

Salado Village Voice

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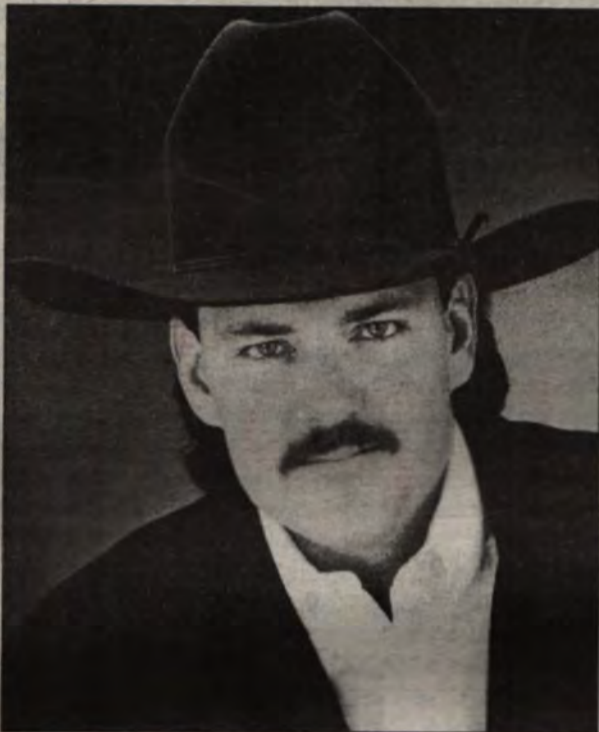
Hometown newspaper read by Ken and Nancy Odell

Fiddlers coming to area on March 22

The Texas Western Swing Fiddling Showcase is coming to the Bell County Expo Center March 22. Afternoon musical entertainment will be held from noon to 5 p.m., and dinner will follow at 5:30 p.m. The highlight of the evening will be a Western Swing Dance from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Top professional western swing musicians will be playing for this seventh annual event at both musical performances. Headlining the show will be Randy Elmore and the Boys in the Band. Featured musicians will be Jason Roberts from Asleep at the Wheel, "Entertainer of the Year" award winner in 1999 Dave Alexander, "Grammy Award" winner Ricky Turpin, Wes Westmoreland, former member with Mel Tillis and the Bluebelly Boys for 10 years in Branson, Hall of Fame inductee Bob Boatright and Jeremy Watkins.

Dave Alexander is happy to be appearing once again at the Texas Western Swing Fiddling Showcase.



Dave Alexander

He has delighted Western Swing audiences with a sound and show unequaled by most performers. His high energy, enthusiasm and love of music and performing before a live audience makes him a much sought after featured artist at many festivals and rodeos.

While working on his

music degree at the University of North Texas, Dave joined the Red River Band, created by Neiman Marcus to promote their western clothing line. He has been invited to perform at the White House for president Reagan's inauguration. He has appeared with music greats such as Garth Brooks, George

Strait, Clint Black and Reba McEntire. He is currently headlining concerts and dances across the U.S. and Canada.

The locally organized non-profit Western Swing Heritage Association, with Nan Ray as Events Coordinator, and the Texas Commission of the Arts are sponsoring the showcase. Additional sponsors are Heartfield Florist, Brockway, Gersbach, McKinnon and Niemeier, P.C., Central Texas Kitchen Center, Strawberry Patch of Salado, Royal Street Provision Country Inn and Retreat, as well as Vermilion Chameleon of Salado.

Tickets may be purchased at the Bell County Expo Center or at Wildfire Western Wear and Saddlery in Salado. Afternoon tickets are \$8, dinner is \$7.50 and the dance is \$10. The deadline for dinner tickets and/or to reserve a table for the dance is March 17. For further information, call Nan Ray at 254-939-8390 or visit the website at www.texaswesternswing.com.

Authors come to village for roundtable March 15

Six noted authors will present their latest works at the 43rd annual Readers and Writers Round Table March 15 at the Central Texas Area Museum, on Main St.

The program, with Austin political celebrity Liz Carpenter as mistress of ceremonies, will begin at 1 p.m. at the Museum auditorium, and conclude with a book sale and autograph reception. Admission is \$5, and will be considered a donation to the museum's book and maintenance fund.

The authors to appear and their most recent books to be reviewed include:

Elizabeth Wittenmeyer Lewis, author of "The Queen of the Confederacy: The Innocent Details of Lucy Holcombe Pickens." This is the story of the first lady of South Carolina during the War Between the States and Reconstruction.

Charles M. Neal, Jr., author of "Valor Across the Lone Star," which relates the stories of Texans who were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Sarah Byrn Rickman, author of "Flight From Fear," an historical novel about women who helped assure the success of the Women Airborne Service Pilots (WASPs), before WWII.

John C. Perry, author of "Myths and Realities of American Slavery," a thoroughly researched study of human slavery in America that reveals surprising facts.

P.J. Pierce, author of "Let Me Tell You What I've Learned," which is a response by 25 noted Texas women to the question: What have you found that really matters in life?

James and Linda Jennings, authors of "Touring Texas Towns," the result of a three and a half year get-away by the "Voice of the Dallas Cowboys" and his wife, filled with handy hints on good people, good places, good food and good beds all over the Lone Star State.

For reservations to the Round Table, call the Central Texas Area Museum at 947-5232.

Institute for Humanities hosts forum

March 6 on role of U.S. in world

The Institute for the Humanities at Salado is offering an open forum on "The Role of the U.S. in the World" 7-9 p.m. March 6, at the Salado Civic Center.

This two-hour discussion will be one of many such discussions to take place in Bell County and throughout Central Texas during March. They are part of a national effort to allow people across the country to engage in deliberative discussion of this question and to reach consensus about the role of the U.S. in this period in our history.

KNCT, the public televi-

sion station in Killeen, will be broadcasting a forum on this topic in April, drawing its participants from interested people from the Bell County groups. KLRU in Austin held its regional forum on the topic on Feb. 24. There will be similar regional forums across the United States. Finally, on May 22, Jim Lehrer of the *Jim Lehrer News Hour* will broadcast a national forum drawn from the many groups that, by then, will have met around the country to discuss this timely topic.

Sara Lowrey Mackie,

President of Lowrey Communications, and Virginia Carmichael, director of the Institute for the Humanities at Salado, will moderate the March 6 Salado discussion. With 75 other people, they have completed moderator training for these discussions at the LBJ Presidential Library in Austin. The training is based on the National Issues Forums developed and supported in part by the Kettering Foundation as part of its commitment to promoting informed public discussion of important public issues.

These discussion groups

and forums are designed to provide an effective, non-partisan way to practice government "by the people."

Seating and group size at the Salado discussion is limited, however, so call or email the Institute to reserve a place (tel. 947-5729). The Institute offers programs that provide a non-partisan forum for inquiry into and discussion of topics relating to religion, culture, history, ethics and values, civil society, and individual and community renewal.



Robert and Doris Denman turn over the keys to Settler's Crossing to Salado Public Library directors Lynn Epps and Susan Shobe. Salado Public Library took possession of the building and will begin renovations this week. (PHOTO BY LUTHER BREWER)

Aldermen to discuss zoning, interstate

Salado aldermen will meet to discuss Emergency Operation Plan Annexes and the proposed Zoning ordinance during a 6:30 p.m. meeting March 6 at the Municipal Building.

Vic Means will report on the progress the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee has made on the proposed Zoning Ordinance.

The Committee will meet 11 a.m. March 5 at the Municipal Building to discuss the zoning ordinance.

Mayor Charlotte Douglass will report to aldermen on a meeting with Texas Department of Transportation officials on I-35.

The board will also discuss the Pace Park committee meeting.

Masons don aprons for March 8 Fish Fry

Salado Masons will again don their aprons to work for the community. Salado Masonic Lodge will hold its fifth annual Fish Fry 5-7 p.m. March 8 at the Salado Intermediate School cafeteria.

Tickets for the Fish Fry

are \$6 each and are available at First State Bank, Salado Village Voice and Village Pharmacy, or from local Masons.

The Fish Fry will raise money for the Salado Masonic Lodge scholarships to Salado seniors

and the Communities in Schools program in Salado schools.

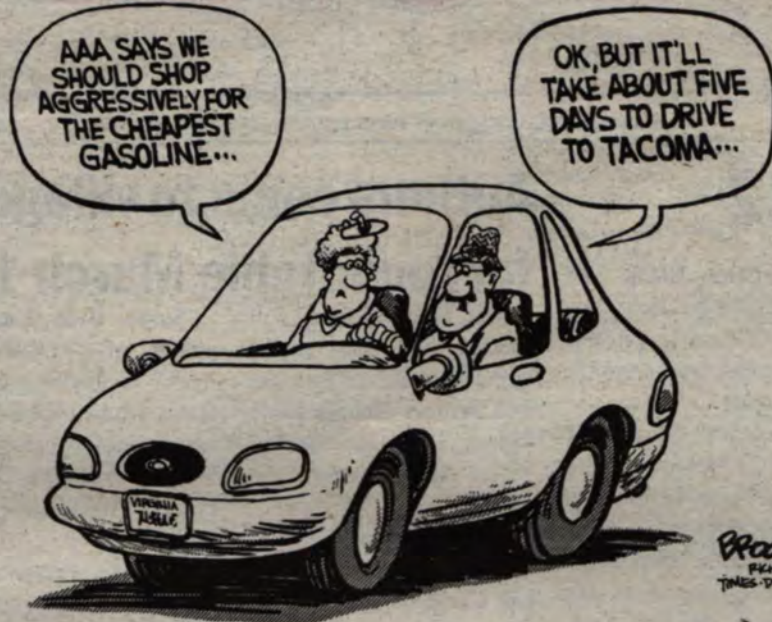
Since its first year, the annual Fish Fry has raised over \$20,000 given to local organizations, including the Salado Volunteer Fire Department and Salado

school libraries. Over \$5,000 in new books was given to the school libraries from local Masons.

Jessica Byer and Bill Morris, Communities in Schools counselors, will also have tickets for sale at the high school and intermediate school campuses.

FORUM

An Open Exchange of Ideas



Christianity in the Prison System

America's prisons are often depicted by left-wing critics as a big business ("the prison-industrial complex") profiting on the basis of racism and cruelty. Along comes a program designed to soften prison's edges, and what's the response of one liberal group? To try to close it down with a lawsuit.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State has filed two suits against a program in Iowa run by Prison Fellowship Ministries, an evangelical Christian group founded by former Nixon official Charles Colson after serving time for his role in Watergate. The program also operates in Minnesota, Kansas and Texas.

The program lasts 18 months and is a kind of moral boot camp for Christian prisoners prior to their release. They get job-skills training and drug treatment, but the focus is on a Christian worldview meant to transform the prisoners as persons.

Is it a violation of church and state? Hardly. The program is entirely voluntary. The suits complain of special treatment for participants. But that isn't unusual. All sorts of programs in prison have incentives and privileges for those who participate in them. The states fund the nonreligious aspects of the program, but the dollars for the religious portion -- the bulk of it -- come from private sources.

Prison Fellowship is run by tough law-and-order types, from Pat Nolan, a former lock-them-up firebrand in the California state legislature, to Mark Earley, a former attorney general of Virginia, who had a role in passing legislation abolishing parole, allowing juveniles to be tried as adults and instituting Three Strikes and You're Out.

The work they did throwing criminals in jail was indispensable and reflected an insight that had become so common-

The Rich Lowry column



sensical by the 1990s that even Bill Clinton embraced it: The government should protect us by taking thugs off the streets.

But the fact is that, even with tough sentencing, most inmates are going to be released. According to Earley, there are close to 2 million people in prison, and roughly 600,000 will be released this year. With recidivism rates higher than 60 percent, that is a formula for more crime -- which appears to be what the United States is beginning to experience.

"Crime is a moral problem," says Nolan. "Unless we deal with the moral outlook of an inmate, we can't change permanently his behavior." Early returns from Texas, where the program has been running the longest, suggest dramatic results. The recidivism rate for participants is 8 percent, compared with 22 percent for a control group and roughly 60 percent for former inmates in general.

Prison Fellowship, of course, won't end recidivism, but it is at least a small step. And why wouldn't liberals be the first to support a program that showers prisoners with love, and tries to give them hope? Love and hope should be desirable -- even if they happen to be associated with Christianity.

Low income Texans will bear brunt of HHS budget cuts if Republican's "No New Tax" pledge is not modified

Low income Texans, including the very young; the frail and elderly; those suffering from disabilities and others who are either unable to work or tagged as the "working poor," will bear the brunt of over \$1.26 billion in projected cuts in the Health and Human Service Commission's next budget in order to meet the nine percent funding slash directed by Governor Perry.

The huge HHS agency has a biennial budget of \$35.1 billion which includes \$14.1 billion in state dollars (balance from federal grants). Some 28,000 employees work for the sprawling service provider that includes operation of all Mental Health, Mental Retardation services and hospitals; the entire medicaid program; children's health insurance program (CHIP); aid to the disabled; protective services for the young and old; and special assistance to the handicapped and infirm.

Commissioner Albert Hawkins, recently appointed by the governor to supervise HHS programs, testified late last week before the Senate Finance Committee and echoed what was told to the House sub-committee on Health and Human Services a few days earlier -- namely that in order to comply with the mandated nine percent cut in the upcoming two year budget -- some one and a quarter billion dollars and upwards of 3,000 workers will have to be eliminated.

Additional services on the tentative chopping block include reduced payments to foster parents with a result that fewer kids will be moved from dangerous homes; closing one of the state's mental hospitals as well as one of the schools for the mentally retarded; curtailing free medical assistance for chronically ill children; and cutting funds that are currently earmarked to reimburse charity hospitals for the care of the poor.

Also, cancelling a program that helps some 24,000 low income frail, elderly people (mostly women) stay in their homes rather than being forced into nursing homes.

Enrollment of low-income children in the Children's Health Insurance Program would be slowed to a point where half the 505,000 kids currently registered would eventually be dropped.

Another damning cut would delete nearly half a million patients from the Texas medicaid rolls. A move that would force the care of the poor to be transferred to local hospitals and caregivers with related costs shifted from the State to cities and counties.

BAD TIME TO BE POOR

This is not a good time to be a low income Texan (if there ever was such a time) thanks to the \$10 billion dollar budget shortfall and a Republican controlled legislature intent on cutting enough state workers and services to balance the two year spending bill -- without new or additional taxes. A pledge made when these conservatives ran for office and one they are doggedly holding before them regardless of the damage they may be doing to those in need.

NEW TAXES?

From all predicted accounts, it is not going to be a good time for Texas property owners either, since they will be forced to pick up the tab for services being cut at the state level.

That latter shift begs the question: "If local taxes are increased -- then wouldn't the GOP "no new tax" pledge be broken? Or don't new local property taxes count?"

CRUEL COMMENTS

Recent comments from several Repub-

Off the Record
by Ken Clapp



Question for Governor Perry: - If state services are cut and costs passed to city & county property owners - isn't that a "new tax?" Or don't local taxpayers count?

lican members of the Health and Human Service sub-committee were cruel and unnecessary, especially those made in front of the large group preparing to testify -- many of whom were in wheel chairs.

Sub-committee member Arlene Wohl-gemuth, (R-Burleson), listened to Democratic committeeman Craig Eiland (D-Dickinson) who noted that "real harm and pain will be suffered by children, the poor, the handicapped, the mentally retarded and other vulnerable members of the population."

Her response was cruel and cutting: "We (Republicans) are just as concerned as he (Eiland) is about the weak and the poor. However, the middle class has been socked with increased property taxes and higher premiums for insurance and shouldn't be asked to pay more to balance the budget."

"They (middle class) are the weak and the poor that I'm also concerned about," Wohl-gemuth concluded.

"WE NEED ROADS" SAYS REP. HUPP

Salado's former representative Suzanna Hupp (R-Lampasas), produced another heartless comment, (reported to this column by an observer at the hearings), to the effect that she understood the problems of those who will face service cuts -- but that the State needs to think about building more roads -- purportedly so people can seek jobs! We presume she feels that if the handicapped and young children can find work they won't need state financed health insurance or other necessary assistance.

DEDICATED INCOME TAX

There may be one way out of this "new-tax versus no-tax" battlefield and that is to take at least one of the state's largest users of tax dollars -- education, for example, and create an historic change in funding this major state function.

Talking here about a "dedicated" income tax that would be set at a "frozen" level and used to fund education statewide. It would be accompanied by a permanent cut in the school property tax.

This column, in the weeks ahead, will attempt to present some facts and figures as to how a dedicated income tax would work in concert with a reduction in property taxes -- both controlled by voters. May never happen -- but interesting to consider since we are closing in on a moment-of-truth in state government where a new approach to taxation might become necessary.

One thing for certain -- a new statewide tax will be passed to take care of state services or these services will be paid for with "new" taxes applied to property at the city, county and school district levels.

A tax is a tax -- regardless of where it is applied. Strangely enough, taxes shifted from State to local communities lends questionable support to the GOP fable of "trickle down" economics.

That's -30-

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Robin Hood is lost in the woods

Sup'ts Corner

by Dr. Robin Wuebker Battershell

House Bill 604 has the Texas Legislature and public schools abuzz. If passed, this bill would eliminate the current finance formula, better known as Robin Hood, and put into place a new formula. The new formula has not been determined.

The current finance formula was expected to serve the state for only three to five years but due to rapid increases in local property values, it has continued for 10 years. The state finance system is broken, not just the school funding formula. If we don't analyze why the system is broken, changing the school finance formula will be a very short-term band-aid.

Firstly, we have property wealthy school districts who continue to raise their M&O tax rates so that they can continue to afford many times extravagant programs even after they forward a share of their wealth to the State. Eanes I.S.D. is considered one of the wealthiest public school districts in Texas with \$9,100 spent per student. The state average is \$6,913 per student and Salado I.S.D. spends about \$7,200 per student. In recent news articles, Eanes has discussed cutting its string orchestra, eliminating Spanish classes in the elementary schools, etc. The superintendent stated that it is a shame to have to decrease programs to keep up with other districts, that other districts should come up to Eanes' level. These are wonderful programs. These are also programs that if parents choose, they can pay for outside of the public school setting.

Secondly, state organizations are glutted. There are too many people doing too few jobs which truly make a difference in Texans lives. State agencies have been asked to cut their budgets by seven percent. Carole Keeton Strayhorn has said that if her state agency is required to cut expenditures, they will be unable to do their job of assigning state values. This past year, innumerable Texas school districts spent thousands of dollars hiring attorneys to appeal values assigned by the state comptroller's office. Thus maybe the "job" needs to change anyway.

Thirdly, legislators continue to mandate more research, more task forces, and more data from state and local agencies. We are accountable to the point of being ineffective. Data is important, data costs money, and too much data is not beneficial. The

Legislature has required TAKS field testing and program audits such as the District Effectiveness and Compliance or DEC visits. Both processes could be streamlined and made more cost-effective while still fulfilling the original intent of accountability.

Even TEA cannot tell us why we continue to conduct TAKS field tests a year later. The Legislature required DEC visits. All Texas districts are required to have a DEC visit every three to five years, regardless of their accountability rating. Thus exemplary districts receive these audits. TEA sends three to five people for approximately one week. Accountability could still be achieved through exemplary and recognized districts completing desk audits. Discrepancies in the desk audit would trigger a TEA visit.

Last but not least, most legislators are politicians who wish to be reelected. They discuss how to be more cost-effective, the need to cut expenditures, and the need to equalize school districts. They do not discuss ways to increase revenue. The number of students, the cost of living, and the number of mandates are drastically increasing. Revenue can't decrease and it can't continue to be increasingly generated at the local level. The Equity Center, a research organization through the University of Texas, was asked to analyze the impact of school finance on legislative districts. Just eight senators would see a net gain for their school districts without the current funding system and 23 would lose. Legislators are not particularly motivated to truly tackle this issue.

Very simply, all Texas school children are entitled to a quality education. Quality "education" needs to be clearly defined and a per pupil dollar amount placed on it. The State then needs to pay for the basics of this quality education. Then districts should be held accountable in a realistic and useful manner. Any program over and above the basic education should be paid for out of local dollars with a limit placed on the dollars spent per student for enrichment programs.

The finance formula is only one component of a broken state finance system.

FORUM



Defending the Cowboy

By Andrew Bernstein

Those who oppose war with Iraq--from foreign heads of state to home-grown antiwar protesters--employ a common expression of contempt for the American war effort. America, they sneer, is acting like a "cowboy."

A mock interview with Saddam Hussein conducted by a European intellectual is written to show, in one news report's summary, "what out-of-control cowboys the Americans are." A recent *New York Times* article explains that to some Europeans the "major problem is Bush the cowboy." U.S. Senator Chris Dodd of Connecticut agrees, stating that America must not "act like a unilateral cowboy."

These smears imply that the heyday of the cowboy in the Old West was a lawless period when trigger-happy gunmen shot it out with reckless abandon and brute force reigned.

But to most Americans, the cowboy is not a villain but a hero. What we honor about the cowboy of the Old West is his willingness to stand up to evil and to do it alone, if necessary. The cowboy is a symbol of the crucial virtues of courage and independence.

The original cowboys were hard-working ranchers and settlers who tamed a vast wilderness. In the process, they had to contend with violent outlaws as well as warlike Indian tribes. The honest men on the frontier did not wring their hands in fear, uncertainty and moral paralysis; they stood up to evil men and defeated them.

The Texas Rangers--a small band of lawmen who patrolled a vast frontier--best exemplified the cowboy code. Whether they fought American outlaws, Mexican bandits or marauding Comanches,

they were generally outnumbered, sometimes by as much as 50 to one. It was said of them: "They were men who could not be stampeded." For example, when Ranger officer John B. Armstrong boarded a train in pursuit of the infamous murderer John Wesley Hardin, he was confronted by five desperadoes. Armstrong took them on single-handed, killing one and capturing Hardin.

In describing their independence and courage, Ranger captain Bob Crowder said: "A Ranger is an officer who is able to handle any situation without definite instructions from his commanding officer or higher authority."

The real-life courage of such heroes has been properly memorialized and glorified in countless fictional works. The Lone Ranger television show, Jack Schaefer's classic novel, *Shane*, and dozens of John Wayne movies, among others, have captured the essence of the Western hero's character: his unshakable moral confidence in the face of evil.

It is this vision of the cowboy, not the European slander, that Americans find inspiring. That's why, when President Bush said of Osama bin Laden, "Wanted: Dead or Alive," most Americans cheered.

The only valid criticism of President Bush, in this context, is that he is not true enough to the heritage of the Lone Star State. When the Texas Rangers went after a bank robber or rustler, they didn't wait to ask the permission of his fellow gang members. Yet Bush is asking permission from a U.N. Security Council chaired by Syria, one of the world's most active sponsors of terrorism.

Today the terrorists responsible for blowing up our cities are far more

evil than the bandits and gunmen faced by the heroes of the Old West. To defeat them, we will require all the more the cowboy's virtues of independence and moral courage.

Even as our European critics use the "cowboy" image as a symbol of reckless irresponsibility, they implicitly reveal the real virtues they are attacking. European leaders assail Americans because our "language is far too blunt" and because we see the struggle between Western Civilization and Islamic fanaticism in "black-and-white certainties." They whine about our "Texas attitude" and whimper that "an American president who makes up his mind and then will accept no argument" is a greater danger than murderous dictators. In short, they object to America's willingness to face the facts, to make moral judgments, to act independently, and to battle evil with unflinching courage.

These European critics are worse than the timid shopkeeper in an old Hollywood Western. They don't merely want to avoid confronting evil--they seek to prevent anyone else from recognizing evil and standing up to it.

Texas Ranger captain Bill McDonald reputedly stated: "No man in the wrong can stand up against a fellow that is in the right and keeps on a-comin'."

If America fully embraces this cowboy wisdom and courage, then the Islamic terrorists and the regimes that support them had better run for cover. They stand no chance in the resulting showdown.

Andrew Bernstein, Ph.D. in philosophy, is a senior writer for the *Ayn Rand Institute* in Irvine, Calif.

Tax scams, but not for you and me



Jim Hightower

George W is pushing his latest tax giveaway to the super-rich as an "economic stimulus."

Well, I'd be "stimulated," too, if I was going to get \$16,000 out of the deal. That's how much Bush himself would gain. Or how about Dick Cheney, who'd get \$104,000 under this scam?

Meanwhile, there's an even richer group that's lined up to get more special tax giveaways from George: Corporations. Talk about your tax dodgers! Corporations already enjoy more government subsidies and benefits than people do, yet they pay the least in taxes. Forget the basic corporate tax rate of 35 percent; these outfits have hordes of lobbyists, lawyers, and accountants to "Enron the system," creating loopholes and tax gimmicks that whittle their formal tax log down to a toothpick... or less.

For example, there's the scandalous (but still legal) tax dodge known as the Bermuda Loop-hole. It lets corporate sharpies pretend to be headquartered offshore, even though they're physically right here in the USA. Bottom line is that they can use Bermuda to escape paying their taxes to the Red, White, and Blue!

Here's my thought on this scam. I say that all CEOs playing the anti-American Bermuda card have to wear Bermuda shorts everywhere they go so we regular taxpayers can know who they are, grab 'em on the streets, and give them noogies.

Speaking of corporate moochers, guess who's one of the slickest? John Snow! Yes, Bush's new treasury secretary, the guy who's now in charge of our nation's tax policy. Snow had headed CSX Corporation and had leapt through so many loopholes that in three of the past four years, CSX paid zero in federal income taxes, even though it had banked nearly a billion dollars in profit. Even trickier, CSX got \$164 million in tax rebates during those years.

To fight these scams, contact Citizens for Tax Justice at: 202-626-3780.

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Dear Editor:
 I was privileged to attend the Salado Book Fair last year. The event was great fun and well attended, although not largely attended or widely supported by the local merchants. The coordinator of the event, James Lee, did an excellent job arranging the event, making us authors feel welcomed and at home in Salado. Many of us traveled hours to attend the event and display our books. Authoring is hard work and book fairs are our opportunity to share the fruits of our labor with the public.

I understand another book fair is planned for this year in Salado. I hope the people of Salado realize the work involved in bringing this event to fruition and the dollars it brings to Salado. Please get behind Mr. Lee and support his efforts to make Salado a place authors and attendees look forward to coming year after year.

Patti Pfeiffer,
 Author, Bearing the Big H
 www.thehigh.com
 Because Womanhood is a Trip!

Dear Tim and Marilyn,
 Thank you so much for your article on David Holt and Doc Watson winning a Grammy award in New York on February 22nd.

David and Doc Watson have been close friends for many years, and have performed and produced many albums together. The fact that Doc Watson has been blind from boyhood has not deterred him in the least from his love of the guitar and the old time traditional music.

David feels very fortunate in being able to present Doc Watson's remarkable life story in this new "Legacy" album.

Thanks again for your great article.

Sincerely,
 Joe and Anita Holt
 Salado

Dear Editor:
 In response to the Feb. 19 article in the *Salado Village Voice*, written by Rob Schneider (senior staff attorney with Southwest Regional Office of Consumers Union, publisher of Consumer Reports).

Mr. Schneider is either ignorant of the facts or did not bother to tell all the facts concerning credit scoring for insurance rates. He gives some examples of a couple of people that are not happy their rates were increased due to their credit score and questions what does a credit score have to do with insurance rates.

First of all, insurance companies do not use credit scoring. They use risk assessment scores that have been a very good tool, making sure every insured gets a rate based on their probability of claims. Risk assessment scores compare insured information to determine probability of claims based on clearly definable patterns in their lifestyle. It just so happens that 63 percent of clients are receiving lower rates because of risk assessment scoring and 37 percent are paying higher rates. It's the 37 percent that want the rest of us to subsidize their rates.

Mr. Schneider also mentioned that insurance companies shift customers into unregulated county mutual companies in order

to charge higher rates. Unregulated is not a bad word. Our most preferred customers are also shifted into county mutual companies to receive rates that are lower than state benchmark rates. My rates were reduced 12 percent when I shifted into county mutual. By the way, if you have accidents or tickets you do not qualify for the most preferred rates no matter how good your risk assessment score is! Companies will generally allow one minor violation, not several like Mr. Schneider would have you believe.

There is one thing he was correct on and that is: insurance companies need to educate customers as to what factors determine their score and what they need to do to improve their score. The company that created the risk assessment scores for the insurance industry is Fair Isaacs. They spent two years comparing over 130 pieces of information, comparing insured that have claims and insured that did not have claims. From that information there is a definite pattern that is far superior in predicting claims than just looking at a person's driving record. Is it 100 percent correct? NO, but it is the most accurate indicator of predicting claims. Insurance companies do not get a copy of your credit report. They only receive an insurance score from the credit bureau. That is why they cannot tell you what caused you to receive the insurance score you did.

I have seen people with excellent credit scores that have poor insurance risk

scores. The amount of money or income has no effect on risk scores. The number one thing that people need to do to improve their risk score is to manage your financial commitments according to the terms you agreed on. It does not matter if you have one or 100 lines of credit, but it does matter how you manage them. In other words, be responsible. It is a fact that responsible people have fewer claims than irresponsible people. Every prudent person should order a copy of their credit report and make sure it is correct.

One last thing! If you think insurance rate reform and doing away with "credit scoring" will help rates in Texas your wrong. Look at the states that have already tried that, New Jersey and Massachusetts. Insurance companies are leaving those states because of regulation. The only way to lower rates is to create competition by allowing companies to file and use their own rates. Look at Illinois and South Carolina. That's what they did. Let's follow a plan that has worked and stop trying to make companies conform to how others think they should run their business.

I have been in the insurance business for 25 years and get so tired of hearing about rate regulation. Go regulate property taxes, they cost a lot more than insurance and return less.

John Hall, LUTCF
 John Hall Insurance Agency

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DIANNE WHITE DELISI
Capitol Update

Texas has always led the way when our country goes to war. Now, facing the new dangers of a War on Terror and a possible war with Iraq, Texans are again stepping forward. The soldiers who wear the uniform today, like those who went before them, are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our freedoms and disarm the enemies of democracy.

As you know, tens of thousands of soldiers from Fort Hood are deploying in this effort. They leave behind their loved ones and friends. Deployments are always a tough time for Bell County, and this is no different. Like military communities throughout the country, we feel the costs in empty chairs at the dinner table and empty pews in our churches.

That's why it's so important to "keep the home fires burning" for the families

left behind. While they're making such sacrifices for us, we must do everything we can to ensure the best schools in America, safe neighborhoods and family-friendly programs for Central Texas citizens and communities.

This session, I have sponsored two bills to help military families and make Texas a welcoming place for them to live. H.B. 682 would allow children of military families who have lived in Texas, but who have left the state, to apply to Texas colleges under the state's Top-10 percent automatic admission rules. This is a complement to H.B. 1942, which I passed last session to allow military students to pay resident tuition.

In addition, I have filed H.B. 591, which instructs the Texas Education Agency to pursue reciprocity agreements on exit-level testing on other

states. Currently, a student who transfers from a high school outside of Texas, who has already passed that state's exit level exam, must still take the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills to graduate from Texas - even if the student only arrives the day of the exam.

On Friday, a delegation of legislators and staff joined me in Killeen for the annual Texas Legislative Fort Hood Day. By bringing state decision-makers to Fort Hood, we can impress upon them how important the facility is, both to the economy of Central Texas, but also to the defense of all of America, and how important it is for Texas to do right for our military. Not just to save jobs, but because our men and women in uniform are fighting for us every day. We should be fighting just as hard for them.

Edwards challenges Impact Aid cuts

In a House Budget Committee hearing last week, U.S. Representative Chet Edwards challenged Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul D. Wolfowitz to stop cuts in School Impact Aid in the Administration's 2004 budget.

"Our nation has always had complete confidence that whenever we were threatened, our soldiers would fight in our defense with bravery and distinction and without question," said Edwards. "Our responsibility in turn is to provide for them and for their families. This budget does not do a good job of honoring that promise."

The Administration's 2004 Budget Request would cut \$21.8 million from the Killeen Independent School District operating budget, \$9.6 million from Copperas Cove and \$150,000 from the Lam-

Keeping in Touch

by U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards



pasas district. According to officials in Killeen and Copperas Cove districts, it would mean severe cuts in educational service and even the layoff of teachers.

"It's wrong to force federally-impacted school districts to cut teachers and education programs, particularly when the parents of the students are facing the prospect of fighting overseas," Edwards said. "We need to restore these cuts and we need to restore them now."

Edwards continues to take strong issue with the Administration's plan to reduce School Impact Aid

and to cut funding for military family housing and barracks. He brought the issue up with Secretary of the Army Thomas White at an Army Caucus breakfast Wednesday. Edwards is co-chair of the bipartisan House Army Caucus. And yesterday, in opening hearings on the 2004 Military Construction Appropriation, Edwards, the Subcommittee's Ranking Member, told Pentagon officials that that the White House Office of Management and Budget's proposed cuts of \$200 million for family housing moved in the wrong direction.

"Sixty seven percent of our U.S. Army troops at home and abroad live in substandard housing, yet funding to maintain facilities is inadequate year after year," he said. "If the Pentagon continues to underfund routine maintenance and upkeep on the billions of dollars in barracks, family housing, training, and command and control facilities, they will continue to deteriorate and require more costly repair. Finally, they will need complete replacement."

"This 2004 budget request cuts funds for Federal Impact Aid to schools that educate military dependents and military family housing at the very time that we're deploying U.S. troops for possible combat in Iraq. This is an amazing convergence of misplaced priorities and terrible timing."

Texas Unemployment Insurance Program needs overhaul

The Texas unemployment insurance program is fatally flawed and costing Texas businesses a staggering \$5 billion in the next two years to administer this ineffective program, according to a report presented to the Economic Development Committee of the Texas House of Representatives.

The Texas Association of Business prepared the report: "Putting Texans to Work, Unemployment Insurance. Out-of-Control," outlining serious flaws with the program currently being administered by the Texas Workforce Commission, which is up for sunset review in 2003.

"Texas employers pay 100 percent of the cost of administering this program in Texas, which amounts to little more than a hidden tax on business," said Bill Hammond, chairman and CEO of the Texas Association of Business.

"Texas employers have a vital interest in how unemployment insurance is being administered. In Texas today, the program is failing employers and employees."

According to the TAB report, the shortfall of the Texas unemployment insurance system include:

- Below average grade for duration of benefits;
- Failing grade for exhaustion rates;
- Bad benefit decisions;
- Ineffective Fraud Prevention Program;
- Lax Work Search Requirements.

The report cites egregious examples of bad decisions by the Workforce Commission in the granting of unemployment ben-

efits. For example:

- A case when benefits were awarded to a claimant who had been fired after being absent due to incarceration and after her friend called in and lied to the employer that the claimant was tending to an ill father.

- A case where the TWC granted unemployment benefits to a claimant who failed a pre-employment drug test;

- A case where the TWC approved payment of benefits to a school busdriver who had been arrested for stalking a woman, following a clear warning for

a similar incident in the past;

- A case where the Commission granted benefits to a claimant who admitted striking the first and only blow in a physical fight at work, and to brandishing a knife at the co-worker he struck.

"The Workforce Commission vision of what constitutes an acceptable employee who deserves unemployment compensation after termination is seriously flawed, as these cases indicate," Hammond said. "These types of decisions are simply wrong.

The Texas Legislature must take corrective measures."

The TAB report cites numerous other examples of questionable benefit awards.

Hammond, the former chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission, said the agency is failing in its basic mission to put unemployed Texans back to work. Texas ranks dead last in the nation in the percentage of unemployed people - 64 percent - who exhaust their benefits before getting a job.

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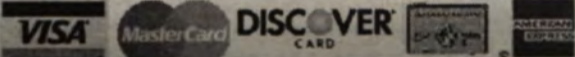


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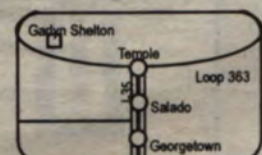
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Wednesday

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Fellowship Meal 5:30 p.m.
TeamKID (Preschool - 6th) 6:00 p.m.
Youth Choir 6:00 p.m.
Prayer Service 6:15 p.m.
Bible Drill (3rd - 6th) 7:00 p.m.
High School Halftime 7:00 p.m.

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Mark Thompson and Melanie Pyeatt

Pyeatt to marry Thompson

Mr. and Mrs. Len J. Pyeatt, of Gladewater, Texas, announce the engagement of their daughter Melanie Pyeatt to Mark Thompson, both of Austin.

Mark is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Terry G. Thompson, of Temple. Mark is a golf professional at Great Hills Country Club, and Melanie is an executive assistant at Deloitte Consulting.

The couple is planning a May 23 wedding at The Terrace Club in Dripping Springs, Texas.

Democratic Women to meet March 15

Bell County Texas Democratic Women will hold their monthly meeting March 15 in the courtroom of County Court Law #2 at 550 East 2nd Ave. in Belton. The building is behind the temporary Commissioner's courtroom. Refreshments will be served at 9:30 a.m., and the meeting will begin at 10 a.m. New members and guests are welcome.

Following the women's meeting at 11 a.m., there will be a meeting of the Bell County Young Democrats, and also are Executive Board meeting of the Bell County Democratic Party in the same building. All Democrats are invited.

Salado Historical Society helps restoration and preservation

The Salado Historical Society has taken the lead in continuing the restoration and preservation of the Historic Village and continues to make Salado's history accessible to all that visit here as well as those who live here.

"We must continue to preserve what we have and officially mark these either with a site or a subject marker," said Miriam Jordan, 2003 Membership Chairman.

To renew membership for 2003 or become a new member, mail check, made out to the Salado Historical Society, to Miriam Jordan at 600 Arrowhead Dr., Salado. Please include your name, address, home phone and work phone. The 2003 Directory deadline in March 15.

Following are the fees. Family or individual - \$15; Business or Organization - \$30; Sustaining or contributing (greater than \$30). All dues are tax deductible.

For more information contact Miriam Jordan at 947-5254.

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Ellis offers special Shabbat for the Institute of Humanities at Salado

Marc Ellis, director of the Center for Jewish and American Studies at Baylor University in Waco, is offering a special Shabbat at the Center 6 p.m. March 7 for friends and members of The Institute for the Humanities at Salado. Shabbat is the ceremony and meal that begins the Jewish Sabbath, which starts at sunset on Friday and lasts until sunset on Saturday.

Dr. Ellis gave one of the Institute's programs last fall in Salado in its series on Reverence for Life from the perspective of four of the world's major religions. His experience in Salado and the discussion following his talk resulted in his hope that the Center and the Institute can occa-

sionally work together in developing programs and inviting speakers for topics of mutual interest.

Call or email the Institute to reserve a place for the March 7 Shabbat by calling 947-5729, or email coord@vvm.com. The Institute offers programs that provide a non-partisan forum for inquiry into and discussion of topics relating to religion, culture, history, ethics and values, civil society, and individual and community renewal. Dr. Harry A. Wilmer founded the Institute in 1980. Membership is open to the public and programs are presented in Killeen-Fort Hood, Temple, Belton, and Salado. Call the office to request a free spring program brochure.



Ian Richard Foley and Emily Ashford Rice

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Rice of Salado are delighted and proud to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter, Emily Ashford Rice, to Ian Richard Foley, son of Mrs. Gillian Foley of London, England.

A May 24 wedding on the island of Anguilla in the British West Indies is planned. Following the honeymoon, the couple will reside in San Francisco, CA.

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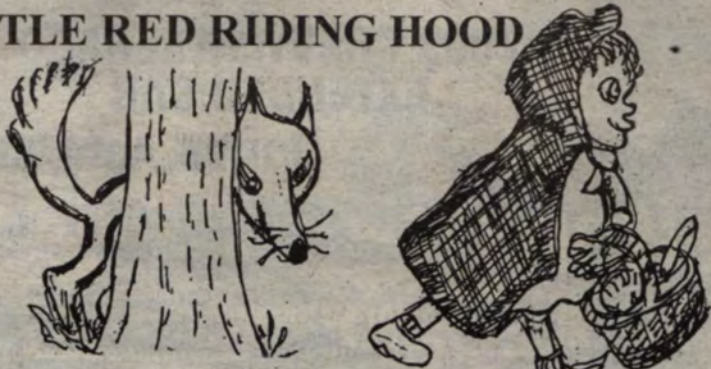


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Salado School Menus

March 5 - 11

Breakfast Menu

March 5: Glazed Donut, Cereal,
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March 6: Pig in a Blanket, Cereal, Toast, Fruit,
Juice, Milk

March 7: Biscuit & Ham, Cereal, Toast, Fruit,
Juice, Milk

March 10: Waffles, Cereal, Toast, Fruit, Juice,
Milk

March 11: French Toast w/syrup, Cereal, Toast,
Fruit, Juice, Milk

Lunch Menu

March 5: Pizza, Corn, Breadstick, Fruity Freeze,
Hoagie, Chef Salad, Baked Potato, Milk

March 6: Chicken Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes, Hot
Roll, Peas, Pears, Hoagie, Chef Salad,
Baked Potato, Milk

March 7: Cheeseburger, French Fries, Pickle
Spear, Fruity Freeze, Hoagie, Chef Salad, Baked
Potato, Milk

March 10: No Lunch

March 11: Fried Chicken, Broccoli, Hot Roll,
Blueberries w/topping, Hoagie, Chef Salad,
Baked Potato, Milk.

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Young qualifies for state lift, Lopez and Jacobson in regionals

Sophomore LauraLee Young lifted a total of 690 lbs. at the regional meet in Lampasas Feb. 28 to qualify for the THSWPA State Meet, which will be held at the Killeen Convention Center March 15. Young placed 8th in the regional competition, competing against athletes from 1A-5A schools.

To reach her qualifying total, Young posted a 270 lb. squat, 120 lb. bench press, and a 300 lb. deadlift. "LauraLee, as well as all of the girls, has worked extremely hard to get to this point," said Coach Travis Ling. "I'm very proud of the entire team, but it is nice to see one of the girls not only make it to regionals, but to qualify for the state meet."

To qualify for the boy's regional meet, to be held March 8 in Llano, lifters



LauraLee Young, a Salado sophomore, attempts a deadlift at the regional powerlifting meet, held Feb. 28 in Lampasas. Her total of 690 pounds was good enough to earn her a spot in the state meet, to be held March 15 in Killeen.

must finish in the top 10 in the region.

Josh Jacobson qualified in the 123.5 lb. class, with a season high 785 total lbs., highlighted by a 335 lb. deadlift. A.J. Lopez qualified in the 132 lb. class with his 880 lb. total. Senior

Brad Ray finished just out of the top 10, coming in 13th place in the region. Had Region II not been the most competitive in the state, Ling believes Ray would have qualified for regionals.

"We want to continue

to build on the accomplishments of these guys that qualified," he said. "Guys and girls alike now realize the level of commitment needed to qualify for regionals and state, but I think it has definitely been an incentive for the kids."

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FINANCIAL

Bankruptcy "Reform" measure

Last year, more than 1 million people filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 7, which allowed them to wipe out most of their debts. This year, there are predictions that the filings could equal or top the previous claims. However, it may not be so easy to obtain the relief being sought if the Senate passes a so-called bankruptcy reform measure.

An earlier bill that was withdrawn on a procedural issue in November has been refiled, and according to its sponsor, Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), it looks as if it will be passed this year.

Among the provisions in the measure that are expected to make filing more difficult would be to require people to attend credit-counseling sessions before they could file for bankruptcy relief. (The credit-counseling industry says this would create chaos.)

Also, filers would have to show how much disposable income they could pay creditors. The amount would not be based on what they're actually earning but, instead, on what shows up on the bottom line after averaging six months of income and expenses. Consumer groups note this is not only unfair but essentially unworkable since people turn to bankruptcy because they don't have sufficient current income, let alone potential earnings in an increasingly difficult job market. But wait. As Alice would say, it gets "curiouser and curiouser": The bill also

Dollars & Sense

by David Uffington

provides that if someone spends \$500 or more on luxury items in the 60 days before seeking bankruptcy protection, he/she will be presumed to have committed fraud. This could be a problem for someone who, say, bought his fiancée an engagement ring on Dec. 15 and lost his job at the end of January.

ted fraud. This could be a problem for someone who, say, bought his fiancée an engagement ring on Dec. 15 and lost his job at the end of January.

P.S. In any event, just so you know, if the bill passes, it will take effect six months after being signed into law.

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Scott and White Blood Center faces a high need for blood donations

The Scott & White Blood Center currently faces a high need for blood donations and a decrease in the number of donors available to address the hospital's needs.

"We have had fewer donors this week than we normally collect in one day, due to the severe weather conditions," stated Mindi DeShazo, Donor Recruiter for the Scott & White Blood Center. "The situation is of

great concern to us, for the sake of the patients needing blood. You simply never know when circumstances will significantly deplete the blood supply."

The supply and demand of blood has been crippled this week due to the ice storm and the inability for donors to come to the Scott & White Blood Center, as well as the full occupancy felt at the Scott & White Hospital where the blood is

to be supplied to patients in need.

DeShazo continued to state that the Scott & White Blood Center is on a "Red Alert" for O-type blood, operating on less than 25 percent of the daily minimum requirement of 150 units.

They are also on a "Yellow Alert" for A-type blood, operating on less than 50 percent of the daily minimum requirement of

150 units.

"We need Central Texans to know that there are patients who need their help now. They need healthy, willing people to come in and donate blood."

All units of blood collected at Scott & White and on the Scott & White Blood Mobile remain at Scott & White to benefit all patients who are treated at the hos-

SEE S&W PAGE 13A

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pital. The Scott & White Blood Center is open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Wed., 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Thurs., and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Fri. It is located near the McLane Dining Room on the first floor of the main hospital, across from the Art Gallery.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years of age, weight at least 110 pounds, and be in general good health. They are eligible to donate if they have not donated within the last eight weeks, as per Federal Drug Administration

regulations. Each donor must present a picture ID in order to be registered. Each donor will receive a free T-shirt.

For additional informa-

tion, contact the Scott & White Blood Center at 254-724-2430 or 877-724-9181 or visit www.sw.org/donor/blood/bld_cntr.htm.



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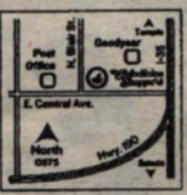
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 YOU KNOW, IF THE BUS DOESN'T PICK US UP, I GUESS WE CAN SKIP SCHOOL.
 HONK! HONK!
 THAT'S OK, WE'LL CATCH THE NEXT ONE!

Out on a Limb

YES!
 RESEARCHERS AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF COUNTING DISCOVER "UMPTENTH," A NEW NUMBER BETWEEN THE NUMBERS FIFTEEN AND SIXTEEN

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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

HI, SIM--I FOUND A LOAD OF DRY FIREWOOD FOR YA!
 WOW! YOU'RE SOMETHIN' ELSE, TINKER!

WHERE THE HECK DID YOU FIND DRY WOOD IN MARCH?!

BIG BILL'S AUCTION BARN...

The Spats

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE LATE LATE MOVIE LAST NIGHT...

...AN ASTRONAUT ESCAPED FROM A MARTIAN PRISON...

...BY EATING THROUGH THE 'MARS BARS!'
 AND I SUPPOSE IT WAS RATED "M+M'S."

POPEYE
 HEY EESMAN

WHEW! WOT A DAY!

SIT DOWN, SUPPER'S READY!

BOY... AM I HUNGRY!
 I MADE YER FAV'RIT...
 ...ROAST CHICKEN, GRITS 'N' GRAVY!

BY THE WAY...
 ...DIDJA HEAR 'BOUT YER UNCLE OTTO?
 NO... WOT?

YA DIN'T HEAR NUTTIN' 'BOUT WOT HAPPENED?
 NO...

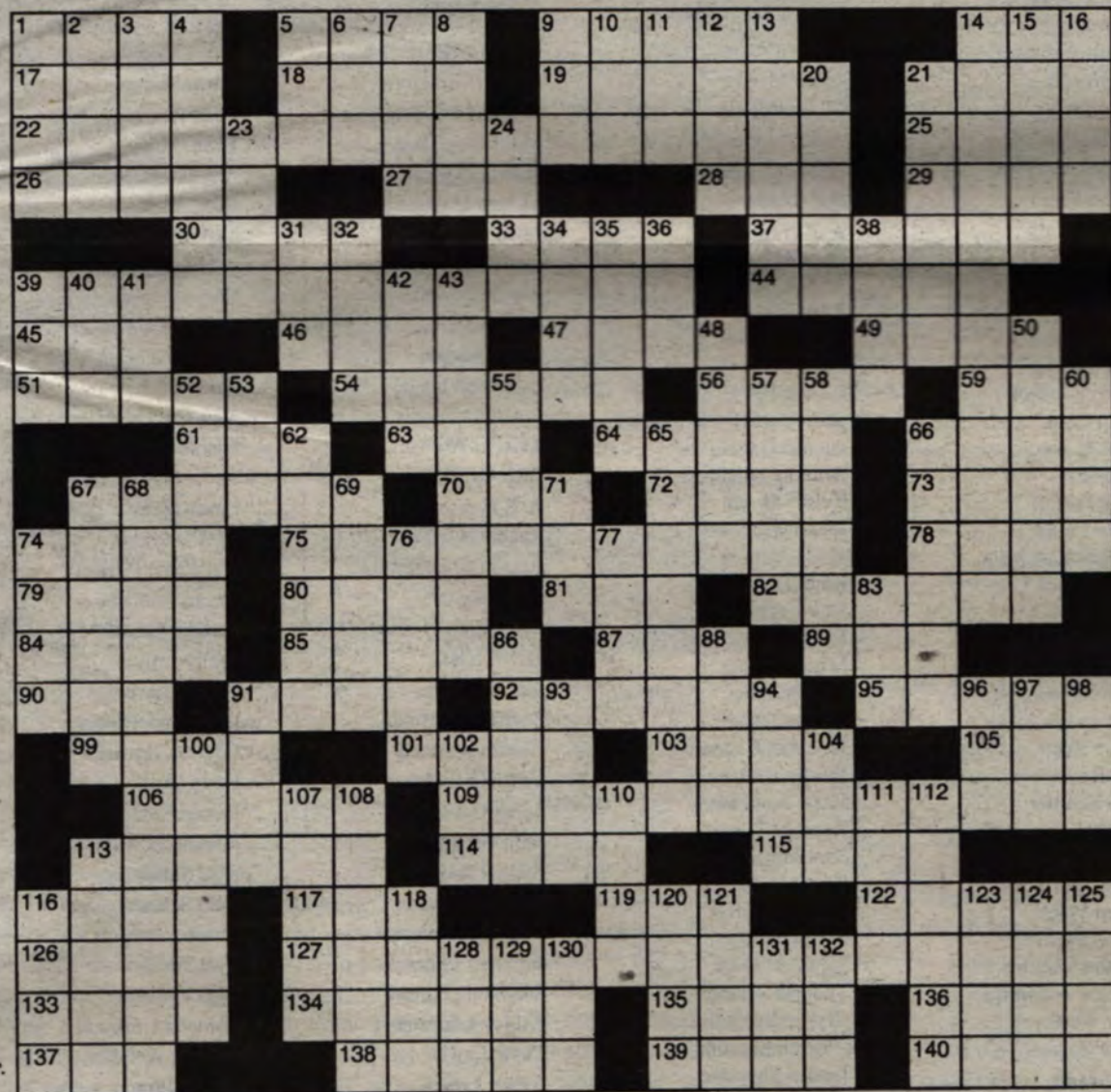
DIN'T POPEYE TELL YA?
 I AIN'T SPOKE TA NOBODY T'DAY!

WELL... YOU JES! GO 'HEAD AN' ENJOY YER SUPPER...

...TH' BAD NEWS KIN WAIT!

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sagan or Sandburg
 - 5 Swarm sound
 - 9 Montana city
 - 14 Monterrey Mrs.
 - 17 '58 Pulitzer winner
 - 18 Piece of fencing?
 - 19 He was "The Thing"
 - 21 Pipe part
 - 22 WREN
 - 25 Brobdingnagian
 - 26 For — (cheaply)
 - 27 Comic Costello
 - 28 — Na Na
 - 29 Mascagni opera
 - 30 Poet Wilcox
 - 33 Lohengrin's bird
 - 37 African antelopes
 - 39 LARK
 - 44 "The Optimist's Daughter" author
 - 45 Bonanza material
 - 46 Coveleski or Musial
 - 47 Vichyssoise veggie
 - 49 Tip one's topper
 - 51 Long-tailed parrot
 - 54 Sanford of "The Jeffersons"
 - 56 Scandinavian city
 - 59 Griffon greeting
 - 61 Fool
 - 63 Missouri airport abbr.
 - 64 Valuable instrument
 - 66 Stowe sight
 - 67 Screen-writer Nora
 - 70 Elf
 - 72 Dash
 - 73 Sarah — Jewett
 - 74 Inland sea
 - 75 QUAIL
 - 78 Depravity
 - 79 Easy stride
 - 80 Bit of gossip
 - 81 Parenthesis shape
 - 82 Physicist Fermi
 - 84 Corset part
 - 85 Alfredo ingredient
 - 87 British big shot
 - 89 Monsarrat's "The Cruel —"
 - 90 Tulsa commodity
 - 91 Cheat at hide-and-seek
 - 92 Preposterous
 - 95 Sweetheart
 - 99 Turn over
 - 101 Darjeeling dress
 - 103 Invasion
 - 105 Frankfurter's field
 - 106 Rent
 - 109 CRANE
 - 113 Church official
 - 114 Oriental staple
 - 115 Big rig
 - 116 Channel
 - 117 Actress Hagen
 - 119 Plutarch character
 - 122 Tole material
 - 126 Be important
 - 127 PAR-TRIDGE
 - 133 Actor Novello
 - 134 Kindle
 - 135 Heart burn?
 - 136 Time for a sandwich
 - 137 According to
 - 138 German port
 - 139 Racing legend
 - 140 Guy Fri.
 - DOWN**
 - 1 — Grande, AZ
 - 2 FBI workers
 - 3 "— Man" ('84 film)
 - 4 Not as fatty
 - 5 Neighbor of Ger.
 - 6 Prosperous times
 - 7 Non-non-chalance?
 - 8 Nil
 - 9 Crank's comment
 - 10 Swiss canton
 - 11 Explosive initials
 - 12 Golfer's gadgets
 - 13 Avoid
 - 14 DUCK
 - 15 Toomey or Philbin
 - 16 Iowa city
 - 20 Musty
 - 21 Japanese religion
 - 23 Hard on the eyes
 - 24 Astrology term
 - 31 Brown or Baxter
 - 32 Vino center
 - 34 Corduroy ridge
 - 35 Writer Rogers St. Johns
 - 36 Formerly known as
 - 38 Moro of Italy
 - 39 One who no's best?
 - 40 Distinctive period
 - 41 — room
 - 42 Singer Elliot
 - 43 Bete noire
 - 48 Adorable Australian
 - 50 Tenor Corelli
 - 52 One of the Judds
 - 53 Tolstoy title start
 - 55 Coalition
 - 57 Play ground?
 - 58 Bedding
 - 60 At large
 - 62 Word with dog or state
 - 65 "Never on Sunday" star
 - 66 Good-humored
 - 67 Amatory
 - 68 CARDINAL
 - 69 — Dame
 - 71 Anaconda, for one
 - 74 As well
 - 76 Pursues
 - 77 Coffee pots
 - 83 Ring counter
 - 86 Andretti or Cuomo
 - 88 Fiber source
 - 91 Swamp stuff
 - 93 "Death of a Salesman" son
 - 94 Pad
 - 96 Ryan's "Love Story" co-star
 - 97 Bud
 - 98 Fluffy female
 - 100 Crime writer Colin
 - 102 PC key
 - 104 SHAEF commander
 - 107 "The March King"
 - 108 Whole
 - 110 Stamping ground
 - 111 TV award
 - 112 Strauss city
 - 113 Debonair
 - 116 — coffee
 - 118 Energy source
 - 120 One of a pair
 - 121 South Seas novel
 - 123 New Mexico resort
 - 124 John of "Roots"
 - 125 Expected back
 - 128 Bossy's chew
 - 129 Sugary suffix
 - 130 Guys
 - 131 College growth
 - 132 Empower



ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD

CARL BUZZ BUTTE SRA
 AGEE EPEE ARNESS STEM
 STPAULSARCHITECT HUGE
 ASONG LOU SHA IRIS
 ELLA SWAN ELANDS
 MERRYESCAPADE WELTY
 ORE STAN LEEK DOFF
 MACAW ISABEL OSLO ARF
 SAP STL AMATI JBAR
 EPHRON HOB ELAN ORNE
 ARAL LOSECOURAGE VICE
 LOPE ITEM ARC ENRICO
 STAY CREAM NOB SEA
 OIL PEEK ABSURD FLAME
 CEDE SARI RAID LAW
 LEASE LIFTINGDEVICE
 SEXTON TOFU SEMI
 DUCT UTA RHO METAL
 RATE SITCOMFAMILYNAME
 IAVOR AROUSE LOVE NOON
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Salado ISD Honor Rolls 4th 6 Weeks

2nd Grade

A Honor Roll

Micheal Butts
Shelby Boniface
Cooper Cox
Ryan Flores
Madi DePriest
Matt Holdampf
Billy Golding
Cody Lankford
Erin Mattocks
Gustavo Ortiz
Brie Taylor
Taylor Rosenau
Amber Monk
Fabian Saucedo
Haley Williams
Albin Timm
Rebecca Anderson
Jessica Armas
Barton Cheatham
Tom Kyle
Coby Giniewicz
Bryce Martin
Megan Mattson
Paige Meritt
Joshua Robinson
Sean Moore
Zachary Robinson
Dillon Passage
Kourtney Walker
Mattie Price
Meredith Ward
Kaci Wells

2nd Grade

A-B Honor Roll

Cody Baxter
Jonathan Chick
Anna Buchele
Alex DeLeon
Johnny Goode
Aron Fraire
Hannah Kelarek
Courtney Sloan
Madison Kelley
Mildred Tonchez
Cameron Kirchmeier
Patrick Murray
Josh Oyler
John Pegues
Jacey Roberts
Kylie Robinson
Dale Clement
Lani Barton
Taylor Cromwell
Lucas Copper
Marcene Grimsley
Cameron Masson
Eric McGregor
Christian Masson
Cheyenne Pyle
Jose Perez
Kyle Suhling
Jaron Sundberg
Morgan Taylor
Brandon Womac

3rd grade

A- Honor Roll

George Romfh
Stephanie Lastovica
Taylor Marburger
Marci Campbell
Koby Spears
Johnny Jordan
Kyle Bradley
Hannah Seaton
Austin Silva
Kaycie Davidson
Cameron Smith
Kori Norman
Cole Goodrum
Valeria Lica
Colton Meiman
Triston Morales
Austin Armstrong
Leah Ray
Lorna Payne
Joe Owens
Jace Rex
Max Hazzard
Elaina Magee
Kaycee Patterson
Tori Sellers
Cody Goodman
Cade Benoit
Jada Kornegay
Nicholas Castillo
Stephanie Shuler
Chellice Cloud
Rebecca Moffatt
Payton Montgomery

Tanny Ogungbe
Rachel Piatt
Teresa Pinkerton
Megan Walker
Helena Carroll
Beau Briggs
Tyler Dale
Taylor Coleman
Cara Langford
Anthony Finger
Kelsey Palomino
Jessica Guthrie
Brendan Laird
Chelsea Rank

4th Grade

A Honor Roll

Sarah Boysen
Bernie Briggs
Jacob Cahoon
Jeffrey Care
Kandace Little
Mayra DeLuna
Rachel Pinkerton
Alaura Eagan
Jessica Rodriguez
Cody Monk
Tyndal Schreiner
Jenna Sebek
Conner Smith
Ryan Suresh
Camryn Bintz
Jessica Alpha
Ryan Burden
Alexis Bloomer
Paul Chavez
Jacob Brank
Hannah Goode
Jessica Conner Kalinosky
Audley Miles
Katrina Huckerby
Shauna Miller
Rachel Spinks
Savannah Stanley
Ashley Volk

4th Grade

A-B Honor Roll

Shelby Cecil
Brennan Boydston
Katy Clark
Alyson George
Jacob Heiner
Hadley Joiner
Amy Kendall
Garret Marburger
Braxton Tucker
Chris Quinn
Stephen Sniggs
Wilson Trent
Courtney Wheeler
Megan Harvell
Taylor Caldwell

Kalyn Dunks
Raven Hojnacki
Hunter Ward
Courtney Lavadia
Kelsey Ortiz
Billi Pipes
Kacey Robinson
Lexy Willis
Max Care
Andrew Cosper
Schuyler Dale
Logan Jackson
Brittney Frazier
Colton Norman
Logan Haire
Hailee Pipes
Janson Oyler
Kristina Ramos
Morgan Van Winkle
Lucas Woolley
Paige Zulauf

5th Grade

A Honor Roll

Joshua Alpha
Grace Buchele
Taylor Cockrell
Mindi Dunnahoo
Isabel Garcia
Brandon Heller
Robert Hendrick
Haley Kemp
Alex Lincoln
Katherine Lister-Atmar
Caleb Little
Rebecca Petro
Vonnice Rodriguez

Jayni Sierra
Zoe Simpson
Kurstyn Sundberg
Trenton Wagnon
Heather Williams

5th Grade

A-B Honor Roll

Ashlee Arnold
Jason Conner
Kristen Dunnahoo
Reed Farr
Jessica Ferrell-Raborn
Brittany Finger
Coral Fraire
Lauren Giniewicz
Grant Hancock
Kyle Hartman
Daisy Jaimes
Katelyn Lankford
Ashley Lincoln
Chelsea Lomprey
Hannah Lyon
Jace Maldonado
Lindsay Martin
Sindel McDaniel
Mallory Ming
Ethan Mitchell
Caroline Payne
Sierra Pedigo
Lupe Perez
Jordan Pietz
Paul Pinkston
Cole Raley
Audrey Roe
Hope Saucedo
Cody Stevenson
Gregory Tischler
Luis Toledo
Rachel Van Hoozer
Jessica Walker
Boomer Wells
Tristin Williams

6th Grade

A Honor Roll

Wesley Buchele
Lindsey Coffey
Jordan Dunn
Morgan Kelly
Jon Spinks

6th Grade

A-B Honor Roll

Erika Benolken
Reta Buckley
Ashlee Cantrell
Sarah Cook
Jeran Dunson
James Ervi
Abby Frazier
Molly Heuer
Maegan Kincheloe
Becka Laird
C.J. Little
Danielle Makin
Marylyn Mitchell
Gene Radebaugh
Kaleigh Rank
Taylor Reed
Josh Rodriguez
Dara Schiller
Megan Seaton
Alison Slima
Jacob Spurlock
Karen Volck
Garret Ward
Preston Watkins
Clayton Whitmire
Amy Woolley
Kylee Young

7th Grade

A Honor Roll

Paul Boston
Joshua Bush
Dallas Butts
Lauren Culver
Gene Drake
Matthew Fritsch
Jonas Goode
Lauren Haire

Alex House
Kevin Jackson
Nicholas Mohammed
Kamylle Palomino
Tamra Stanish
Reena Suresh

7th Grade

A-B Honor Roll

Jelsea Brank
Tyler Burden
Daniel Champion
Kasey Cockrell
Joshua Coleman
Sarah Dowell
Gregory Faber
Karleigh Goodnight
Blake Heller
Amanda Hoffman
Brittany Kincheloe
JD Kinsey
Kayla Kirchmeier
Cory Langford
Breanne Marks
Alyssa Mitchell
Zoni Perry
Valeria Rangel
Sara Sebti
Kourtney Singleton
Kristen Smith
Ryan Smith
Kyle Stewart
Adela Toledo
Biridiana Torres

8th Grade

A Honor Roll

Brandi Boydston
Magan Bradshaw
Jamie Burson
Cortney Dunnahoo
Larissa Ingalsbe
Leigh Martin
Jacob Meritt
Molly Rooney
Ariel Simpson
Araceli Urquiza

8th Grade

A-B Honor Roll

Shea Arias
Jessica Byrd
Ryan Clark
Bryan Corbitt
Lane Cryar
Justine Ferrell-Raborn
Seth Foster
Alonso Galvan
Brittany Gilchrest
Kelsey Gobin
Blake Hancock
Justin Harvell
Keith Hogwood
Ken Hora
Jeanette Inocencio-Handorf
Misael Jaimes
Joshua James
Denise Jasso
Jonathan Kendall
Westin Koiner
Justin Konzen
Rebecca Lyssy
Sara Moffatt
Andrew Murray
Blake Newman
Adam Patton
Stephen Quick
Thomas Schatte
Crystal Schoellmann
Clayton Sharum
Jessica Shumate
Roseleia Sierra
Nathan Sitz
Madison Slagel
Brittany Tucker
Eric Walker
Trevor Young

9th Grade

A Honor Roll

Justin Cox
Wesley Dowell

Slayton Ebeling
Gerald Flynn
Kathryn Holdampf
Shae Janda
Kirsten Singleton

9th Grade

A-B Honor Roll

Lacey Bartlett
Mattie Billington
Grant Boston
Jared Brank
Jacob Brown
Kristopher Califano
Kevin Cruz
Brittany Dixon
Elizabeth Dunlap
Mark Gentry
Hillary Goodrum
Seth Hale
Rachel Hargrove
Amber Hartman
Sylvia Ingalsbe
Travis Kemp
Kennith Messer
Ines Min
Juan Perez
Maria Perez
Brandon Peters
Kasey Pruett
Jesse Rodriguez
Crystal Saucedo
Joshua Shaw
Kelsey Smith
Craig Sniggs
Joshanna Washburn
Jessica Whitmire

10th Grade

A Honor Roll

Kristi Billington
Brittany Boydston
Matthew Caskey
Jennifer Goode
Lauren Hogwood
Micah Malone
Jacob Mewhinney
Alyssa Powell
Rebekah Quick
Elise Sharum
Savannah Slagel
Jonathan Spence
Kristen Womac

10th Grade

A-B Honor Roll

Rachel Blodgett
Barrett Brashier
Stella Butts
Christopher Campbell
Travis Clark
Valerie Clark
Zachary Coffman
Kindra DuBose
Virginia Ewton
Sarah Gentry
John Gregurek
Randal Jackson
Joshua Jacobsen
Matthew Jennings
Brennan Joiner
Stephanie Kinsey
Ashley Leifester
Cayla Lewis
Albert Lopez
John Lyssy
Douglas Mackie
Jessica Roberts
Austin Rogers
Rosana Ruiz
Joseph Shumate
Regy Suresh
Jaclyn Welsh
Jacob Williams

Scott Williams
Laramie Wilson
Elizabeth Wood
Lauralee Young

11th Grade

A Honor Roll

Laramie Jackson
Johnna Konzen
Pamela Newman
Chase Simpson

11th Grade

A-B Honor Roll

Amber Agee
Damara Barber
Matthew Brown
Vanessa Byrd
Paige Cameron
Keigan Campbell
Victoria Castillo
Thomas Copeland
Lance Cox
Peter Culin
Cristo delaHoya
Tiffany Dixon
Reba Donaldson
Robert Epps
Trisha Gaus
Melissa Gilpin
Angela Hogwood
Michelle Houston
Hannah Landrum
Leah Lankford
Olivia Lara
Robert Lott
Heather McLaughlin
Andrew Ming
Rachael Oaks
Shane Pipes
Alicia Raley
Sean Rex
Evan Smith
Mallory Snelson
Staci York

12th Grade

A Honor Roll

Shelia Arnold
Isaac Berumen
Bradley Carter
Natalie Clark
Sara Culver
Nicole Foster
Jenna Fritsch
Heath Hale
Keri Hansen
Katherine Herrick
Bryan Johnston
Tabitha Lawson
Emily Lilly
Ashley Lummus
Lauren Mewhinney
Chelsea Norman
Cody Quirk
Devon Rex
Francisco Ruiz
Kyle Salisbury
John Schoellmann
Brooke Sharum
Kyle Turnbo
Olga Urquiza
Romelia Urquiza
Waylon Wendler
Tiffany Young

12th Grade

A-B Honor Roll

Evan Clements
Andrea Correa
Frederic DePrez
Evan Durham
David Faber
Lisa Hatter
Stephen Hayes
Nathan Jackson
Meagan Joiner
Kelcie Keating
Nicole Labove
Erin Lummus
Narissa Mohammed
Mary Murchison
Will Ray
Jarrod Whitfield



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The little engine that couldn't

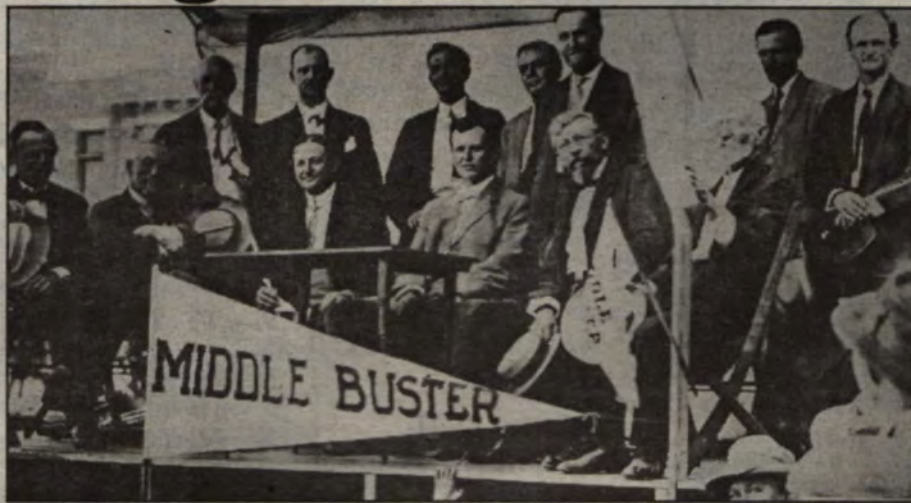
By CHRIS MCGREGOR
 STAFF WRITER

Anyone with the good sense of a stump knows that war, in its fashion, has a peculiar way of disrupting even the most princely of aspirations. Take Salado for instance, and in particular, Salado around the outbreak of that historical melee, World War I.

The roses, to paraphrase the poet, were not fattening on the vine for the small community. The old Austin to Waco stage-line, its heyday a thing of memory, had removed with it much of the traffic and esteem garnered some decades before. Gone were the cattle drives, the days when the great bovine herds fed, watered, and hooved their way down what is now Main Street on the trail to Abilene and the northern stockyards.

And that same path, the old military road, which had heard in its day the pounding of Union drums after the capitulation of Southern rebels, a presence that perturbed locals to the point of Judge George T. Tyler writing that "for a time there was no law but military law," was now itself in disuse.

Dignitaries no longer made pilgrimages to the Shady Villa, as Sam Houston once had, and the oft-romanticized college closed for good in 1885. The grand old building, the physical embodiment of what boastful Salado-



Cajoled by a cheering throng, Salado and Belton business leaders, along with railroad representatives, appear confident enough at a rally for the Middlebuster. Prominent Saladoan George Tyler is seated second from right, hat in hand. (PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RAILROAD AND HERITAGE MUSEUM, TEMPLE)

an's pointed to when they dubbed their village the "Athens of Texas," had burned to the ground twice already, in 1901 and '02, and would flame-up again in the 20s, never to be rebuilt, the same skeleton the town was becoming.

In short, a shadow hung over the once lustrous pall of Salado. Times were bleak, and bleaker still, if future prospects be gauged. "Basically, the town leaders were scared to death Salado would die," said Fred Springer, long-time Salado resident and railroad authority-in-residence.

There seemed only one course of action, only one contrivance of gallant enough import, which of course, was to somehow finagle a railroad to come through Salado. Bartlett and Holland had one, and the Gulf Coast and Santa Fe literally put Temple on the map. By 1910, Temple was no longer derisively

known as "Ratsville" but rather, enjoyed a bustling economy with a population exceeding 10,000.

Salado's was no more than a few hundred, and that brass ring Temple waved looked mighty tempting. It just so happened that little Salado had a big brother on its side, for Belton, the county seat, still bristled over losing its prominence amongst Central Texas towns, especially to Temple, and Belton's pockets ran much deeper than Salado's. And it was precisely that, the lure of big money, that enticed railroad investors to lay track.

Then came a gentleman of uncertain origins by the name of Col. L.E. Walker, and things got interesting. He was president of the proposed Quanah, Seymour, Dublin and Rockport Railway Company, and in him rested Salado's iron horse salvation. At the time, Rockport was tussling with its neighbors, Aransas Pass

and Corpus Christi, for the designation of deep water port, which, if and when applied, would translate into oceans of money. The other three towns in the company name, Seymour, Quanah and Dublin, lay in opposing corners of the state, and this rail line intended on connecting all of them. In so doing, it would criss-cross the heart of Texas, hence its rather burly sobriquet, "Middlebuster."

So where does Salado enter the equation? Tyler writes in his definitive *History of Bell County* that the "charter did not call for the line to run through Belton but...Belton businessmen did not intend to be left off the line." The Belton Commercial Club, counting Tyler as one of its hard-charging members, invited Walker to come and meet with them, which he did, and shortly thereafter an agree-

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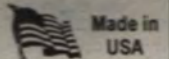
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Regular Meetings

Mondays

Boy Scouts: Each Monday, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Methodist Church.

Monday Club: 1st Mon., 2 p.m., Salado United Methodist Church.

Salado Chamber of Commerce Board: 2nd Mon., 6 p.m., at Civic Center.

Salado I.S.D. Board of Trustees: 3rd Mon. at 6 p.m., at Salado Civic Center.

Salado Library District Board: 4th Mon. at 5 p.m., at Salado Public Library.

Salado Masonic Lodge #296: 8 p.m. on the Mon. on or before the full moon.

Salado Village Artist Quilters: 1-4 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mon. in the Salado Village Artist Building.

Storytime: 11-11:30 a.m. every Monday at the Salado Public Library (ages 3-5).

Salado 4-H Club: 1st Mon. of every month, 7 p.m. at the Intermediate School.

Exercise Class: Last 8:30 a.m. class is Aug. 12. Starting Aug. 19, class will begin at 9:30 a.m., except first Mon. of the month which will be at 10:30 a.m. at Salado Civic Center. Class is FREE to public.

Tuesdays

Salado Rotary Club: 11:30 a.m., Stagecoach Inn.

Salado Band Boosters: Second Tuesday at 3:45 p.m. in the Band Hall.

Salado FFA Meeting: First Tuesday at 7 p.m. at SHS ag shop.

Yoga Classes: 6:45 p.m., at Celebration Center in Royal Street Courtyard.

Salado Village Artists: 10 a.m. at Salado Art Center.

Salado Family Relief Fund: 2nd Tues. 1 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center.

Chisholm Trail Chapter ABWA: 2nd Tues. 6:30 p.m. at Stagecoach Inn.

Salado High School Band Boosters: 2nd Tues. of every month 7 p.m. in the Band Hall.

Salado Community Chorus: 5 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center.

Salado Area Republican Women: 3rd Thursday of month. Times vary. Call 947-8422 or 947-3617 for information.

Wednesdays

Salado Business Association: 1st Wednesday, 8:45 a.m. Salado Civic Center

Salado Creekside Cloggers: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Salado Youth Baseball Association: meetings 7 p.m. at Civic Center.

Lions Club: 2nd & 4th Wed. at 11:30 a.m.,

Creekside. Board meets 2nd Wed. 8 a.m.

Mill Creek Community Association Board: 3rd Wed., 6 p.m., at Civic Center.

Thursdays

Village of Salado Board of Aldermen: Regular meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of month, 6:30 p.m. at Salado Civic Center unless otherwise posted.

Salado Ladies Auxiliary: 2nd Thurs., 10 a.m., Salado Civic Center

Salado Water Corporation Board of Directors: 3rd Thurs., 4 p.m. Corporation office.

Salado Historical Society: board of directors, 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m. Salado Civic Center.

PTC: (SIS Parent Teacher Co-op) meets the 2nd Thursday 3:45 p.m. in Room 101 at SIS.

Salado Education Foundation: Regular Board meetings, 9 a.m. 2nd Thurs. at Salado Civic Center.

Salado Neighborhood Group of the American Sewing Guild: 3rd Thurs. of each month 5:30 p.m. at The Sewing Basket.

Saturdays

Food Pantry: 2nd and 4th Sat., at First Baptist Church. 9 a.m.-10 a.m.

What's happening here?

MARCH 6

Music in Salado Little Red Riding Hood 7:30 p.m. at SIS auditorium. Open to general public.

MARCH 8

Salado Masonic Lodge Catfish Dinner 5 p.m.-7 p.m. at the Intermediate School. Tickets \$6, proceeds benefit Communities in Schools.

MARCH 12-15

Live Blood Analysis at Angelic Herbs. For more information or reservations please, call 947-1909.

MARCH 17-21

Spring Break-Salado ISD.

MARCH 17

7th Annual Denver Mills Golf Tournament to benefit Tablerock. Mill Creek Golf Course, \$60 entry fee. Tee off at 1 p.m.

MARCH 19

School Board applications - Last day to file them.

MARCH 22

Tablerock's 2nd Annual Invitational Music Festival. 4-10 p.m. \$3 for adults and \$1 for children.

MARCH 27

Bowl Making at Mud Pies Pottery for the Empty Bowl project. FREE ADMISSION. 5:30 p.m.-?. Call 947-0281 to sign up.

APRIL 5-6

Wildflower Art Show at the Civic Center. Free parking and admission. Food and beverages available. Call 947-5040 for information.

APRIL 12

Tablerock's 8th Annual Gospel Festival

11 a.m. - 9 p.m. \$5 adults and \$3 children under 12.

APRIL 18 - 20

Easter Pageant at Tablerock presented by First Baptist Church of Salado. 8:15 p.m.

APRIL 18-21

No School - SISD

APRIL 19

Alumni baseball game make-up date, 1 p.m. at the High School field.

APRIL 20

Annual Sunrise Service 7 a.m. at Pace Park.

APRIL 25

Salado Education Foundation Spring Dinner Dance, 7 p.m. Salado Springs Celebration Center. Call 947-5050 or 947-947-5479 for info.

MAY 3

School Board Election Day

MAY 10

4th grade play TAE students. 7:30 p.m. \$5 adults, \$3 children.

MAY 15

Annual SISD Band Concert & Awards. 6-8 p.m. at Tablerock. Public welcome, no admission, concession stand open.

MAY 28-29

School out at noon

MAY 30

Last day of school

JUNE 4-7

5th Annual Judy & A.C. Greene Literary Festival featuring Fran-Vick and an original show by Jane Roberts Wood. See www.irtsalado.com for more information.

JUNE 21-22

A Midsummer Night's Dream Auditions 2:30 p.m. at Tablerock's backstage room.

JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2

Salado Legends at Tablerock Amphitheater. Dinner at 7:15 p.m., \$8 adult or child. Theater at 8:15 p.m., \$15 adult and \$5 child.

AUGUST 2

Book Fair at Stagecoach Convention Center 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

AUGUST 2-3

37th Annual Salado Art Fair

SEPTEMBER 11

Central Texas Poetry Prose Reading 7 p.m. - Readings, 9 p.m. - Open mic.

SEPTEMBER 13-14

Fright Trail Auditions 3 p.m. at Tablerock's backstage room.

SEPTEMBER 20-21

Fantasy Faire & Shakespeare Festival \$5 adults, \$3 children

SEPT. 20, 21, 27, 28

A Midsummer Night's Dream 8:15 p.m., \$10 adults, \$5 children.

OCTOBER 2

6th Annual Storytelling Festival 1st through 4th grade, \$1 per person. 10 a.m.

OCTOBER 4-5

Christmas Carol Auditions 2 p.m.

OCTOBER 10-11

Christmas in October. Free admission, Salado Civic Center. Call 947-5040 for information.

OCTOBER 18

Chisholm Trail ABWA Style Show Stagecoach Inn 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. For information call 947-3617.

Oct. 25, 31, Nov. 1

Fright Trail Nights at Tablerock 7-11 p.m., \$5 adults, \$3 children under 12.

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State Convention was held in Austin for Texas Democratic Women

The state convention of Texas Democratic Women was held at the Hilton Airport hotel in Austin on Feb. 21-23. From the Bell County club, 19 women attended the convention. BCTDW president Amanda Allen accepted a certificate which recognized the local club as one of the two clubs with the highest attendance at the convention.

Two members of the Bell County Club were honored. Wilma Allen of Harker Heights was elected to the position of secretary of the TDW executive board. She is a two-time past president of BCTDW, two-time second vice president, and presently serves as publicity chair. She is also very active in the county Democratic Party, currently serving as a precinct chair and secretary of the executive board.

Vada Sutton, County Clerk of Bell County, was honored as a "star," for her

Retired Officer's Wives meet March 10 at Officer's Club

The Retired Officer's Wives March meeting will be held March 10 at the Fort Hood Officer's Club. The meeting will start at noon and lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m.. The cost will be \$10.

The executive board meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. prior to the luncheon. Permanent reservations will be in effect. Reservations are due no later

than March 6. Reservations may be made by calling Jacque Bergstrom, 254-698-1739. The program for the luncheon will be "The Key to Your Skeleton," given by Maria McConville of Metroplex Hospital. The luncheon will be an Italian buffet. Candidates for next year's board will be nominated, and nominations will be taken from the floor.

outstanding work as County Clerk of Bell County since 1987. Other activities in which she is involved includes being a member of the Agnes Woodson chapter of the DAR, Sam Houston chapter of Daughters of the Texas Revolution, Bell County Historical Commission, County and District Clerks Association and the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board of the Texas State Library. She has also served in many positions of the Bell County Democratic Party.

Alice Braly of the Kendall County Area Democratic Women, Boerne, Texas, was installed as president of Texas Democratic Women for 2003. Approximately 200 women from clubs throughout the state were in attendance. The theme for the convention was "Building the future of Texas, one woman, one vote at a time."

Meyer to speak to Ladies Auxiliary March 13

Debbie Meyer will be the guest speaker at the Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary meeting 10 a.m. March 13 at the Civic Center. Meyer will present a cooking demonstration from her cookbook, "Good Friends Great Tastes," which intertwines the lives of and recipes from the many friendships she has developed.

Originally from Kansas, Meyer has studied abroad in college on a scholarship from Kansas

State University. She has lived in the Dallas area since graduating from college. Realizing entertaining at home could be a lost art, Meyer pursued her lifelong dream of writing an entertainment guide/cookbook to put the ease and enjoyment back into casual and elegant entertaining.

For more information about the meeting, contact Miriam Jordan at 947-5254.

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Middle Buster

ment was established, one that, had it reached fruition, would have forever altered the development and history of Salado.

Walker agreed to not only bring the line through Belton, but to actually headquarter the company there, and build a hospital. All locals had to do was raise a paltry hundred grand. The Commercial Club accepted Walker's bid in under a minute, and Tyler notes that many Salado citizens eagerly hopped on the bandwagon with cash in hand to help speed the process, for Salado, with its handful of mills and gins, would have been worth the stop for the train company. It's almost certain a depot would have been constructed. "It definitely would have caused an economic boom of

sorts," says Springer. Its original charter was dated April 13, 1910, and preparations for its construction were quickly undertaken. Had it succeeded, its track would've crossed Royal Street, paralleled Main, and hammered smack-dab through Mill Creek. But it didn't. It didn't even come close.

While surveying and initial construction, such as grading, were being done in Salado and Belton, Col. Walker was away in Europe securing the final, crucial investors in London and Brussels. Then, 1912 came and hit the enterprise, well, like a locomotive. The Balkan War broke out, which threw the European market into a tailspin. Animosity from that conflict helped to precipitate

World War I, which in turn, effectively ended all financial help from state-side and abroad. Without it, the railroad had no chance of being completed. And so ended Salado's short but eventful tryst with those "magic carpets made of steel," as Willie Nelson sang.

Believe it or not, a few backyards in Mill Creek still clearly bear the mark of that ambitious, but aborted, rail line, identified by the unnaturally large lumps of earth that served as the grade. Parts are still visible near Sue Whistler's Twelve Oaks Mansion on Center Circle, as well. Most remains have been long since levelled off, however. The best example, though, is found just north of town, on the archaic Old Toll Bridge Road which crosses the Lampasas River. On the river's north bank, an unaltered grade section stretches nearly 100 yards on private property, a tan-

From 1B

gible reminder of what might have been.

All this for a town whose present is so clearly a result of *not* having a railroad. If life is, as we've been told, but a poor player, strutting and fretting about, it seems that, occasionally, something fortunate emerges from all that posturing, like Salado never getting a railroad, for example. The town, for sure, has had its ups and downs, one curtain closing while another one opens. 85 years ago, missing out on that railroad probably seemed the nearest thing to catastrophe the townspeople could imagine. Now, we can say, unlike the walls of Verdun or the dense forests of the Somme, Salado was actually preserved because of the war. An irony, true enough, that blasts like the horn of a distant train, only passing through, on its way to some place else.



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Salado Family Relief Fund, Inc.*



* The mission of the Salado Family Relief Inc., as a group of religious, school and civic organizations, is to provide assistance, of all sorts, to all families and individuals in Salado in need of assistance and occasional emergency help for people traveling through Salado.

Pre-registration dates set for Salado High School

Pre-registration for the 2003-2004 school year will be held at Salado High School during the week of March 10-14. Packets will be distributed to students in grades 8-11 on Monday, March 10, and completed packets should be returned by Friday, March 14. Information concerning graduation plans and class offerings will be discussed with students throughout the week.

On Tuesday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m., an information session for parents of incoming freshmen will be held at Salado High School. Information sessions for parents of incoming 10-12 graders will be held on Wednesday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. During those evenings, general information concerning graduation plans, testing requirements, dual credit, and course offerings will be shared. A question and answer time will be available for individual student needs. All parents of Salado High School students are urged to attend.

Questions may be addressed to the high school counselor, Katy Whitis, at 947-5429, or by e-mail at kwhitis@saladoisd.org. Individual conferences may be arranged, if desired.

Republican party to hold 14th Annual Dinner

Bell County Republican Party Chairman Nancy Boston announced the Party will hold its 14th Annual Dinner 6 p.m. May 29 at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center.

Boston said, "I invite all to join us at our Annual Dinner. This is the Republican Party's first event held in Killeen's Civic and Conference Center."

Ticket reservations may be made by calling 254-933-2000. Reserve by calling Pat Bailon at 254-933-3782.



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Johnny's Steaks and Bar-Be-Que unveiled their new breakfast menu March 3. The menu will feature traditional favorites such country ham, eggs, sausage and "the biggest biscuits in Texas." Johnny's will now open for business at 6:30 a.m. Pictured from left, owner Johnny Bratton, Sue Greer and Danny Kling. (PHOTO BY CHRIS MCGREGOR)

Denny wins contest held by Salado Village Artists

Joan Hoffman, Vice President of The Salado Village Artists, Inc. held a contest for SVA members. The contest consisted of sketching a still life of a coffee mug, a box and a round piece of fruit with emphasis on where the light and shadows are. The winner was Tamra Denny, who received a gift certificate from Hobby Lobby.



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Free concert by the Chisholm Trail Chorus of Sweet Adelines in Temple

Chisholm Trail Chorus of Sweet Adelines International invites the public to a free concert 7:30 p.m., March 25, at the Cultural Activities Center in Temple. Donations of personal hygiene and baby

items will be accepted at the door to be distributed to local charities.

The 30-minute show is a gift to family, friends and local residents who support the women's a cappella harmony chorus

throughout the year. The concert will showcase two songs the chorus will perform at regional competition in Houston on March 29, as well as other repertoire songs. Chisholm Trail will compete against 13 Sweet Adeline choruses from Texas and Louisiana. Also performing at the Tuesday night concert will be the quartet J'PAC, featuring Janet Brown of Morgan's Point, Pat Murray of Georgetown, Amy Larson of Rogers and Chris Calvery of Austin. The foursome will compete against

28 other quartets in Houston.

Chisholm Trail Chorus performs frequently at area business and private functions throughout the year. It is comprised of 30 Central Texas women from Austin, Temple, Belton, Troy, Waco, China Springs, Copperas Cove, Killeen, Harker Heights, Rogers, Liberty Hill and Georgetown. The group rehearses every Thursday night at the CAC. For more information, call 254-791-0552; website: www.evg.org/~chisholm

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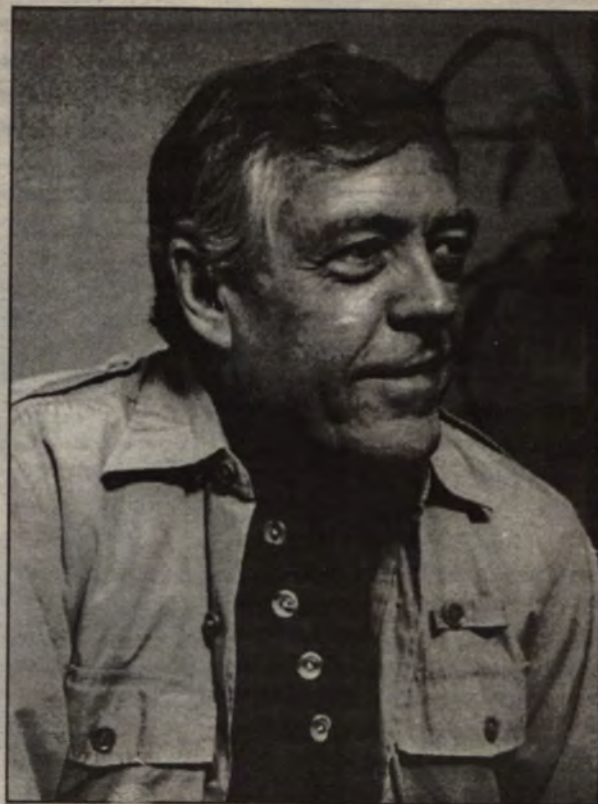
Judy Greene presents "Past Tense" March 26

Local author Judy Greene will perform her play, "Past Tense," 7 p.m. March 26 at Christian Farms Treehouse, Inc., located at 3804 Riverside Trail, in Temple.

The performance will also feature Mary Jean Boston and Shirley Pinkston. "Past Tense," described as part high-drama, part comedy, is billed as the story of a woman who returns to her hometown for the first time in four decades. She comes home in order to make amends to a person she had hurt terribly 41 years before. The visit doesn't exactly turn into

mayhem and madness, but it is laced with comic undertones that will make you smile and chuckle...and a 41 year old mystery is finally solved.

In support of CFT, Inc., a substance abuse recovery ministry, the performers have donated this performance to benefit the non-profit Christian Farms Treehouse, Inc. programs. There is no charge to attend. Ministry support donations will be welcome. Those wishing to attend are asked to R.S.V.P. by March 25, by calling 933-9400 ext. 102, fax 254-933-7861, or e-mail verdonk@vvm.com.



Tumbleweed signs book at the Village Voice office March 14

Radio broadcaster Bob Lewis, better known to Texans as Tumbleweed Smith, has published a new book, "Under the Chinaberry Tree." He will be signing books noon-2 p.m. March 14 at the Salado Village Voice office located at Salado Plaza. Stop by to say Hi!

The following recipe was taken from the cookbook "Salado Country Cooking." It was sponsored by the members and friends of the Monday Club from the Salado United Methodist Church.

Granpa Hig Spuds

Russ Hlnote

- 4 slices bacon
- 4 c. cubed potatoes
- 4 T. chopped onions
- Salt
- Pepper
- Water, as needed

In a large skillet (preferably cast-iron), fry bacon until crisp. Remove, crumble and set aside. At medium heat, leave the bacon drippings in the skillet; add about 1/4 cup of water, the potatoes, the onions, salt & pepper. Cover and cook, adding water as needed, until potatoes are tender, but not mushy. When potatoes are just done. Stir in reserved bacon. Remove from heat and serve.
Makes 3 or 4 servings.

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Little Red Riding Hood comes to Salado March 6

Salado's growing cultural arena is being further expanded by providing musical programs, ranging from vocal, piano, violin, string quartets and others to be held at various venues in the village, under the auspices of the organization called Music in Salado.

Drs. John and Kim Van Cura, who are co-founders, gained recognition locally by presenting vocal and piano recitals over the past two years. Both have extensive backgrounds in music and are currently engaged in vocal and piano instruction. They have performed professionally in the United States and abroad to a wide range of audiences.

On March 6, two performances of the one-act opera "Little Red Riding Hood," by Seymour Barab will take place at Thomas Arnold Elementary School and Salado Intermediate School. The afternoon opera will be free to students, but the evening per-



Dr. Kim Van Cura, above, plays the piano for her son, Ken Van Cura who is portraying the role of the wolf, during Saturday's rehearsal. To the right are Rachel Kunze, playing the part of Little Red Riding Hood, and Robin Baldrige who is portraying the granny in the one-act opera.

PHOTOS BY MARILYN FLEISCHER

formance at 7 p.m. will have an admission of \$5 for adults and \$2 for children.



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Athletic Booster Club to host 1st Annual Golf Classic March 30

The Salado Athletic Booster Club is hosting its first annual Golf Classic March 30 at Mill Creek Golf and Country Club. Registration is at noon with the shotgun start following at 1 p.m.

The golf tournament will benefit all Salado Eagle sports and will fund scholarships for graduating seniors. The entry fee is \$100 per player. The hole sponsor entry fee is \$150. The tournament includes complimentary refreshments, green fee, cart fee and the awards ceremony. The prizes awarded include first, second and third place prizes, longest drive and closest to the pin.

Each team will consist

of four golfers, and the game will be played as an 18-hole scramble. All single players will be matched to a team, while all teams will be handicapped. The playing field is limited to the first 88 players.

Mill Creek Golf Course opened in 1981 with a Robert Trent Jones, Jr. designed course. It measures 6,486 yards and is a par 71. The course is rated 72.1 with a national slope rating of 128.

To receive an entry form and to inquire about additional information, contact Jeff Cheatham at 947-0803, Jerry Smith at 947-1150 or Linda Lilly at 947-5708.



Larry Prellop, of Prellop Fine Art Gallery, donated one of his paintings to the Salado Education Foundation's Third Annual Spring Dinner Dance. The painting will be raffled off in a silent auction.

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Family Relief holds annual meeting March 11

The Salado Family Relief Fund Inc. announces its annual meeting that will be held 1 p.m. March 11 at the Salado Civic Center.

The nine member board of directors will elect new officers at this meeting.

Current board members president Marilyn

Fleischer, vice president Leigh Drake, secretary Mary Catharine Ervin, treasurer Joe Holt, directors Dr. Luther Brewer, Miriam Ervi, Don Clayton, Cathy Coe and Sandra Lastovica encourage the public to attend all meeting.

This non-profit orga-


nization coordinates with local churches, schools and civic organizations to provide food, clothing, school supplies, and other necessary items to the needy in the Village of Salado.

Donations are accepted at First State Bank and Compass Bank.

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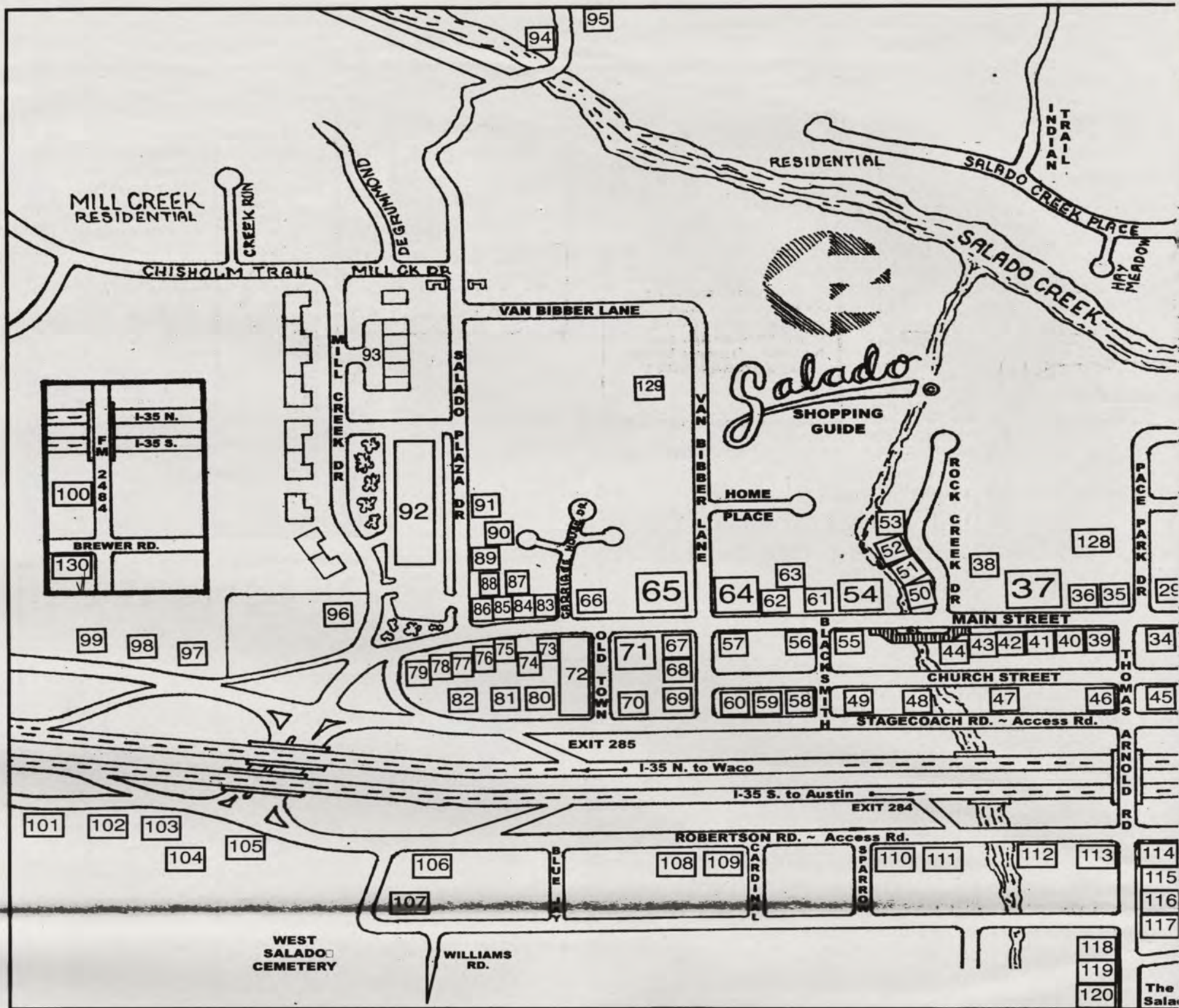
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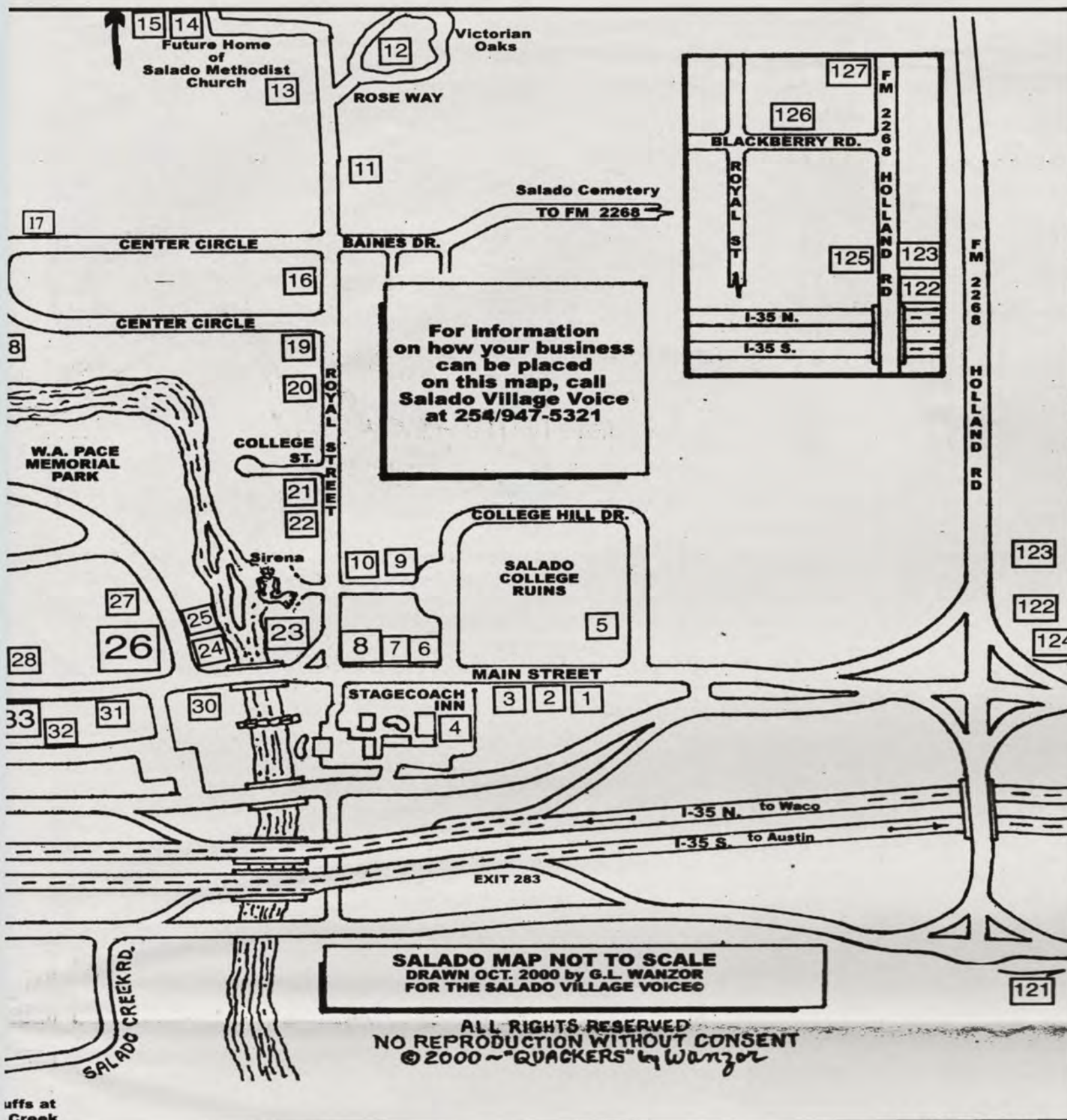
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| Sweet Dreams | 254/947-9200 | 32. Salado Masonic Lodge #296 | | 54. LaFon's Antiques | 254/947-8040 |
| RMK Gallery | 254/947-4400 | 33. THE VERANDA | | 55. Heirlooms | 254/947-0336 |
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| 5. StoneCreek Settlement | 254/947-9683 | 34. First State Bank | 254/947-5852 | 59. Salado Floors and Walls | 254/947-0048 |
| 6. Central Texas Area Museum | 254/947-5232 | 35. Christy's of Salado | 254/947-0561 | 60. The Village of Salado | 254/947-5060 |
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| Old Mill Pizza Co. | 254/947-0700 |
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No Empty Bowls

Monthly gatherings at Mud Pies Pottery in Salado will produce bowls for the Empty Bowl Project to benefit the Salado Family Relief Fund. Titia Arledge is accepting 10 people each session on the last Thursday of each month to craft bowls for the soup dinner. To sign up for the March 27 evening of fun, food and fellowship with friends, call 947-0281 to reserve your spot. Handmade bowls will be auctioned at the November event.

Texas Historical Commission assisted in nomination of Saturn V rocket to the National Register

Considered one of the greatest engineering achievements of all time, a Saturn V rocket built as the launch vehicle for the Apollo astronauts was recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) assisted in the Smithsonian Institution's nomination of this American artifact to the National Register.

Housed at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, the Saturn V Launch Vehicle is the only intact Saturn V containing all of its flyable stages. The rocket was nominated to the National Register for its technological achievements and for

being one of only three intact Saturn V rockets in the United States. It was the only example made of components intended to fly on Apollo missions.

It was also the first large vehicle in the U. S. space program to be developed for the specific purpose of a lunar landing. The liftoff of the first manned lunar landing mission of Apollo 11 occurred on July 16, 1969. The Saturn V rocket successfully launched six other Apollo missions and one Skylab mission. The rocket's final mission utilizing a Saturn V took place on May 14, 1973.

It remains on display at the Johnson Space Center, which served as the com-

mand center for all Saturn V space flight missions. The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect historic and archeological resources. The National Register includes more than 2,000 listings in Texas. For more information about National Register nominations, contact the THC's History Programs Division at

512/463-5853.

Additionally, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) is now accepting applications for the newly created Curtis D. Tunnell Memorial Grant fund.

Grants of up to \$3,000 will be awarded in the areas of archeology, ethnography and oral history.

The fund honors the achievements of the late Curtis D. Tunnell during his tenure as executive director of the THC and as Texas State Archeologist. Tunnell was Texas' first official archeologist, a position he held from 1965 to 1981. Tunnell worked as head of the THC for 18 years before retiring in 1999. He was awarded the THC's Archeologist of the Year award posthumously in 2001.

For more information about grant applications, call the THC Archeology Division at 512/463-6096 or write the THC at P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX, 78711 (Attn: Curtis D. Tunnell Memorial Grant Fund). Grant applications are due by April 1, 2003.

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Texas Veteran Land Board to vote on waiving interest payments on all active duty loans

As the nation approaches a possible war in Iraq, the Texas Veterans Land Board is offering financial peace of mind to Texas reservists and National Guard troops called to active duty in the war against terror. Chairman of the Veterans Land Board Jerry Patterson recently announced the Board will vote this week to waive interest payments on all Land Board home and home improvement loans for these Texans for as long as they are on active duty.

"Texas reservists and Guard members are truly citizen-soldiers," said Patterson, a Vietnam veteran and former member of the Marine Corps Reserve. "They leave their home, family, and job to put their lives on the line for the rest of us. Tough economic times make this sacrifice even more difficult. We have an obligation to do all we can to ease the financial burden of serving their country."

Under this policy, reservists and National Guard members would only pay the principal portion of their loans and any required escrows for taxes and insurance as long as

they're on active duty. There would also be a three-month grace period after participants are deactivated before interest payments would resume.

Participants could save thousands of dollars and would not have to repay the interest after returning to civilian life if the

proposal is approved, Patterson said. He noted his goal is to lower monthly expenses for military men and women called up for future contingencies, such as a possible war in Iraq, because their incomes are typically much lower until they return to civilian life.

Patterson's proposal would also let reservists and National Guard members defer their entire monthly payments on land loans funded by the Veterans Land Board, as long as they're on active duty.

If participants chose to continue land loan pay-
SEE LAND BOARD PAGE 14B



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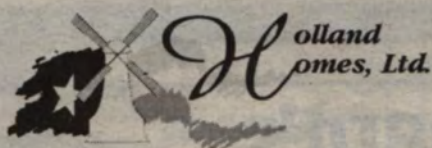
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ments while on active duty or during the grace period, their payments would go toward reducing the principal balance of these loans. Veterans who have participated in the program have greatly reduced their principal balances by continuing to make payments, although it was not required.

"Like all Veterans Land Board loan programs, this one would also be cost-free for Texas taxpayers," Patterson said. "Our loan programs have always been self-funding."

Patterson said the Veterans Land Board is going above and beyond what is

required by a federal law called the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940. This law allows eligible activated reservists and National Guard members to have their interest rates reduced to six percent on current loans, including loans from private lenders. Under Patterson's proposal, the interest on Veterans Land Board home loans would be zero.

Following the events of Sept. 11, 2001, this same benefit was offered to reservists and National Guard members called up for operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. Some of these veterans

have saved as much as \$6,000 a year, or reduced the principal balance on Veterans Land Board land loans by more than 50 percent.

Eligible reservists and National Guard members who want reduced or deferred loan payments should send the Texas Veterans Land Board a copy of their orders showing activation and return dates.

Additional information on the program and federal protections is available at (800) 252-VETS and the Texas Veterans Land Board Web site at www.txvets.com. Information is also available on Texas State Vet-

erans Homes for veterans or their spouses who need skilled nursing home care, and state home, land and home improvement loans for Texas veterans.

A graduate of Texas A&M, Marine aviator and Vietnam veteran, Patterson retired from the Marine Corps Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1991. Patterson served six years as a state senator and authored major legislation such as the Texas Concealed Handgun Law, the Texas Coastal Management Plan and the law creating the Texas State Veterans Homes.

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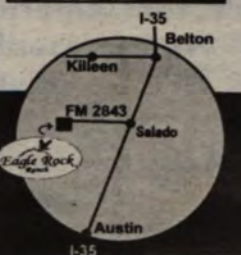
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Critter Capers

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA

Q: A family of raccoons moved in under the eaves of my house this winter. When I'm on the upper floor, I can hear them thumping around in the walls and the upper crawlspace. What's the best way to get them out of there?

A: The best way? Fast. Raccoons, squirrels and other unwanted outdoor guests can do major damage to your home's insulation, wiring and walls. Allowing them to stay or "winter over" can be costly.

The trouble is, raccoons especially are rather smart critters. At one home I helped restore, a pair of raccoons actually chewed/clawed through the roof sheathing, bent back a shingle and propped it open with another piece of shingle for instant access to the crawlspace. At another home, squirrels and raccoons had chewed through the old plaster walls to gain access to the third floor. Turns out a former tenant had been feeding the wild creatures during the summer, and these fearless fellows moved right in when the weather cooled down.

Setting out poison, or placing it in the walls, might be a fast way to rid your home of critters, but it's not the best. Rodents that consume the poison will most likely die inside the walls, out of your reach. And trust me, that "decomposing critter" odor will permeate every room of your house for a week or more. Additionally, the surviving rodents may learn to avoid the poison and go on with their busy lives.

Crawling through the attic or crawlspace with a pellet gun and ping-pong intruders is also not advisable, for many reasons. The most likely result is that, in the dark, you'll miss or only wound the critter; it will crawl off into the walls to die, and voila, you've got a smelly house again. Add to that the risk that you'll hurt yourself or someone else.

I recommend setting live traps and deterrents instead. They will remove the problem without resorting to poison or otherwise harming the wild animal. Professional removal services are also advisable. The service will set traps, check them regularly and remove the animals.

To deter wild creatures from moving in again, spray ammonia at their old entry/exit points daily while you repair the damage, and monthly throughout the spring, summer and fall in any areas that might provide an entry point or shelter for new animals. Screen off potential shelter areas with steel mesh.

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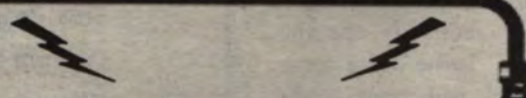

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- Respect the space for which you are designing:
- How and when does the sun strike your site?
 - Can the soil support the plants you have planned for it?
 - Does your design allow for water to drain or be stored as needed by your plants?
 - Do your chosen plants look like they "belong" with each other, with the terrain, and with the buildings on it?
 - Do you have enough time to care for the garden you have designed?
 - Or will you become annoyed at the amount of effort involved?
- Does the layout complement the activities which you and your family wish to pursue in this space?
- Would you like to grow veggies, attract butterflies, raise flowers for cutting, have a place to play crochet?
- Consider all characteristics of the plants:
- At what time of year does each provide color or texture in the landscape?
 - Do their colors compliment each other?
 - Do nearby plants have similar nutrient and water requirements?
- How large will the plants grow?
- Will they crowd or shade others nearby?
- Make your location a reflection of yourself:

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Salado 254/947-5050

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Services



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Trees, Shrubs & Landscaping, Pruning, Removal and Hauling. Flower beds, yard work, top soil. Call Victor Marek toll free 1-888-945-3822 or residence 254-527-3822.

Coastal Hay & Baling 939-7844 760-3286 tfnb

Johnnie's Cleaners & Tailors pickup and delivery at Village Pharmacy M-W-F. tfnb

Alterations: Buttons and Bows. Call Wanda Scaff at 254-493-9112. tfnb

Income Tax Service Don Svadlenak CPA 718-8198 or 947-3156 4/9b

Pick up appliances for a small fee. 721-4699 Call 947-1356

3/12p
J.R.'s Small Engine Repair and Minor Welding behind Salado Carwash. 518B N. Robertson Rd. 254-947-8979 M-F- 10-5 tfnb

Call me I sell AVON Melissa 947-3204 5/28b

Pets & Livestock

Found Black Lab mix female Mill Creek area 947-5394 3/5p

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STONEMASON - Master stonemason. All types stone, brick, or block work. Repair/new const. Houses, fireplaces, patios, pools, sidewalks, mailboxes, etc. David Ward 512-446-0439. tfnb

Perfect drywall patches & texture matching. Scott Mettenbrink Member BBB 254-947-5048 or 512-658-6006 tfnb

Kolls Construction - Quality work, reasonable price, build, additions, remodel, repairs, vinyl siding, and metal roofing. Call Maxie Kolls at 939-1538 tfnb

J&H Drywall Repair Interior and exterior painting. Drywall repair can match any texture. Acoustic Sprayed any size. Power washing Cabinets painted or restrained. Family owned and operated established since 1989 Licensed and Ins. Call Jim Quinn 254-657-2735 office hours 8-6 p.m. Mon.-Sat. tfnb

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Storage



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

Employment



Wildfire Ranch is looking for part-time laborers. \$8 hour. Contact Wick at 254-947-9988

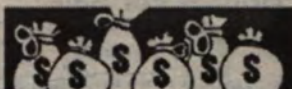
Work in the Great Outdoors! Help people make their dreams come true! Earn top commissions with one of the leading land development companies in Texas Good benefits & bonus plan. Earn up to \$100K. Fax resume to 254-947-5013 and EOE 3/12bHS1

Wait-staff positions. Ideal for college students and parents with school age children. Mim. wage plus tips. Hours weekdays only Mon. - Fri. 10:30 am. to 3 p.m. Please call for appointment. Brownings Courtyard Cafe 947-8666 3/12b

Susan Marie's of Salado Ladies Boutique Positions available beginning March 1st Monday & Tuesday 10:30 a.m.- 5/45 pm. Must be able to laugh, Smile and have a great time. 201 N. Main in Salado call 947-5239

Attention: Immediate openings. International company needs help. Work from home. PT/FT. Full training. Bonuses, vacations. Free info www.yourlifeishere.com 888-574-2236 3/19 p

For Sale

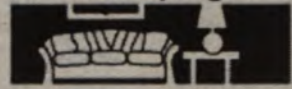


U-Haul moving boxes for sale, Large & medium size \$1 each. Call 947-3158 3/5b

Rosewood dining set. Oval table with 8 upholstered chairs 947-0999 3/5/p

Coffee business closed. Selling new Bunn airport brewer, glass canisters with lids, scoops and misc. supplies. Will sell separately or as a package. Call 254-535-4568 or 254-947-4931 3/5p

Housekeeping



Moving? Don't worry call Gidley's Cleaning before you move in or after you move out. 947-5579. tfn

Granny's House Cleaning Free estimate/ discounts. References. call 254-947-8533 Salado tfnb

Basic Things House Cleaning Service Let me clean the dirt gorilla out of your house bonded Doug Tobin 254-541-1395 6/30/p

General Cleaning Service Weekly - Bi-weekly or once a month. Clal Debbie 773-4016 or 913-1212 3.19p

Automobiles



1995 Chev. Stagecoach Conversion Van. One owner, excellent condition. White- blue trim-blue inside. 4 captain chairs. Back seat unfolds into a bed. 62,000 miles. \$8,500 254-947-5872 See at 512 Creek Run Circle, Salado

3/5p
1992 Volvo 940GL Gold with tan leather interior, one owner. Dealer maintained. Books and records. 947-4213 2/26b

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MARKETPLACE

Homes For Sale



This 3BR 2BA, 3 year old custom home has a large open floorplan with lots of windows & light. Formal dining room & breakfast nook. Raised ceiling in spacious living room with crown molding & corner fireplace. The master BR is inviting with raised pan ceiling and a wall of windows. Generous Master BA with separate shower and tub. Landscaped yard is .68 acres. \$166,000 Call Century 21 - Bill Bartlett 254-947-5050 tfn

Lovely Colonial style home on 57 acres, surrounded by huge live oaks. Overlooking the countryside 2 miles from Salado. 3 BR 2 full baths, 2 half baths. Separate 900 SF home 1 BR, bath, living room. Barn, storage, game room building. \$599,000

Homes For Sale



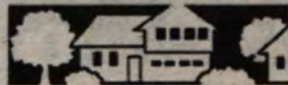
C-21 Bill Bartlett 254-947-5050

By Owner 3 BR Split-plan 2 BA, 1,812 sq. ft. living area on 1.25 acres 5 years old Located in Salado Oaks. Call 254-770-7938 or 254-947-0055 tfn

A new home in Mill Creek Springs, near the golf course! The easy flow of this floor plan can suit many needs. Your computer will have its own home in the office. Fine architectural design, dependable engineered foundation, custom upgrades \$189,800 C-21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050 tfn

Bartlett - Historic 3/2 with 2 living ares, upstairs bonus room, Huge formal dining, 2 fireplaces, wood floors plus more! Large lot, magnificent trees. L-O-W

Homes For Sale



taxes! Possible 100 percent financing. Minutes to Salado, Temple and Georgetown, \$99,000 Lois Coleman, Crystal Falls Realty 1-877-737-LOIS toll free or 512-260-2066 www.loiscoleman.com 3/19b

Holland- Custom built in 2000 approx. 3000 sq. ft. 3/2.5 Tall ceilings, gourmet kitchen, beautiful home for family and entertaining! 2 car garage w/workshop, circular drive, lovely trees and privacy! 10+ acres w/stocked spring-fed pond, live creek and ag exempt! 10 additional acres available. #349,000. Minutes to Salado, Temple, Georgetown. Call Lois Coleman, Crystal Falls Realty 1-877-737-LOIS toll free or 512-260-2066

Homes For Sale



www.loiscoleman.com 3/19b

Charming Mill Creek Drive Townhome. See picture ad. \$86,995 254-338-5083 tfn

Rent or Lease



Executive duplex in prestigious Salado over 1800 sq. ft. at 1200 Chisholm, 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 living, 1 dining, covered porch and security system. Yard care provided, water for yard care paid. \$1225 month, \$900 sec. dep. Available 8-1-02 Call 254-698-4113 tfn

Gorgeous custom built duplex at 1200 Chisholm Trail, Salado. 1,785 +/- sq. ft., 3/2/2, full brick exterior. Sprinkle system, lawn maintenance provided, fenced yard, two car garage with opener. More interior amenities than can be mentioned! Rent is \$1,250 per month. Call John Reider Properties, LC @ 254-699-8300 or 254-681-6622 after hours for appointment for showing. tfn

For Lease 3BR 2 Ba Salado Schools. No smokers, Pets considered \$1,100 month Sarah Lee Realty, Inc. 947-1011. tfn

Riverfront spacious country place on large acreage, beautiful large rock fireplace, very private and serene, many large windows and woods. Great location. Fishing and walking trails. Absolutely beautiful. Ideal for retire, artist, writer or professional. NOn-smoking. Satellite TV and utilities paid. From \$1,250 1-254-933-1234 3/12b

New duplex for rent at 171 Satch Dr. across from Rose Lane. 2 BR 2 BA Automatic Garage Door. Refrigerator. Water paid. Lawn maintenance provided. \$795 (1 year lease 12 month discount. Call 947-5927 3/12

Charming Spacious, 2/2/1 10 months old Townhome for rent. \$795. Available April 1, 6 closets, vaulted ceiling, big front porch with rocker, area rugs provided w/d closet inside, walk to shopping center. Lawn care provided. 254-338-5083 tfn

New Country duplex in Salado, 2 BR 2 BA, garage, refrigerator, water paid, \$795 mo.

Rent or Lease



\$400 deposit 254-716-6135 3/12p

Townhouse in Belton near lake 3/2.5 2 car garage and deck. Ideal retirement environment. No pets. Non-smoking. \$900 mo. plus deposit. Call David 933-1000 days or 773-6599 evenings. 3/5b

New Salado Duplex, 2 BR, 2 BA, Garage, Privacy fence available. \$795 Water paid. Call 289.1877 3/19b

Land for Sale



Creekfront Sale Steal My Creekfront! 2.63 acres reduced to \$65,900. Beautiful trees, views on Willingham Creek, near historic Salado. On paved county road. w/power & phone. Enjoy 10.5 acre owners park on Salado Creek for swimming, fishing and family fun. Financing. Call now 1-254-947-5901 ext. 703 3/26p

Commercial



Green Acres Business Park located on IH 35, between Belton & Salado. **Available now:** 1200 sf Insulated Metal Bldg. Water & electricity furnished. Fenced in gravel parking lot. **Available:** 1800 sf electricity & water furnished. Small office. Fenced gravel parking lot. **Available Now:** Parking lot, ground storage & build to suit opportunities Call Lynn Renfro 254-770-7280 tfn

Main Street Art Gallery available 947-5025 3/12p

Building for Lease: Red historical barn that's been renovated for home or business. 1600 sq. ft. \$2,000 month rent, next to Horsefeathers. Call 947-3240 and ask for Robert or Diana. tfn

Small Main Street Office/Commercial space 947-5025 3/12p

Land for Sale



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

For Sale By Owner. Many WOODED LOTS, Woods of Salado on FM 2484 near Lake Stillhouse. Rita Seghers 254-760-9663. tfn

Two acre restricted, wooded, lakeview home sites. Salado schools. Call Century 21 Bill Bartlett 254-947-5050 tfn

Golf Course lot. 1/3 of an acre in Mill Creek. Gorgeous setting in quiet neighborhood. Call for details. Jolie (agent) Keller Williams Realty. 512-794-6694 3/19p

Sarah Lee REALTY, INC.



Brazos Court - Golfers Choice! Just across the street from pro-shop and swimming pool. Roomy BR/2BA/2 car garage, patios and courtyards off all dining and bedroom. Great design for easy living & leisure! Affordably priced. \$125,000.



Carriage House Estates Beautiful stained glass designed especially for the decor of the elegant custom built home. huge master suite includes study and bath fit for a king and his queen! Gourmet kitchen with its open design features wrap around breakfast or buffett bar perfect for entertaining. Looking for something really special? See this one! \$299,000.



Old Mill Road - Travel in your future? Keep your fine "home away from home", RV in your own full sized garage right here next to your lovely early Texas home & guest cottage. Porches, roomy country kitchen, 9' ceilings, quiet seclusion just a short stroll from golf. Could make it hard to leave home! A rare property! \$189,500.



Bluffs at Mill Creek - Salado Creek and Mill Creek Golf Course presented at their best! View them from the master bedroom, breakfast room and expansive deck of this gorgeous Bluffs home. 10' ceilings, elaborate interior trims and design. 3 BR/2-1/2 BA, 2 car garage (oversized) Cul-de-sac location. \$299,000.



New Listing! Home Place Lane - Nestled among the vintage trees on its own private street this exquisite replica of the 1880's Folk Cottage is a waiting to comfort you and yours. The warmth of REAL PINE floor, restored antique fixtures and oak fireplace mantle. Just a few features that compliment this outstanding home. 2/BR/2BA/1 car garage. \$159,000.



Whispering Oaks - Awesome lot! Efficiently designed, all one level, 3/2/3 split bedroom plan with oversized fireplace centering the spacious "keeping room." Lovely quiet location. **New Price!!! \$149,500.**

For Lease - On fenced 3 acres - quiet! Just west of I-35 @ Tahuaya Rd. \$1,195 per month.

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Attn: Veterans 5 AC- \$39,000
Beautifully wooded acreage w/gorgeous views near Historic Salado. Enjoy private owners park on Salado Creek. Paved county road, utilities, reasonable restrictions. Qualified for TX vet financing!
Hurry, call 1-254-947-5901 ext. 622

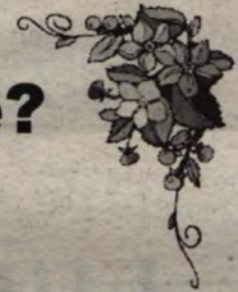
Classified ad deadline is noon Monday for publication on the following Wednesday.
Display ad deadline is Friday noon for the next Wednesday publication
Call 947-5321 for details about advertising.

To have your property listed in the Real Estate Marketplace call 254-947-5321 for more information about display advertising



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|--------------------|----------|
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| Mary Kite | 718-2484 |
| Sue Ellen Slagel | 760-3226 |
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\$166,000 - This three year old custom home has a large open floor plan with lots of windows & light. Formal dining room with crown molding & corner fireplace. The Master BR is inviting with raised pan ceiling and a wall of windows. Generous Master BA with separate shower & tub. Landscaped yard is .68 acre. 3 BR/2 BA.



\$149,900 - Neat clean and new to the market. Three bedroom, two bath. Separate laundry room, formal dining. Storage shed conveys.



\$199,500 - Located at the entrance to Mill Creek. Lovely setting, with many possibilities.



\$449,500 - Find a little bit of heaven at "Country Place". Currently operating as a Bed & Breakfast, this 7 BR home is perfect for a family or to continue as a B&B. Front features wrap-around porch, with picket fence around front yard. 2 BR upstairs, 5 BRs downstairs. 2 living, 2 dining. Large barn has many uses.



\$244,900 - Incredible view situated on 13.34 acres. The home was originally built as a Bed & Breakfast; therefore, there are four wonderful rooms upstairs with their own private bathrooms. The front of the house is graced by a wrap around porch with a railing. The master bedroom is located downstairs. Large kitchen with an island. For the garden lover, a state of the art greenhouse is located on the front of the property. Built in 1996.



\$197,800 - Just built in 2000 as a "last home," this 3 BR, 2 BA home has plenty of extras. One story ranch style on 1.6 acres, with dormers and long front & back porches.



\$339,000 - Gorgeous home on private cul-de-sac in prestigious Mill Creek. Great floor plan for entertaining. Bonus room above garage not included in square footage.



\$699,900 - Plate glass windows across the back of this home allow the view of the pool, valley & rolling countryside. Solar heated negative edge pool. 7 acre lot with three stall barn. Property is entirely fenced so horses. Your guests can stay in the separate apartment & enjoy their privacy. Large workshop for the handy man/woman. Propane fireplace in Master Bedroom.

Residential

- \$59,999 - Maintained & updated older home in Belton. Patio.
- \$114,800 - New Construction! Tile, backsplash. 3BR/2 BA.
- \$125,800 - New home on 1 acre. Bath with garden tub SOLD
- \$127,800 - New in Salado Prairies. 3 BR plus an office.
- \$128,800 - New in Salado Prairies. Vaulted ceilings. 1 acre.
- \$129,900 - 3 BR, 2 BA home at the entrance of Mill Creek.
- \$143,500 - 1.83 acres. 3 BR/2BA with open living/dining area.
- \$149,900 - Neat, clean 3 BR/2BA. Formal dining. Shed.
- \$157,500 - Copper fireplace, spiral staircase on wooded lot.
- \$159,500 - 3 BR, 2 BA, island in kitchen. Mill Creek
- \$159,900 - Corner lot in Mill Creek. Loft upstairs.
- \$164,900 - Home in Live Oak Estates. Large Master BR.
- \$166,000 - Raised ceiling in living room. Landscaped yard.
- \$172,900 - Beautiful lot. In-ground pool. Split bedrooms.
- \$175,000 - On golf course, overlooking creek. 2BR/2BA.
- \$184,500 - Clean 4 BR. Landscaping, pavers SOLD
- \$186,500 - "Orange Lady's Home" fronts golf course & creek.
- \$189,800 - Mill Creek home Spa-type bath, handicap access.
- \$189,800 - Mill Creek Springs. Architectural design, upgrades.
- \$197,800 - One story 3 BR, 2 BA ranch style on 1.6 acres.
- \$197,800 - Near the golf course. Engineered foundation.
- \$198,500 - Austin Stone on 2 acres. Study can be 4th BR.
- \$199,500 - Deck w/hot tub overlooks wooded lot SOLD
- \$199,500 - At entrance to Mill Creek. Many possibilities.
- \$222,800 - Landscaping & rose garden. 4 BR/ 3 BA SOLD
- \$229,500 - Poolside, 2 acres, space for a motorhome. 4 BR
- \$240,000 - Showcase home in Mill Creek Springs! 4 BR.

- \$244,900 - Original B&B built on 13.34 acres. Greenhouse
- \$290,000 - Mediterranean home on 4 acres. Lakeview.
- \$339,000 - Mill Creek cul-de-sac. Bonus room above garage.
- \$349,000 - Mediterranean style home. Up to golf course.
- \$364,900 - Comfort and elegance. 4 BR/2.5 BA, 2 car garage.
- \$375,000 - Ranch-style Austin stone home on 29 acres.
- \$449,500 - Country Place B&B, 7 BR home, large barn.
- \$469,500 - 4 BR/4-1/2 BA Home. Game room, 3 car garage.
- \$550,000 - On #9 Fairway, overlooks golf course & creek.
- \$599,000 - Colonial style on 57 acres, guest house, barn.
- \$699,900 - Country living, pool, 7 acres, barn, workshop.

Lots

- Mill Creek Lots**
- O.W. Lowrey - \$45,000
 - 808 Mill Creek Dr. - \$30,000
 - Mill Creek Springs - \$30 - \$75,000
 - 700 Indian Trail - \$30,000
 - 1014 Arrowhead Dr. - \$39,900
 - Jack Nicklaus Circle - \$90,000
 - Lot 1 Club Circle - \$49,800
 - Fletcher Ct. - \$69,000
 - Hester Way - \$55,000
- Other Lots**
- Royal Oaks - \$30,000
 - Royal Oaks - \$35,900
 - Rita Bend Drive - \$39,900
 - Hidden Springs - Lot 111 • \$49,900, Lot 82 • \$83,000
 - Windy Hill Ranch - 2 acre lots - \$55,000 to \$90,000
 - Baines Street - \$17,500 - SOLD

Commercial Property

- \$429,000 - 5.66 acres commercial property off Main Street.

Acreage Available

- 140 acres located 4 miles Southwest of Jarrell. Part coastal, cultivation, well fenced, 2 stock ponds, lots of paved road frontage, pecan orchard. Huge metal implement bldg. with living quarters.
- 140 acres on Hwy 36 at Temple Airport, all or part.
- 50 acres in the heart of deer country, wooded, good road frontage.
- 38.78 acres on FM 2843, 8 mile west of IH-35, beautiful trees. \$190,000.
- 12 acres between Salado and Florence. All woods, spring, secluded, view. \$49,000.
- 9.87 acres near Youngsport. All woods, lovely view, lots of deer, community water, good road.
- 8.77 acres on I-35 at crossover with road on 3 sides, Exit 286 at Salado.
- 5 wooded acres, perfect for a homesite. \$60,000.
- 5 acres heavily wooded, wet weather creek, large live oak trees. Close to Salado. \$70,000.
- 3 acres, all woods, good frontage, water available. Near Stillhouse Lake. Owner Financing. \$36,000.

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80 S. Main *The Veranda on Main Street



Commercial * Residential * Farm & Ranch

Glenn Hodge 718-2000 / Ryan Hodge 541-2255 / Jerry & Carolyn Roberts 947-9221



Tree covered corner lot, 4BR/3.25 BA, formal dining, study, security system and many extras. **\$238,000.**



Excellent commercial location on corner of West Village Road & IH 35 at Exit 285. **\$239,900.**



3BR/2BA Brick home with metal roof. 60'x38' metal barn & 2 stalls on 2 acres. **\$110,000.**



New! Beautiful 3 BD/2 BA split bedroom plan. Security system, master bedroom area & formal dining room. **under contract reduced. \$149,900.**



SOLD
Magnificent Estate! 5+ BR/3.5 BA featuring granite countertops, gas fireplace, wrought iron staircase, garage, security system, sprinkler system, etc... Featured in 1999 Parade of Homes in River Place Estates of Belton. **\$425,000.**



"2002 Parade of Homes winner" Spectacular home located on the 15th fairway in Mill Creek. Granite countertops, surround sound, stainless steel appliances, glass shower, 8ft. doors and 10 to 14 ft. ceilings ~~\$359,900.~~ **\$329,900.**



A beautiful hilltop 3/2 home, manicured lawn overlooking 3 acre lake on 13.42 acres. Numerous windows and a huge covered deck, outstanding views. Foliage and trees enhance the beauty of the home supplying shade from the hot summer sun. **\$439,000.**



Authentic Texas style home on approx. 11 acres on Hillside. 4/2/3, extra large living room with great fireplace, kitchen with stove top and woodburning stove, 7 stall barn, new roof. **\$195,000.**



Approx. 5 partially wooded acres with a 4/3, red brick home featuring large living/den with fireplace opening to a large kitchen. Exhilarating in-ground pool and hot tub. Additional acreage can be purchased up to 63 acres. **\$279,000.**



Charming Country Home in Salado. Sit on your front porch and enjoy your corner lot all for only **\$119,900.**



Custom Built 3/3+ Austin Stone Home with loft featuring tin roof, lighted arena, 36' x 60' barn with 3 stalls in front with runs, a 20 gallon hot water heater, a cement alley way in the barn and an above ground pool. **\$275,000.**



Country Living at its best! This 3BR/2BA home on 6-12 acres with barn, storage shed and workshop features hardwood floors, game room, hot tub covered patio and, to complete this beautiful package, century-old live oak trees. ~~\$229,900.~~ **\$225,000**



Absolutely amazing view of Salado from this home located in the prestigious Royal Oaks. Enjoy your huge living room with beautiful hardwood floors throughout the living area. 3/2/2 with study that could be used as a fourth bedroom.. **\$279,900.**



"Beautiful cabin in the woods" Home with approx. 7 acres with over 4,000 square feet. 5 BR/4 BA. The woodwork in this home is a must see. **\$439,900.**



Exquisite 4/3/2 on .868 acre lot in one of Salado's choice subdivisions. Formal and informals living & dining areas, beautiful view, custom landscaping, green house, garden room, hot tub, etc. **\$357,000.**



3/2/2 formal dining, fireplace, walk to Mill Creek. Great location! **\$159,000.**

Acreage Available

- Lots w/ sewage & water on Shady Lane. **\$10,000/lot.**
- Sand & Gravel Rd. - 2 one acre tracts. **\$17,500.**
- Approximately 2 acres near golf course in Mill Creek. Beautiful trees. **\$38,995.**
- 2 acre lot southwest of Salado. Beautiful trees. Excellent homesite. **\$28,900.**
- 2 acre lot southwest of Salado. Beautiful trees. Excellent homesite. **\$27,900.**
- 2.7 acres fronting FM 2843. **\$29,900** or 1.35 acres for **\$20,000.**

- 3.018 acres on FM 2843 with large pecan trees and live water on Butter Milk Creek. **\$39,900.**
- 3.52 acres, mostly wooded. **\$49,900.**
- 4 acres Southwest of Salado. Beautiful trees. Excellent homesite. **\$56,800.**
- 5.13 acres southwest of Salado. Beautiful trees. Excellent homesite. **Reduced to \$44,900.**
- 53 acres south of Salado. **\$2,990/acre.**
- 928 acres sw of Salado. Beautiful rolling tree country w/ live creek & large lake on property. Excellent views. Outstanding wildlife.

- Three 250 acre tracts southwest of Salado. Beautiful rolling hills w/ large trees, live creek and water tank. Excellent views & deer country. **\$2,500/acre.**
- 250 acres, 3 lakes hilltop views w approximately 60 acres of woods. **\$1,950/acre.**
- 425 acres, 3 lakes almost 2+ miles of road frontage. Approximately 40-50 acres of woods with balance of native pasture & fields. Roads on 3 sides. **\$1,950/acre.**

Salado Lots

- Indian Trail at Blaylock, lg corner lot, 90x188 - **\$36,000.**

- Indian Trail - 90x188 - **\$34,000.**
- Mill Creek Lot - **\$39,900.**

Belton

- Nice 2 BR/2BA doublewide with large living and formal dining. Fenced yard - **\$47,900.**

Commercial

- 3 acres commercial property fronting I-35, Phase 3. **\$89,900.**
- Excellent Commercial: location on corner of West Village Rd. & IH-35 at exit 285. - **\$239,900.**