which they won in five over #3-ranked Gateway College Prep. The Lady Eagles faced Gateway for the fourth time this year in the Region III Final, winning in five sets. Coach Brown's Lady Eagles swept 31 of their 48 matches.

Senior outside hitter Kael Wilcox was named the Hitter of the Year.

Junior Middle Blocker Elsie Law was named Blocker of the Year.

Freshman Charli Niu is the Setter of the Year.

Named to the First Team were these: Senior Macy Morris, Junior Payton Ortega, Sophomore Defensive Specialist Mazzy Johnson, Senior Libero Shelby Hollywood, Junior Outside Hitter Haley Brown.

Sophomore Kate Maedgen was named to the Second Team.

Sophomore Kaylee Bragg and Junior Karlee Konarik received Honorable Mention.



(PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)

Senior Macy Morris earned State Tournament Team honors.



# SHS Region Choir

SHS Region Choir members – chosen by audition: (from left): Camryn Kniaz, \*Philip Nikolaidis, Skylie Jones, Sean Murray, #Nalani Taylor-Hines, Phillip Reeder, \*Kayla Adams, Wyatt Ledbetter, \*MaKenzie Castorena. \*Small School All-State Mixed Choir members – chosen by 4 rounds of auditions. # Small School All-State Mixed Choir First Alternate.



Salado FCCLA members attended the FCCLA State Leadership Conference in Dallas on April 11-14. Members presented their projects to a panel of judges, attended leadership workshops and participated in the general sessions. STAR event results are: Hospitality & Tourism, Level 2, Ayla Harrell, Bianca Lopez and Sadie Jones, 2nd place (below). All three girls received a \$1,500.00 scholarship for four years to Johnson and Wales University totaling \$6,000.00. National Programs in Action, Level 2, Maily Suarez, Kayden Chellette and Khiah Wickline (above), 2nd place. Both teams beat out approx. 17 other teams to place 2nd in the State. Both teams competed at the National Leadership Conference in Seattle, Washington this summer.





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# Lady Eagles fall to Liberty, end season 30-4, 10-0

Salado Lady Eagles varsity softball team lost to Liberty in two games, 8-2 and 8-2, in the Region III Semi-finals round. The loss ended the Lady Eagles season at 30-4 and 10-0 as District 23-4A Champions.

Salado Senior pitcher Bri Waters was named the Co-MVP for District 23-4A Softball, a title she shared with Robinson's Kaygen Marshall.

Ally Schauer was named the Pitcher of the Year.

Bri Tutor was named Newcomer of the Year.

Four players were named to the First Team All District: Infielder Ryley Litchfield, Lead-off batter Lexi Dudeczka, Brooklyn Williamson and Giselle Salazar

Toni Pugh and Shelby Dodge were named to the Second Team All-District.

Kaitlyn Weber and Aubree Zammatt received Honorable Mention.



Bri Waters (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)

# Eagles place third in 23-4A

Spring Hill Panthers ended the Salado Eagles' baseball playoff run in the Region III semi-finals with a two-game sweep May 22 and May 25, winning 5-0 and 8-0.

The Eagles ended their season with a 23-12-1, 7-3 District record, third place in District 23-4A.

Salado Eagles pitcher Logan Flores was the 23-4A Defensive Player of the Year.

BJ Amann was named First Team Catcher.

Pitcher and outfielder Kannon Baird was also named to the first team.

Right fielder Brody Cole also made First Team.

Shortstop Jace Light was named to the First Team.

Outfielder Kase Maedgen was named to the second team.

Pitcher Dylan Wigley was also named second team.

Receiving Honorable Mention were Owen Curtis, Payne Lochridge, Brayden Naegele and Jacob Preston.



Pitcher and first baseman Logan Flores was named the 23-4A Defensive Player of the Year.. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)

# Girls place second, boys place third in golf

Salado girls golf team placed second in the District tournament March 27-28, played at Cottonwood Creek and Lake Waco courses, qualifying for the Regional tournament. Meanwhile, Owen Piatt and Cade Fenoglio qualified in the boys division as medalists.

Reese Rich led the girls and placed second overall with rounds of 98 and 93.

Elliot Self shot 104 and 88 to tie for third individual. She won the third place medal on the first playoff hole.

The other team members were Claire Kunders, 110 and 107, Madeline Rakowitz, 117 and 115, 117/115, and Haylee Dyess, 120 and 127.

Savannah Carroll shot 103 and 109 to earn the second individual medalist position to advance to the regional tournament.

The boys golf team finished third overall in district.

Cade Fenoglio shot 89 and 82 while Owen Piatt shot 88 and 83 to tie for the medalists positions and qualify for the Regional tournament.

Boys golf finishes 3rd overall. Owen Piatt and Cade Fenoglio advance to regionals as individual medalists.

Also shooting for Salado were Mason Brown, 91 and 91, Richard McCain, 94 and 95, Sulley Anderson, 91 and 98.



Salado Varsity Lady Eagles golf team placed second in the District Meet. From left, Elliot Self, Claire Kunders, Madeline Rakowitz, Reese Rich, Savannah Carroll, and Haylee Dyess.



The Salado Varsity Eagles golf team placed third in District 23-4A. Shown, from left are Owen Piatt, Mason Brown, Cade Fenoglio. Not pictured Richard McCain and Sulley Anderson.

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