

# Village Salado Voice

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50¢

## School master plan presented Dec. 6

BY TIM FLEISCHER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Saladoans will have the chance to see a master plan for the 50 acres acquired by Salado ISD on FM 2484 and Williams Rd. for construction of a new high school and renovations of the current school campuses for new uses.

Fields and Associates, the architectural firm hired by Salado trustees to lead the district through a proposed bond election and major construction project, will present the master plan during a Town

Hall meeting 7 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Salado Civic Center. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting.

"This is a critical meeting," stated Salado Superintendent Robin Battershell. "Plans will be presented and input gathered from the community."

Salado school trustees are set to call the election for Feb. 19, 2005. The cost of the bond election has not been determined, but trustees are mulling a new high school to house 550 students (70,000+ sq. ft.), improvements to the football stadium or con-

struction of a new football stadium. Trustees are also considering moving the baseball field and/or softball field to the 50-acre site on FM 2484.

Current cost estimates for these considerations will be forthcoming in December and January, as well as the impact on the interest and sinking portion of the tax rate. Information on the increased maintenance and operations of a new campus may also be presented in the weeks leading up to the election to give voters a firm picture of what the

SEE SCHOOL BOND, PAGE 5A

## Show may mark end of tradition

## La Caldera Quilts return

"New Directions" is the theme of this year's colorful exhibit of the La Caldera quilts at the Central Texas Area Museum in Salado. The showing, which is free to the public, will run Dec. 3- 5. Doors will open each day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For over 20 years, these one-of-a-kind handmade quilts have been shown in Central Texas. Their story is familiar to many, and they have developed a large following in the area. The quilts are made in Mexico by women who produce their unique products in an effort to feed and clothe their impoverished families.

Ironically, the value of quilts like these could not be better described than in the November journal of the American Medical Association. After describing an old quilt she'd seen in a museum, Dr. Therese M. Southgate wrote: "Today...quilts can be made by machine, more quickly, more efficiently. But, pleasing as they may be, something of the neighborliness and personal relationship of the artist has been lost.



Araceli Presas Garcia stands in front of one of her quilts, several of which will be featured at the museum's exhibit. She is widely known for her mosaic quilts in which she uses pieces so small that they finish out at 1"x1" (or less).

The quilt artist works by hand: strip by strip, stitch by stitch, square by square. It is a relationship between art and artist."

La Caldera quilters are aided by a group of Central Texans who foster this cottage industry as a display of Christian concern for their neighbors. The Texans have for over 20 years furnished the Mexican women raw materials, instruction, tools, marketing services and much encouragement.

For most of those years, the women lived with their typically large families in a remote and isolated re-

gion of northern Mexico – the harsh desert area of the state of Coahuila. At the center of this region was the dusty, little village of La Caldera, which was no more than a cluster of stark Third World huts that served as the quilters' homes. Their husbands attempted to make a living in various agricultural pursuits, but earnings were always meager, and often brought in no more than an average of 65 cents a day.

The small quilt-making industry was the brainchild of Central

SEE LA CALDERA, PAGE 14A



"Twas the Night Before Christmas" and all through the town... Vignettes telling the familiar story with a Salado flair were created by Patty Thomas and Charles Allen and will light up Pace Park during the Christmas Stroll, which begins this weekend.

## Stroll lights up this weekend

Salado's historic downtown will be frosted in the white lights of the holiday as strolling carolers and traditional musicians will complement the 23rd Annual Christmas Stroll Dec. 3-5 and 10-12.

The shops, galleries and restaurants throw open their doors to offer an alternative to the bland cookie cutter approach to Christmas found in the malls, big box retail outlets and Walmart.

In the sparkle of thousands of white lights, the lyrics of a Christmas carol drifting from a nearby courtyard, strollers will feel as if they have been let in on a great secret.

Along with after-hours shopping, there will be two new attractions this

year: "Christmas in the Park" display, and the "Holiday Hootenanny" performed at the new Salado Silver Spur Theatre on Royal St.

"Christmas In The Park" tells the famous story of "Twas The Night Before Christmas," with a distinctly Salado flare, in lighted vignettes around the circle drive in Pace Park. The display opened in early November and may be driven or walked through.

"Holiday Hootenanny" is a riotous new production for the whole family. There will be live music, skits and a classic Christmas movie shown nightly at the new Silver Spur Theatre. For exact times and ticket information call

254-947-3456.

With this year's theme "A Winter Wonderland," the village of Salado will be decked out in full holiday regalia. All the traditional favorites will be back this year as well.

Tablerock Amphitheater will present its unique version of "A Christmas Carol" on both weekends of the Stroll.

The annual Historical Society Tour will feature many beautiful homes and historic sites Dec. 3-5.

There will be live seasonal music at various spots around town with strolling carolers, choirs and other musical acts.

The First Baptist Church will feature a "live nativity" the first weekend of The Stroll.

## Parade, tree lighting today

As a way to get the community prepared for the holidays, the annual Christmas Stroll Parade will be held 5 p.m. Dec. 2, and will begin on Center Circle.

The parade will head north on Main Street until concluding at the Salado Civic Center. This annual event is being sponsored by the Salado Chamber of Commerce and is held

in conjunction with the Christmas Stroll, scheduled for Dec. 3-5 and 10-12.

The parade theme is "Winter Wonderland." Floats and other entries will be judged, and awards presented, for the following categories: Best Use of Theme, Best Commercial/Retail, Best Non-Profit and Best "Other."

At the parade's conclusion, the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony will commence at the Civic Center. Santa Claus will be visiting with children for photos at the Gazebo following the Tree Lighting and presentation of awards.

Everyone is invited to attend the parade. Come early for the best spots.



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# FORUM

An Open Exchange of Ideas



## The Grass-Roots Army

What was the secret weapon of the Bush campaign? Gay marriage? Karl Rove? No, the greatest unappreciated asset was simple -- volunteers. Hundreds of thousands of people put themselves on the line for something they believed in. If they had worked for a liberal candidate, they would now be celebrated as a great "people's army" that vindicated their ideals on Nov. 2. Alas, they worked their hearts out for a Republican.

From a study of its insufficient turnout operation in 2000, the Bush team discovered that the "most important thing in political communications is personal contact from a credible source," according to Bush campaign manager Ken Mehlman. The campaign proceeded on that basis.

The Bush team focused on identifying three categories of potential voters: people who had recently moved into new areas (it registered 3.4 million of these often "ex-urban" voters), Republicans who don't always vote (roughly 7.4 million people) and unaffiliated but sympathetic voters (roughly another 10 million). "That's 20 million people in nine or 10 states," says Mehlman. "That's a serious number of new people."

"We acquired a raft of consumer information -- do you own a gun? attend church regularly? -- that a credit-card company might get," Mehlman continues. The campaign then matched its volunteers with its target voters. "In Wisconsin, we had a lot of sportsmen phone banks, where sportsmen would call and explain to other sportsmen why they should be for us," says Nelson.

"We tried to match up anyone with a common interest, common membership," Mehlman explains. "Someone concerned about education is going to be more likely to believe what she hears from a fellow member of the PTA than from a

### Rich Lowry



kid wearing a baseball hat who wants to show her a John Kerry video and who is getting paid by a temp agency."

You can throw lots of money around paying people (the George Soros approach) and still not duplicate the passion, commitment and credibility of volunteers. According to Mehlman, the model was the Bush caucus campaign in Iowa in 2000, where you could be a Bush team leader by bringing 10 other people into the fold. The campaign learned then, according to Mehlman, that "lots of volunteers will beat a paid army of people who don't have skin in the game."

Thanks to all of these efforts, millions of people felt directly vested in the Bush campaign. It was waged on a genuinely populist basis. And it worked. New registrants, which were supposed to carry Kerry over the top, broke only 54-46 for the senator. The GOP goal was for 14 million "attempts" -- attempted contact with voters -- in the battleground states in the last four days of the campaign. The number might have hit 18 million. In only four states did Bush's percentage go down from 2000.

Passion and idealism are qualities that money can't buy. Liberals used to understand that -- before they put their faith in the power of Bush-hating billionaires.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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## What's Congress up to now? Lawmakers seek legal right to check income tax returns

Two weeks ago this column printed a somewhat alarming prediction to the effect that the powers-that-be in Washington (and we all know their names) are seeking, through the judicial system, ways to diminish our privacy rights.

They could do this, we opined, through eliminating *Roe v. Wade*, which is based on the right of privacy. Since this sacred freedom is an "implicit" Constitutional right, judicially and historically inferred from the Bill of Rights, rather than something written in stone - there is a danger that the majority's leadership (and appointees) might just decide there is way too much personal privacy today in a "terrorized" America, and finding no legal hindrances - proceed to legislate away some of these rights.

This could happen, we wrote, following destruction of the Senate's "filibuster" protection; packing the high court with litmus-tested justices; and then without judicial review, be free to create more "Patriot" type laws.

"Bogey Bear ravings" said a few readers as they scorned this idea of losing privacy. "Scare tactics to debase our great conservative leadership," cried others.

Thankfully no crosses were burned, nor were any scathing (and unsigned) letters sent to the editor. Not even one poorly articulated or anonymous phone call.

### PRIVACY BACK IN NEWS

Reaction to our column on privacy slowly subsided until November 15, when the omnibus federal budget was passed on first reading. With the ink still trying to dry, Democrats discovered (to their delight we presume) that some sneaky GOPer had slipped an "anti-privacy" provision, into the mess of "pork" being packaged for home consumption. **Those few words immediately lent merit to this writer's privacy thesis.**

The "anti-privacy" item in the budget is the brainless work of Rep Ernie Istook (R-Oklahoma), chairman of a budget appropriation sub-committee. What the provision would have done - had it not been discovered - is give certain House budget committee members, plus staff and their "agents," **(when translated, that means each and every member of Congress)** the right to pull anyone's IRS tax return; check it out and keep it on file! Incidentally, the IRS did not request this code change.

Question: **"Why do our elected officials need to see our tax returns?"** And the answer, of course, is: **"They have no need (nor right), and this type infringement must be stopped - permanently.**

Democrats say this sort of "Orwellian" legislative skullduggery comes as a result of pushing through budget bills at the last minute. Never giving members a chance to read what they are voting for.

As a result, Demos are now holding the entire budget (including the privacy measure) "hostage" until the House agrees to enact a "three day" rule that would give members time to determine - before voting - what is hidden in the thousands of pages of future expenditures spewed out of the budget committees.

In this particular instance, we have a 3,646 page document outlining a mammoth \$388 billion spending spree, including \$16 billion to be scattered around the nation via 12,000 hog-tied and useless (but vote producing) projects.

### GOPER'S EXCUSE

Republicans claimed they are also not happy about the "pry-spy & ferret"

### Off the Record

by Ken Clapp



**tax return provision** and assigned the blame to those who drafted the budget language. End result is the budget will remain stalled until December 6 when lawmakers get back from their 14 day Thanksgiving holiday.

It's doubtful the Republican leadership in the House will approve the three day waiting period demanded by Democrats. Oh sure, the IRS "snoopy" clause will be corrected and most everyone will then claim that Americans are safe from having their private tax records checked by some nosey lawmaker.

All safe in the Republic - with this current threat to our privacy behind us? Absolutely not! Read On.

### TAX CODE AMENDED IN 1970

Bet you didn't know that in 1970 **(during the Nixon administration - of course)**, Congress amended the Tax Code to give members of the House Ways and Means; the Senate Finance; and the Joint Tax committees, the right to individually examine our tax returns!

OK - so much for the privacy of our tax returns that we have assumed, over the years, were sacred and inviolable. That pledge can now be consigned to the tiltyard of "Pure Bull-droppings!"

This writer remains convinced that a dangerous effort to slowly erode our Constitutional rights, including privacy, is in the making. And should be a matter of grave concern to everyone.

### VETERANS PARTY OF AMERICA

There's a brand new political party being formed that will have a certain amount of appeal to all who have served in the armed forces, plus family and friends of Veterans across the nation.

Called the **"Veterans Party of America,"** this group is trying to get a foothold in the political arena as a third party force. The group is currently "on the outs" with both the Republican and Democratic organizations - because (they claim) these entrenched political powers have consistently broken their promises to Veterans all the way back to the First World War.

Texas counties are being organized by the new political party. Killeen resident Michael Roberts is the Veteran's Bell County Chairman. To get on the next ballot the Vets will hold State-National Conventions and from that "official" start will come ballot recognition, and the hope of becoming a viable alternative to the major political powers and all third party contenders.

The Veterans Party of America has many sensible platform ideas including (first and foremost) an absolute requirement that our government keep every promise made to those who have served (and are serving) in the armed forces, and to their families.

It will be interesting to see how much traction a political group composed primarily of veterans and their supporters can generate. **America has a long and dismal history of forgetting our brave military forces after wars are won and the guns silenced.**

It is this tragic forgetfulness that has prompted the formation of this new political organization - the Veterans Party of America.

That's -30-

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Tim Fleischer, **Editor-in-Chief**

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Ken Clapp, **Political Commentary**

## Why Not Choice? Legislature must justify poor education

By MICHAEL QUINN SULLIVAN

One thing is clear about education in Texas: we are more than comfortable spending almost \$90,000 of taxpayer money to see a kid fail. But the thought of spending less money to see the same kid succeed is wholly unacceptable.

It's really that simple, a hundred-grand per child for systemic failure.

On average, Texas spends just shy of \$8,000 per year per child in our government-run schools. When you consider most kids drop-out around the tenth or eleventh grade, the math is easy. Compounding our expensive taste for failure is a drop-out rate as high as 30 percent statewide, a number that reaches to 50 percent in some schools.

The money expended could have been burned on the 50-yard-line of a school's carefully manicured athletic complex with similar effect.

It doesn't have to be so. But don't hold your breathe expecting much improvement.

When lawmakers embark on their biennial pilgrimage to Austin in January, all will genuflect before the altar of education. While we commoners will be treated to a chorus of promises to "fix" education, the taxpayer-funded lobbyists representing school boards and administrators will conspire with teacher associations to thwart any meaningful change. They focus the legislature on noble-sounding initiatives, such as "across-the-board" teacher pay raises, regardless of a teacher's effectiveness in the classroom.

They will claim they want to "protect" public education. Okay. But why not try to improve it, instead?

A public school is considered "academically acceptable" if 50 percent of the kids cannot read or write, and 65 percent fail a math test. A 50 percent illiteracy rate is "acceptable"? A 65 percent failure rate in math makes a school "acceptable"?

If 50 percent of cars blew up, we'd demand the heads of car executives on a platter. If you knew that 65 percent of the time you'd leave a restaurant with food poisoning, you'd never go out to eat. If we knew a particularly expensive medicine failed half the time, no one would take it. Yet we consider it acceptable to spend \$8,000-per-year-

per-child for so many to fail?

The solution offered by the public-ed establishment? More money, fewer questions.

But may heaven forbid we do something positive! Like, perhaps, give parents a choice. Why not? Let a parent choose between a school that fails to educate 50 percent of the kids, and one that might actually succeed with 60 or 70 percent of them. Would that be so bad?

What does the kid – or the taxpayers footing the bill – have to lose? Not a thing.

Are we so enamored with the institution of public education that we are unconcerned with how well the public is actually educated? Why do we refuse to unleash the curative power of competition – which has literally improved every aspect of life, from cars and medicines to foods and computers – on education?

Why does public education not deserve the same chance for systemic improvement?

It's ironic that on the one hand the public-ed establishment goes to great lengths to describe the wonderful successes in our schools. But bring up choice, and they tell us public schools would be decimated; that parents would flee in droves.

Which is it? Are parents so happy with 50 percent failure rates they will stick with the public schools through thick-and-thin, or are they ready to bolt at the first opportunity?

Most private schools operate for less than \$8,000 per child. Why not allow parents to use a portion of the tax dollars that would have been spent on their child's potential failure for a better chance at success?

But don't worry: teacher groups, school boards and superintendents are ready to spend a lot of your tax-dollars this legislative session to prevent meaningful reforms empowering parents. They will accept almost anything as long as parents don't have true choice.

When it is all said and done, our legislators will have to explain why they are willing to spend so much for a child to certainly fail, but are unwilling to spend less for the possibility of success. It is time for Texas lawmakers to give choice a chance.

MICHAEL QUINN SULLIVAN IS THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION, A NON-PARTISAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE BASED IN AUSTIN.

# FORUM



## We're not alone in this

Just a year ago, Italian troops in Iraq were bleeding and dying.

On Nov. 12, 2003, a truck crashed into the Italian headquarters in the southern city of Nasiriyah. A car bombing swiftly followed. At least 19 Italian soldiers and eight Iraqi citizens were killed. Scores more were injured, some critically.

Back at home, Italy had a day of mourning for the victims, but refused to see itself as a victim. Defense Minister Antonio Martino met with the families of two of the dead soldiers. "They didn't shed a tear that day," he says. "They were proud of what their sons had accomplished in Iraq."

And when Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi came under political pressure to withdraw Italy's 3,000 troops from Iraq, he steadfastly refused. "The pain at this time is a feeling shared by the whole nation, a deep pain for the lives that have been cut short by terrorism, during a humanitarian mission for freedom," Berlusconi announced. However, he insisted Italy would stay the course.

Now, a year later, Italian forces have remained on station in Iraq and rebuilt their headquarters.

They're still there, still fighting terrorism and still making progress. The soldiers regularly publish a small newspaper in Arabic and hand out thousands of copies to local citizens. In a recent edition, they reiterated their commitment to the Iraqis. "A year after this bloody attack, we are still co-operating, talking to each other and meeting each other," the soldiers

## Heritage Forum

by Edwin Feulner

wrote. "We are still working and building a better future together."

Their work has paid dividends for them, and for the people of Iraq. Recently, Iraqi civilians told the soldiers about a planned terrorist bombing, and the Italians were able to disarm the explosive before it could go off.

And that's exactly the point. In Iraq, the coalition forces are working with Iraqis to build a better nation. The vast majority of Iraqis know that and appreciate it. "Even with limited resources, we've already trained 5,000 policemen and 1,000 soldiers," Martino told me. "Many have thanked me for what we're doing."

Iraq's leadership sees benefits, too. "Democracy, the rule of law and liberty will win in Iraq despite the difficulties," Ayad Allawi, Iraq's interim prime minister, recently told reporters after a meeting with Berlusconi. "We believe that the reconstruction in Iraq can help the stability of the region and the world."

For his part, the Italian leader remains committed to Iraq. "Italy will stay in Iraq according to the requests that will come from a legitimate Iraqi government," he announced. He still sees Italy's mission there as "defending democracy in the world."

This message — that we have allies in Iraq and that we're all working to build a better world — seems to have been lost during our recent presi-

dential election. In the final week of the campaign, Sen. John Kerry told NBC that if he'd been president, "We'd have gone to war with allies in a way that the American people weren't carrying the burden and the entire world understood why we were doing it."

But Kerry had it exactly backward. We have allies carrying a large part of the burden. Italian troops serve under British command. And they themselves are in charge of Romanian and Portuguese detachments. The allied mission is popular in Iraq, and it's passing the electoral test at home, too.

President Bush and Australian Prime Minister John Howard have both been re-elected after promising to stay the course in Iraq. British Prime Minister Tony Blair is expected to prevail when his country holds its next elections.

America's allies know Iraq is an important front in the war on terrorism. The overwhelming majority of the Iraqi people are thankful the coalition is there. And we should be thankful for Italy and all of our allies standing alongside us — fighting when necessary and spreading freedom to the Middle East.

ED FEULNER IS PRESIDENT OF THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION (HERITAGE.ORG), A WASHINGTON-BASED PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

## Now the sponsors have become the program



**Jim Hightower**

At last, the Golden Age of television is upon us again! But, alas, this is not the golden age of TV quality — but literally the age of TV gold, when advertisers have become the programming.

Leading the way is the Disney's ABC television network, which has now opened its expanse of our public airwaves to complete domination by sponsors. I don't mean just the ads that sponsors run on its shows, or even the not-so-subtle placement of sponsors' products in the shows — but rather sponsors that become the featured character of the show.

Sears has stepped out as the first of ABC's new advertising stars, putting itself forward as the centerpiece of the network's latest reality show called "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." Not that Sears has any actual dramatic talent — but it does have more than a million dollars that it has paid to ABC to write the corporation into the script of this six-part series portraying stories of home renovation.

The actual actors will be using Sears tools in their work, adding Sears appliances to the renovated homes, and decorating with Sears furniture. If that's too subtle for viewers, there'll also be Sears trucks delivering merchandise, branded workers from Sears home improvement centers will occasionally arrive on the scene, and the show's cast will make trips to Sears for supplies.

The commercially crass rationale for this All Sears Show is that advertisers need a way to outfox you TV viewers who're using your clickers to zap past those annoying commercial breaks. So forget the ads, the sponsors will be the show.

To fabricate this great leap forward in TV entertainment, ABC even has a "senior vice president for integrated marketing and promotion." He assures us that while "Sears plays a role in the personality of the program," ABC would "never take it to the point where it would seem like a bunch of logos slapped in a show."

See, there still are a few artistic standards in television.

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# Health savings accounts benefit all

It comes as no surprise that health care costs are on the rise. If you've been to the doctor recently, you know that simple procedures and regular check-ups can cost hundreds of dollars, making healthy living more expensive than ever. In fact, over the last decade health care costs have risen at a faster rate than inflation.

In addition to our work to lower the number of uninsured Americans, we also are looking for creative ways for Americans to cover their health expenditures. Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, a limited number of small businesses and self-employed individuals who had health insurance with a high deductible were permitted to make financial contributions to tax-free medical savings accounts to pay for non-reimbursable health care services.

## Health Savings Accounts

Last year's bipartisan Medicare Modernization Act included a provision to bring this benefit to even more Americans, establishing health savings accounts (HSAs) to help individuals and families prepare for and pay their health care costs. Think of it as an Individual Retirement Account, or IRA, earmarked for medical expenses with

## Capitol Comment



Kay Bailey Hutchison  
U.S. Senator



tax-free earnings on the money. Deposits can be easily withdrawn by check or debit card to pay routine medical bills with tax-free dollars. The accounts are designed to help pay for health expenses until insurance benefits kick in and are linked to a high deductible health plan (HDHP). For example, if you are hit with a medical emergency and have to come up with a \$1,000 deductible, you can withdraw the money from your HSA to cover the cost until your insurance takes over.

These savings accounts have several advantages for qualified individuals and families. Foremost, it allows you to save money for future medical expenses, whether you become unemployed, retired or incur long-term care expenses. Because the accounts are personally owned, you control how much money to put into the account and how to use it, as well as whether to invest any of the money in the account and which investments to make. In addition, the account is transferable if you change jobs or residency and the money can be rolled-over from year-to-year to be

used for future health care expenses. You can even take a tax deduction for contributions made to your HSA.

## Who Can Open an HSA?

Any American can open an HSA if they meet the following conditions:

- You must also have coverage under a HDHP.

- You cannot have any other health insurance coverage except the HDHP, but you can have other types of insurance like specific injury insurance, accident, disability, dental and vision care, or long-term care insurance without being disqualified.

- You cannot be eligible for Medicare.

- You cannot be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return.

## How Much Can I Contribute?

Just as with an IRA, there are limits to how much you can contribute to a HSA. Contributions of \$2,600 can be made annually by individuals who have health plans with

a minimum deductible of \$1,000 and out-of-pocket expenses not exceeding \$5,000. Families may invest \$5,150 each year if they have catastrophic health insurance that has a minimum deductible of \$2,000 with out-of-pocket expenses not exceeding \$10,000. Individuals between the ages of 55 and 65 can make annual "catch-up" contributions of up to \$500 in 2004, with annual increases of \$100 until the limit reaches \$1,000 in 2009.

Health Savings Accounts can be set up with any financial institution such as a bank, credit union, or insurance company. If you're looking to start a HDHP, contact your current health insurance carrier, licensed insurance agent, or the Texas Department of Insurance to find out which insurance companies offer HDHPs in your area.

For more information on HSAs, please view the Department of Treasury website at [www.treas.gov/offices/public-affairs/hsa](http://www.treas.gov/offices/public-affairs/hsa). If you have additional questions, contact the Treasury via email at [hsainfo@do.treas.gov](mailto:hsainfo@do.treas.gov) or call (202) 622-4HSA.

## Reader responds to Hutchison column

### Your Voice

#### Readers' Opinion

Dear Editor:

I seldom see any letters about the Capitol Comments column which Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson uses as a forum to communicate with the people of the State of Texas and have wondered if people don't read it, or, worse, don't care or don't question what the senator has to say. I read it carefully and feel I should remind readers that they need to check the statements which Senator Hutchinson makes. Although what she says is often accurate, at times her statements are incomplete or misleading or both and can lead to wrong conclusions. The column of November 18, 2004 has several points which need consideration, but space constraints limit my comments to just one.

The Senator says "For instance the Senate should take action on the President's judicial nominees. For years qualified candidates have been denied a vote for confirmation despite having the support of a bipartisan majority in the Senate." The implication is that the Senate has approved no nominees.

According to the latest figures I can find, the Senate has approved 203 of Bush's judicial nominees but has denied approval for only 10. It seems to me that the Senate has taken action and confirmed the vast majority of all nominees. The only quibble I can see is whether the rejected candidates are qualified. Evidently enough Senate members have considered those 10 so far outside present mainstream thinking that they won't approve them. In her statement the Senator has given an entirely wrong impression about what the Senate has been doing about the judicial nominees.

Ben Liles  
Salado

*"As democracy is perfected, the office of president represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. On some great and glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron."*

--- H. L. Mencken (1880 - 1956)

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# School Bond

FROM PAGE 1A

new school will mean to their pocket books.

Salado enrollment in November reached 1,165 in all grades, more than 100 students higher than last year at this time.

In contrast to other rural districts in Bell County, Salado ISD seems to be an anomaly as it is the only small school to see considerable recent growth.

And with several large subdivisions in the planning stages, as well as major infrastructure improvements for Salado Water Supply Corporation, the influx of people into the Salado school district may mushroom in

coming years.

Growth planners from Central Texas Council of Governments told trustees earlier this year that 20 new subdivisions are on the books within the Salado school district.

Trustees, working with the architectural firm and a construction management firm, have the responsibility of weighing current needs and future growth against the depth of Salado taxpayers' pocketbooks to meet both those needs when preparing a final bond proposal for the public to consider.

Trustees have contracted with Fields and Associates to prepare the

groundwork for the bond proposal for a \$5,000 fee which will be absorbed into the percentage fee awarded the architect if a bond is approved in February by voters. Trustees are also mulling over the eight applicants for construction-manager at-risk for the project. They may hire the firm Dec. 2.

But the district will go nowhere if a bond is not approved by voters. For that reason, trustees are anxious to have input from the community on the proposed bond issue, particularly what cost levels taxpayers are willing to pay and what projects they will fund.

# Aldermen to consider subdivision

Salado aldermen will consider releasing a portion of a proposed subdivision that lies within the Village Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) from the Subdivision Regulations during their 7 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Municipal Building.

Stanford Development has requested that the portion of its proposed subdivision lying within the ETJ of Salado be released to Bell County for regulations. The County regulations are less stringent than the Village regulations. While the majority

of the proposed subdivision is in the county, part of it lies within the ETJ of Belton. According to Aldermen Suzi Epps, Belton has stated that it will release their portion to the regulator authority of Salado.

The subdivision, once approved, will be across Williams Dr. from the 50 acres of property owned by Salado ISD on which a high school may be built, if approved by Salado voters in Feb.

In other business, aldermen will consider a contractor fee schedule so

that licensed contractors, such as electricians and plumbers will pay \$60 to register with the Village and non-licensed contractors, such as handymen, will pay a \$20 fee to register with the Village.

Aldermen will also discuss a property abatement fee to be charged property owners who do not maintain their property within the code of the Village.

The board will also consider amending its sign ordinance to allow for 225 sq. ft. sign faces on interstate access roads. The code allows 32 sq. ft.

## Salado Chorus sets Christmas concert Dec. 2

The Salado Community Chorus will perform its Christmas Concert 7 p.m. Dec. 2.

The singing will commence following the Christmas Stroll Parade and tree lighting ceremony.

The concert is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

## Water Corp. slates membership meeting

Salado Water Supply Corporation will hold its annual membership meeting 6:30 p.m. Jan. 27 at the Salado Civic Center.

Tentatively, agenda items will include:

- Read and approve minutes from the 2004 annual meeting
- Treasurer's report and adoption of the 2004-05 budget
- Report on improve-

ments to the water system

• Nomination and election of Board of Directors for all expiring terms

• Other business (to be posted 72 hours prior to the meeting)  
This meeting will provide information concerning Salado Water Supply Corporation, and give members the opportunity to ask questions about the direction of the SWSC.

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# CHURCH NEWS

## First Baptist Church • Main St. at the Creek

SUNDAY		WEDNESDAY	
Contemporary Worship/Bible Study	9:00a.m.	Children's Choir	4:45 p.m.
Traditional Worship/Bible Study	10:30 a.m.	Jr. High Halftime	5:15 p.m.
Orchestra Rehearsal	4:45 p.m.	Fellowship Meal	5:30 p.m.
Adult Choir Rehearsal	5:00 p.m.	Youth Choir	6:00 p.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Service	6:15 p.m.
		Team Kid (Age 3 - 6th grade)	6:00 p.m.
		Bible Drill (4th - 6th)	7:00 p.m.
		High School Halftime	7:00 p.m.



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<b>Sunday Morning Worship</b> (8am service is 30 minutes)	<b>8:00</b> <b>9:00</b> <b>11:00</b>
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>10:00</b>
<b>Sunday Night Youth Group</b>	<b>6:00</b>

Thomas Arnold Road and Church St.

(254) 947-5482



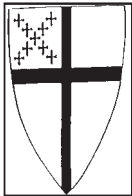
## St. Joseph's Episcopal Chapel

Holy Eucharist

Sat. • 5 p.m.

Sun. • 9:30 a.m.

Tues. • 9:30 a.m.



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N. Main Street

## St. Stephen Catholic Church

Religious Education Classes

Pre-K thru 12th  
6:30 - 7:40 p.m.  
Wednesday

Mass

Saturday • 5:30 p.m.

Sunday

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

Wednesday • 6 p.m.

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## "Pete" Jennings memorial services held

Paul C. "Pete" Jennings, 76, of Salado, passed away at his home Nov. 24, 2004.

Memorial services were held Nov. 27 at Salado United Methodist Church, with Rev. Grady Brittain officiating.

Pete was born Sep. 14, 1928 in Wynnewood, OK, to James and Margaret Jennings. Pete was named to the All-State Oklahoma football team while in high school, and played briefly for the University of Oklahoma. After serving in the military, Pete marring Jo Ann Leggett,

of Madill, OK.

He went to work for Halliburton Services in 1949 as a truck driver, and remained employed by the company until his retirement after 37 years of service.

While working for Halliburton, Jennings attended Oklahoma State University and received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1958. For the last two decades of his career, he

received international assignments from Halliburton, living and working in cities such as London, Aberdeen and Tehran.

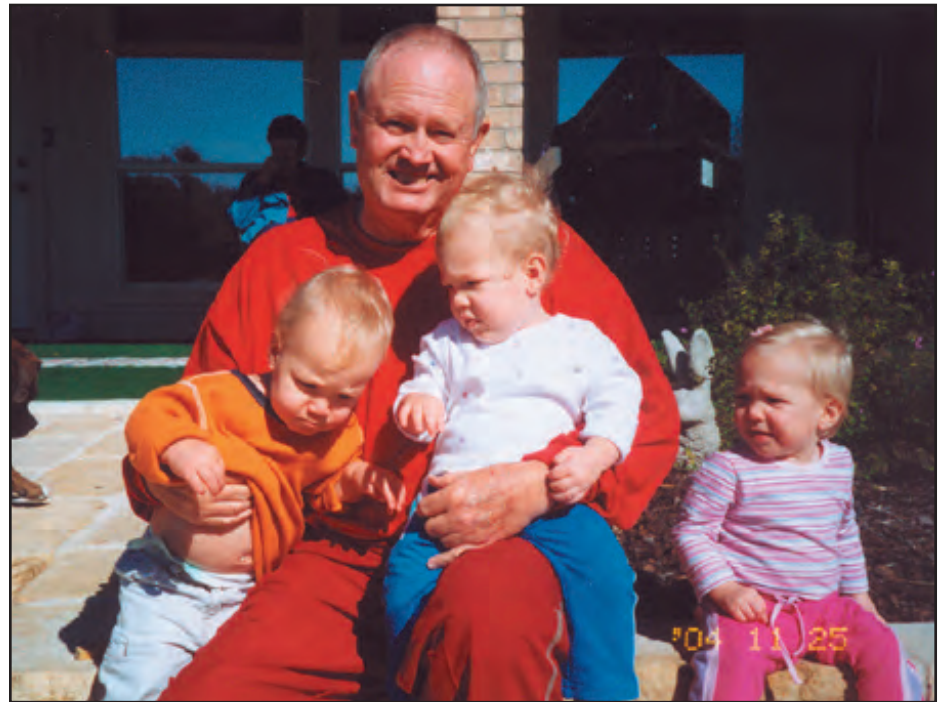
In 1986, Jennings moved to Salado, where he served a term as president of the Salado Chamber of Commerce. He was also a board member of the Institute for the Humanities in Salado, and the local library association.

Survivors include his wife, Jo Ann Jennings,

of Salado; son Paul Jennings and wife Connie, of Houston; daughter Mary Cris and husband Jeff Crawford, of Austin; four grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials in Jennings' name can be made to the Salado United Methodist Church Building Fund, or the Alzheimer's Association.

Harper-Talasek Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



Grandfather Jerry Roberts at home with triplets (l-r) Reed, Tess and Laine Roberts of Cedar Park.

## Triplets liven up Kemp family reunion

Jerry and Carolyn Roberts were Thanksgiv-

ing Day hosts for the 50th year family reunion and 95th birthday of Julia Whatley Kemp.

Kemp was named for her grandmother Julia Bowles Whatley, granddaughter of Benjamin Bowles (1785-1832) whose name is connected with the historic Bowles-Aiken Log Cabin in Salado.

Declining attendance at this annual event was compensated this year by the presence of the youngest members, one year old

triplets of Steve and Shelly Loven Roberts of Cedar Park.

Betty, Doris and Joyce Kemp, sisters of Shelly Roberts were in charge of food preparation.

The Kemp-Roberts family continues to be active in the Village of Salado DRT, chartered in 2002, and Log Cabin CRT, 2004, and hopes to encourage the reactivation of Salado's Sons of the Republic of Texas, chartered in 1954.

## St. Stephen's holds All Parish Christmas dinner

The St. Stephen's Women's Society will hold its 2004 All Parish Christmas Dinner 6:30 p.m. Dec. 17 at the St. Stephen Parish Hall. All members of the parish, and guests, are invited.

A catered, sit-down dinner will be prepared and served by Suzanne and Bob Petro of The Inn

at Salado. Dinner will include sirloin of beef, au gratin potatoes, vegetables, green salad, rolls and a dessert of apple cranberry pie.

For more information, call Joyce Dobias at 657-0097, or Tina Jobs at 657-2372. Tickets will be sold at the weekend Masses. Your ticket will be your reservation.

**Attention Church secretaries and publicity chairs. Send in your holiday schedule of events and Christmas programs to saladovillagevoice@earthlink.net. We would also like to announce your plans for the coming year.**



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

Sunday Morning Service • Dec. 5, 2004



Joe Keyes  
Minister

Join us as we begin a sermon series on the Gospel of Luke that will extend from now through the Easter season. We open with seeing in Luke's prologue that we have historical basis for our Christianity. It is not myths and fables in which we hope, but documented facts that give us certainty of the things offered us about Jesus.

Sunday

Bible Class • 9 a.m. Worship • 10 a.m.

Evening Worship • 6 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes • 6:30 p.m.

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## Grace Baptist Church

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Sunday School • 9:45a.m.

Worship • 11 a.m.

Bible Study • 6 p.m.

Wednesday Praise & Prayer • 7:00 p.m.

## Lighthouse's "Bright Light" tree program kicks off

Lighthouse Family Network, Inc., in Salado, is a Christian child-placing agency that provides therapeutic foster care to severely abused children throughout Texas.

Although the holidays are normally thought of as being a joyous season, Christmas can be a lonely time for children who have been displaced from their own families.

In an effort to let these children know that people care and they are not alone, Lighthouse Family Network is providing the community an opportunity

to show these foster children that they are special through its "Bright Light Tree" program.

The "Bright Light Tree," located in the Lighthouse office at 213 Mill Creek Drive, Suite 175 (in Salado Plaza), is a Christmas tree decorated with ornaments giving the first name and age of the child, and some ideas of things he or she would like to receive for Christmas.

Interested individuals may select an ornament from the tree and then purchase a gift or gifts for the child named on

the back of the ornament. The Lighthouse staff asks that the gifts be returned to their office no later than Dec. 19 so they can be hand delivered to the children across the state before Christmas Eve.

Lighthouse is also seeking help for the 20 foster homes where these children are now living.

As a way to thank current foster parents, Lighthouse is soliciting donations from local businesses to be handed out as door prizes at the organization's Dec. 11 Christmas Party.

Actual gift items or gift certificates may be given. In previous years, donated items have consisted of gift certificates for merchandise or meals, paintings, candles, lotions, books, spa packages, massages, tools, etc.

Lighthouse Family Network is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and all donations are tax deductible. Donor will be listed on Lighthouse's web site, [www.lfnetwork.org](http://www.lfnetwork.org).

For more information on Lighthouse Family Network, call 947-3152 or toll-free at 888-266-2505.

## GOP Women call Dec. 16 dual meeting

Salado Area Republican Women will have a dual program Dec. 16: installation of new officers and a program about the Christian Farms/Treehouse mission.

Installed will be Carol Walls, President; Barclay McCort, First Vice President; Deni Johnson, Second Vice President; Pat Broecker, Third Vice President; Jean Alexan-

der-Smith, Secretary; and LaNora Miller, Treasurer. The installation will be performed by the Rebecca Williamson, District Director, of Texas Federation of Republican Women.

Jon Crosby, Executive Director of Christian Farms-Treehouse Centers, will follow with his presentation about the rehabilitation centers

that he directs. Crosby, a native of El Paso, has pastored three different local churches in Texas over almost 20 years of ministry. He has lived in the Temple area for a total of 12 years. He is in his second year at Christian Farms-Treehouse. Not long after his arrival Christian Farms-Treehouse made

the change from being a Texas Licenced Chemical Dependency Rehabilitation facility to being a registered faith-based facility.

The lunch meeting will be at Mill Creek Restaurant, starting at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are needed by Dec. 10 to Barclay McCort, 947-3617 or [bam002@earthlink.net](mailto:bam002@earthlink.net).

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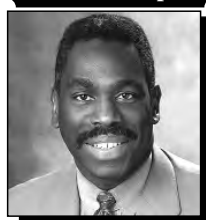
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# SPORTS

## Lady Eagles win two straight

Seeking to right the ship after a rough 0-2 start, the young, inexperienced Lady Eagles found ways to win last week, picking up victories against McGregor and Franklin to even their record at 2-2.

Entering his first season at Salado, head coach Scott Copeland had a good notion that implementing a new system after 11 years under Larry Salisbury would lead to some bumps in the road.

And he was right. Mental mistakes and defensive breakdowns abounded in Salado's first two losses to Lorena and Crawford (two very strong clubs), but, as he also predicted, his squad has shown a bit more comfort within the confines of his system, and the results show with each passing game.

Taking on McGregor Nov. 22, the Lady Eagles rode the offensive production of Jenny Goode and Kate Marshall, who scored 15 and 16 points, respectively, to a 49-36 victory at Coach Smith Gym.

The Salado defense gave the Lady Eagles the

advantage in the first half, as the home team took a 22-14 lead into halftime.

Marshall scored 11 of her points in the second half, while Goode helped put the game away with eight points in the fourth.

In addition to scoring 15 points, Goode also had six rebounds, four assists and two steals. Marshall was 6-12 from the field and 4-6 from the line.

Also scoring for Salado were Kelsey Gobin, who had six, and Kristen Smith, who had five. Kelsey Smith, Britany Gilchrest and Nicole Weatherly all scored two points.

Versus Franklin Nov. 23, Goode, the lone senior on the club, improved on her performance from the previous night, pouring in a team-high 20 points - including 4-4 from behind the arc - to propel the Lady Eagles to a 57-51 victory in front of the home crowd.

Copeland, though, had reason for concern after witnessing Franklin hit 10 of their first 12 shots in the first period to open up a 24-12 early lead.

But whatever he said

to his team before the second period worked, as the Lady Eagles scored 19 points and gained a 31-29 halftime lead.

They would hold on to that lead the remainder of the game, leading 42-38 at the end of three and then holding on for the six-point win.

Goode had another strong game all-around, picking up seven rebounds, nabbing six steals and tallying three assists. Marshall was also impressive under the boards, pulling down eight rebounds and shooting 7-13 for 14 points. In the past two games, she put together a shooting percentage of 52 percent.

Kelsey Smith and Kelsey Gobin both reached double-digits in points, each finishing with 10. Kristen Smith picked up three points in the game.

Copeland attributes the successive victories of last week to fewer turnovers and improved team defense, both of which will be critical to Salado's chances in the upcoming Academy tournament, scheduled for Dec. 2-4.

## Eagles upset Aransas Pass, lose Caskey for up to 6 weeks

One would think that knocking off the fourth ranked team in Class 3A - in overtime, no less - with 400 raucous Salado fans filling San Antonio's SBC Center, would leave Head Coach Tom Long with nothing but smiles.

But instead, Salado's 50-47 win over Aransas Pass Nov. 24 on the homecourt of the Spurs amounted to a Pyrrhic victory, as senior point guard Matt Caskey went down with a stress fracture in his foot. Caskey underwent surgery Nov. 29, and according to Long is expected to miss up to six weeks.

That bit of bad news aside, the seventh ranked Eagles showed no signs of intimidation against Aransas Pass, with the teams playing to an 8-8 tie after a defense-controlled first period. Travis Clark helped to ignite the Salado offense in the second, though, scoring eight of his 14 points and helping the Eagles keep pace with the Panthers.

The teams went into the half knotted at 22 apiece.

With both defenses controlling play, Salado was able to gain a slight edge in the third, as the

defense held Aransas Pass to a pair of free throws and Salado earned a 31-24 lead.

The Panthers rallied, however, hitting 6-6 from the line in the fourth and storming back to tie the game at 42, forcing overtime.

Aransas Pass managed just five points in the extra frame, while Clark and Caskey accounted for Salado's eight points, sealing the victory for the Eagles.

Caskey led all scorers with 17, with 13 of those coming in the fourth and overtime.

Devon Dunn dropped in seven points, Matt Jennings scored six and Nick Everett scored four.

Prior to the Aransas Pass game, Salado took the court against another Class 3A team - Waco La Vega, a perennially strong squad.

Caskey's free throw shooting was the story of this game, as he went a remarkable 16-16 from the line, including eight free throws in a fourth period in which Salado pulled away from the Pirates.

After playing to an 18-18 tie in the first period, the Eagles actually found

themselves trailing all the way into the fourth - 32-29 at the half and 48-42 after three.

But with the team hitting on 12-14 free throw attempts, and with Jennings and the Clark brothers all knocking down threes, the Eagles fought their way to a 65-58 win on their home court.

Behind Caskey's game high 28 points, Travis Clark had 13 and Jennings contributed 12. Dunn scored six points, while James Gregurek and Ryan Clark each had three.

The two wins last week improved Salado, in the midst of a rigorous pre-district schedule, to 3-1. Their only loss came in their first contest, on the road to Manor - ranked 10th in 3A - in a game the Eagles let slip away.

Following a Nov. 30 game against Waco Christian which took place after press time, Salado will take the road to compete in the Hutto tournament Dec. 2-4.

Given Salado's upset over Aransas Pass, expect the Eagles, currently ranked seventh, to move up a bit in the next Texas Association of Basketball Coaches (TABC) poll.

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## News & Sports Coverage

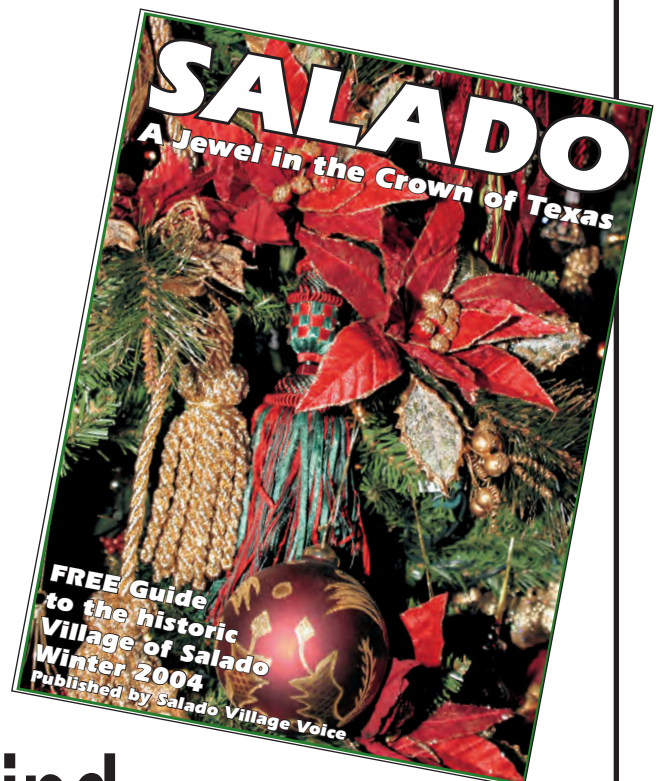
## Calendar of Events

## Marketplace

## Shopping Map

## Jewel magazine

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# JV boys struggle against La Vega

Both Salado boys junior varsity basketball teams ran into some trouble against Waco La Vega Nov. 22, with each team dropping their game.

Being held to six points total in one half of play doesn't increase any team's chances of winning a contest. The JV boys A team learned that lesson the hard way

when they fell to La Vega by a final of 51-27.

By the time Salado's offense got into gear, it was already too late, as the Pirates built up a 24-6 halftime lead. The Eagles came back with 14 in the third, but were unable to bridge the large deficit left over from the first half.

Leading the Eagles offensively was Chris Redman, who scored seven.

Also scoring were Won Im, five, Justin Konzen, five, Blake Newman, four, Chad Tumeay, four, and Tanner Myers, two.

The B team also had their troubles against a tough Pirate team, losing 56-42. Salado trailed by 12 points, 19-7, at the end of one, and could not find a way to get the game close.

One of the bright spots

for the Eagles was David Rosenau, who scored a game high 18 points, including 3-4 three point shooting.

Noah Harbisom registered nine points, Clay Sharum had five and Tyler Burden scored four. Rounding out the scorers were Blake Heller, three points, Josh Caldwell, two, and Tanner Johnson, one.

# Coach Smith Tourney stocked with elite teams, play begins Dec. 9

Some of the finest high school hoops teams in the area - and a few from out of the area - will make their way to Salado to participate in the annual Coach Smith Invitational Tournament, scheduled for Dec. 9-11.

But what the eight-team tourney lacks in quantity, it more than makes up for in quality.

The boys draw will feature the likes of Troy, Manor, Hitchcock, Rose-

bud-Lott, Brock, Aransas Pass and Liberty Hill.

For some perspective on the depth of the squads that will be taking the court, Hitchcock is ranked third in 2A and Brock is 16th. Representing Class 3A, Manor is 10th, Liberty Hill is ninth and Aransas Pass is fourth.

Hitchcock, for additional background, is the club that brought Salado's 18-game winning streak to a halt when they defeated

the Eagles, in overtime, in last year's playoffs. Brock, one of the premier programs in the state, won 27 games last year.

Of the two unranked teams, Troy, as a 3A school, missed the playoffs by one game a season ago, and Rosebud-Lott, despite getting throttled by Salado a few weeks past, fields a consistently competitive basketball team.

The boys, currently ranked seventh in 2A, will open play 10:30 a.m. Dec. 9 versus Troy. If they win, the Eagles will play the victor of the Manor/Hitchcock contest, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10. If they


lose their opening game, Salado will play 1:30 p.m. Dec. 10. The championship game will be held 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11.

On the girls side, the draw will consist of Clifton, Manor, McGregor, Hamilton, Academy, Peaster and Aransas Pass.

The Lady Eagles will begin with a game versus Clifton, 9 a.m. Dec. 9. If they win their first, they will move on to play the winner of Manor/McGregor 6 p.m. Dec. 10. In the event of an opening loss, Salado will next play 9 a.m. Dec. 10. The girls championship will be held 6 p.m. Dec. 11.

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*Iris, Richard, Leaza and Ernestine*

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10/3	Harassment by Communications	FM 2268
10/5	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	Chisholm Trail
10/12	Burglary of a Building	Salado Springs Cir.
10/14	Burglary of a Building	Salado Springs Cir.
10/17	Public Intoxication	I-35 South at 282
10/18	Criminal Mischief (Over \$50 under \$500)	Quail Ridge Rd.
10/21	Investigate Drug Activity	Thomas Arnold Rd.



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## Central Texas Champs

The Salado Lil' Eagles 7-9 year olds are the 2004 Central Texas 2A Champions. The squad beat Moody Nov. 20 for the Central Texas 2A Championship. The Lil Eagles are shown above (front row, from left) Morgan Marburger, Tanner Montgomery, Caden Eary, Joshua Houston, Ryan Schilling, Garrett White, Michael McCullough, Dakota Cloud; (second row, from left) Magnum Burcham, James Svadlenak, Ryan Kelley, David Berumen, Billy Golding, Mason Price, Sean Moore, Jason Nevejar; (third row) Zachary Mills, Brandon Womac, John Pegues, Colby Priest, Jake Benolken, Michael Butts, Barton Cheatham, Treyton Mohler. Back row are coaches Mike Moore, Bobby Golding and Wayne Womac.

## Lil' Eagles champs & undefeated 8-0

The Salado Lil' Eagles football team defeated Moody 20-0 Nov. 20, to clinch the Central Texas 2A Junior Boys Title and end their season with a perfect 8-0 record.

The Lil' Eagles started the season by edging Rogers 18-14. They then picked up steam and rolled by Troy 28-6, Bruceville-Eddy 38-0, Academy 40-14, Moody 32-12, and ended the regular season with a 44-0 win over Rosebud-Lott.

Salado received a bye in the first round of the Central Texas playoffs and then shut down Academy 24-0 to face Moody for the championship title.

Moody showed up ready to play, but Salado rose to the occasion, hammering Moody's offense

### Bell Democratic Women plan Christmas lunch

Bell County Texas Democratic Women will hold their annual Christmas Luncheon Dec. 4 in Building C at the Bell County Courthouse Annex, 550 East Second Avenue, in Belton.

Registration will begin at 11 a.m. After a brief business session, a covered dish luncheon will be served. Food will be furnished by club members.

Guest Speaker for the event will be Mrs. Alieca Hux, President-Elect of Texas Democratic Women.

The local officers for 2005 will be installed at the luncheon.

All members and guests are invited. For any questions, call 780-9047 in Temple or 933-0801 in Belton.



Pictured above are the CTYFA Salado Eagle cheerleaders, age 10-12. They are, bottom row, l-r: Rachel Ray and Hannah Seaton. Middle row: Kaycie Davidson and Leah Ray. Standing: Taylor Marburger, Rachael Piat, Chellicee Cloud and Stephanie Lastovica. Cheerleading coach is Jennifer Marburger. The squad supports all Salado teams.

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## Salado School Menus Mon.- Fri., Dec. 6-10

### Lunch Salado Intermediate School

Dec. 6: Chili mac beef, corn dogs, pizza, chef salad, baked potato, tater tots, cornbread, pinto beans, carrots, fresh fruit, pears, milk.

Dec. 7: Steak fingers, hamburger on bun, pizza, chef salad, frito lay, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, fresh fruit, pineapple tidbits, green beans, Texas toast, burger salad, milk.

Dec. 8: Pizza, grilled chicken on bun, chef salad, roasted red potatoes, baked potato, burger salad, corn, fresh fruit, breadstick, peaches, milk.

Dec. 9: Chicken fajitas, nachos, pizza, chef salad, peas and carrots, corn, fresh fruit, pineapple tidbits, oven fries, milk.

Dec. 10: Cheeseburger on a roll, chopped BBQ on a bun, pizza, chef salad, ranch style beans, fresh fruit, apple slices, burger salad, oven fries, milk.

### Lunch Thomas Arnold Elementary

Dec. 6: Corn dogs, pinto beans, chef salad, hoagie, carrot sticks, pears, milk.

Dec. 7: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, fresh fruit, rolls, chef salad, hoagie, milk.

Dec. 8: Pepperoni pizza, yogurt & fruit plate, hoagie, corn, breadstick, peaches, milk.

Dec. 9: Nachos, chef salad, hoagie, mixed vegetables, fresh fruit, milk.

Dec. 10: Cheeseburger on a roll, chef salad, hoagie, burger salad, oven fries, pineapple tidbits, milk.

### Breakfast Both Campuses:

Nov. 29: Breakfast on a stick

Nov. 30: French toast

Dec. 1: Biscuit, sausage patty

Dec. 2: Sausage rolls

Dec. 3: Poptart

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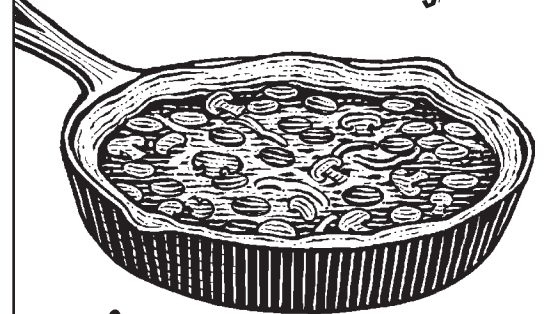
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**You are Invited to come and watch a special broadcast at our office "Leaving a Legacy: Your Guide to Estate Planning and Charitable Giving" Tuesday, Dec. 14 • 10:30 a.m.**

# Charitable gifting something that works out for everyone

## Financial Focus

by Allen Mantanona



The holidays are just about here. This year, you may be considering making a gift to a charitable organization. Of course, your generosity will be greatly appreciated by the group you're supporting - and it can pay off for you, too.

Two types of tax breaks

When you make a gift to a charitable group, you can get some significant tax benefits. Let's take a look at them:

\* Immediate tax deduction - You can deduct all or part of your charitable gift from your current income taxes, even if your original cost was only a fraction of today's value. (The size of your deduction depends, in part, on whether you give cash or some other type of financial asset, such as stocks. Generally speaking, your maximum deduction will be limited to 50 percent of your adjusted gross

income. Anything over that amount can be carried over to future years.) You can deduct financial contributions to religious, charitable, scientific, educational and literary institutions, as well as other groups that are incorporated as 501(c)(3) organizations. Upon making your gift, make sure you get a receipt that lists the name of the organization and the date and amount of your contribution.

\* Avoidance of capital gains taxes - If you have stocks that have grown significantly in value over the years, you may want to donate them to a charitable group. You will avoid the capital gains taxes you'd have to pay if

you sold the stock.

To illustrate the benefit of giving appreciated stocks to a charity, let's look at an example. Suppose you bought stock 10 years ago for \$7,000, and it is now worth \$10,000. If you are in the 28 percent tax bracket, and you give this stock to Charity XYZ, you can deduct \$2,800 from your taxes, and you'll pay no tax on unrealized capital gains. Consequently, your \$10,000 gift will really only "cost" you \$7,200 out of pocket.

Which stocks should you donate?

You may have a variety of appreciated stocks that you could donate to a charitable group. Which are the best ones to give?

There's no one "right" answer. But here are a couple of guidelines you might want to consider:

\* Seek portfolio balance - At all times, you

need to keep a balanced portfolio that reflects your risk tolerance, your time horizon and your long-term goals. So, before you give away any stocks, make sure that your gift doesn't throw your holdings "out of whack" to the extent that you are either taking on too much risk or reducing your prospects for growth.

\* Look for dividends - If you aren't jeopardizing your portfolio balance, you may want to consider donating appreciated, low-dividend paying stocks and replacing them with stocks that have historically paid, and increased, their dividend payouts. Thanks to recent tax law changes, stock dividends are now taxed at a maximum of 15 percent; previously, these dividends were taxed at your current tax rate. (Keep in mind that stocks are subject to market risks and may not always pay dividends.)

A "win-win" situation By making gifts to charity, you'll brighten their holiday season - and your tax season. That's a win-win situation.

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## Interest on the rise Buying and Selling

by Ryan Hodge

There's been a lot of talk about the fact that interest rates are likely to rise. Indeed, they couldn't fall much lower than they have in the last couple years! Before you start worrying about how rising interest rates could affect your ability to secure a mortgage, remember that the best time to buy a home is when your

lifestyle dictates you are ready.

With rates still relatively low, you should avoid playing the "numbers game," and settle instead for some solid advice. While it's true that higher interest rates could increase your overall long-term cost, don't forget that the mortgage interest you pay remains a big tax deduction.

Don't overlook the additional fact that your home is likely to appreciate at a faster rate than the interest you're paying anyway. There are more mortgage options out there than ever before, and you should educate yourself in order to make the best financial decision.

You can control factors like the length of the loan, the schedule of payments, fixed or variable rate, etc. Overwhelmed by all the loans being offered? If you're considering purchasing a home, a local real estate agent is a good place to start. The agent can explain your options and even put you in touch with a suitable lender, not to mention help you find the home you've been dreaming of!

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# CTC Killeen begins online, telephone registration for Spring 2005 semester

Central Texas College telephone and online (SOAR) registration for returning students will continue through Dec. 17 and Jan 3-7, 2005. Spring classes begin Jan. 10, 2005 on central campus in Killeen.

New students may apply and be advised on site through Dec. 17 in Student Services Building 119. Walk-in registration will be held Jan. 3-7, 2005 in the LBJ Auditorium, Building 112, Room 106. Students are encouraged to complete the applica-

tion and academic advisement process prior to registration.

Class schedules are available online at [www.ctcd.edu](http://www.ctcd.edu).

To reduce waiting time and stress on the campus computer network, academic advisement and registration time slots are assigned based on the last four digits of the students' social security number. To check date and time assignments, refer to pages 20-22 in the spring schedule bulletin, which is available online.

Min-Term classes are also available on Fort Hood. Registration continues through Dec. 17 and the classes will be held Dec. 20-23, 27-30 and Jan. 3-7. Registration for the Spring term is Dec. 6-21 and Jan. 3-7, 2005. Classes begin Jan. 10.

CTC is a public, two-year community college located between Killeen and Copperas Cove just off Highway 190, approximately 15 miles west of IH-35, and adjacent to Fort Hood and offers more than 40 associate degrees and certificates of completion

in academic, professional and vocational/technical fields. A wide variety of courses are offered, from agriculture to criminal justice, drama to nursing and business administration to telecommunications. The college serves the needs of full-time and part-time students by offering daytime, evening, and online courses. The college has articulation agreements with many four-year institutions, which means classes taken at CTC will transfer to any public university in the state of Texas.

## Verified programs make on-line shopping safer for consumers using credit cards

With more than 40 percent of Americans expected to shop on the internet this holiday, according to a poll by retail analysis NPD Group, Americans are likely to spend almost \$145 billion online before the end of the season. That represents a 27 percent jump from 2003, according to analysts at Forrester Research.

The convenience and selection provided on the web is evident; however, consumers must also be aware of the potential for online fraud, and should take steps to protect themselves and their payment card information when shopping online.

While Visa's Zero Liability policy protects consumers from the liability associated with fraudulent transactions both online and in the real world, warnings about internet fraud and identity theft may make some consumer reluctant to shop online. Visa and the Better Business Bureau say consumers can shop online with confidence, if they follow a few simple guidelines.

One of those tips: make sure the online merchant uses anti-fraud technology to protect your payment card information. Verified by Visa, already adopted by more than 17,500 on-

line merchants in the U.S., is the most widespread anti-fraud technology on the internet.

"Shopping online is a great way to save time and choose from a huge selection of goods right from your own home computer," said Jim McCarthy, senior vice president, Emerging Products, Visa USA. "And there are plenty of ways that consumers can guard against fraud that could spoil the holidays. Verified by Visa provides an extra layer of security that should make consumers feel confident making online purchases with their Visa cards."

More than 250 million Visa payment cards in the U.S. are eligible for Verified by Visa activation today. Verified by Visa uses secure technology and two separate pass codes during an online transaction: one to verify the identity of the cardholder, and the other to verify the identity of the financial institution that issued their Visa payment card. This makes it more difficult for criminals or other unauthorized users to make a transaction with a stolen card number.

"Security and consumer protection are very important to Visa and to our members who issue Visa payment cards," Mc-

### Ten Tips for Safer Online Shopping from Visa and Better Business Bureau

- Shop only at internet merchants you know and trust; if in doubt, check with the Better Business Bureau ([www.centraltex.bbb.org](http://www.centraltex.bbb.org)).
- Beware of emails offering cut-rate prices on popular toys, software or other gifts; if the offers sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- If you receive an unsolicited email from an internet merchant, don't click on the links within it. Instead, located the merchant's web site address through a reputable search engine.
- Check internet merchants' refund policies: some merchants set a deadline for returns or charge a fee to accept returned merchandise.
- Pay with a credit or debit cards. For extra protection, enroll your card in anti-fraud programs like Verified by Visa.
- Never share your password with anyone, and use different passwords for different websites.
- Protect your private information. When shopping online, look for the merchant's website privacy policy and never provide your Social Security number, birth date, or mother's maiden name.
- Ensure your computer has the latest anti-virus software installed before shopping online.
- Always print and save the confirmation page when completing an online purchase.

Carthy said. We work with our members, merchants and groups like the Better Business Bureau to increase the use of Verified by Visa to make sure these are happy holidays."

Taking simple precautions will help to ensure

that you have a satisfactory and safe online shopping experience during the coming weeks," said Carrie A. Hunt, President and CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Central Texas.

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Texans who went to the area to minister to these people. The Texans have worked in a manner similar to the Peace Corps, only with the mission, they explain, of "acting out God's love."

Members of the group have attempted to work in partnership with their Mexican "neighbors." Together they have built houses for the homeless, a school, clinic, teachers' house, church, community center, quilters workshop and fresh water distribution system.

They have brought in doctors and a dentist and held clinics which, among other things, gave needed immunizations to all the children. They have brought in school supplies, food, medicines and clothing, and have held worship services, Bible schools and crafts schools. In 20 years of this kind of sharing they grew to think of their Mexican friends as family.

Because of their close ties with these people, the Texans have continued to serve them, even though recent developments have forced the people to leave their remote village and relocate.

Many have moved to the colonias (slum areas) of Acuna or Muzquiz where they had relatives and the opportunity for work in American-owned factories, while oth-

ers have found work on remote ranches. Most are members of about four different multi-generational families, all of which have intermarried with each other; so they form a loose network of individuals who share a similar history and who stay in touch.

In the past two years, this network has enabled the Texans to assemble many of the old group from La Caldera at a new location in Acuna. In so doing, they are able to continue to visit the group three times a year and minister to their needs.

The quilters have stated their desire to continue production and the partnership they've had with the Texas women, and many come great distances by bus or by hitching a ride to meet and work with the Texans when they visit.

"This long-standing partnership is about to take a new direction," according to Mickey Burleson who has headed the quilt ministry for the past 21 years. Although she hopes to continue working with these people in a lesser capacity, Burleson, for many reasons, feels led to retire from her heavy involvement with the group, especially from the marketing of the quilts. It is likely, she says, that this year's exhibit in Salado will be the last one.

In the meantime, the group is looking for other volunteers who would be willing to assist the women in marketing and assembling raw materials. They believe the quilts would sell well over the Internet or in specialty shops which handle unique quilts. According to Burleson, "Handmade, one-of-a-kind quilts like these women make are hard to locate today, especially since the market has been flooded with mass-produced quilts from China and India. The La Caldera Quilts are actually works of art -- like original paintings -- and the Chinese and Indian quilts are more like prints, with many exactly alike produced at the same time."






Business experts have advised the Texans that it may be possible to set the quilters up in a business which they would own and operate themselves and which would do the marketing for them. Texas workers think this would be the best solution but it is also a difficult one. The women are scattered in location. Their academic training has been severely limited, and though they are an intelligent people, they are unsophisticated when it comes to business. They would need expert training, and the Texans have sought help in this department. However,

none has come forward. Although many of the women have developed great quilt-making skills in the past 22 years, if left to sell on their own in their native Mexico without a savvy business organization, workers are told the quilters would hardly make enough income to cover their costs.

Burleson is joined in her disappointment at the feared demise of the marketing program by others in the area who have long worked in partnership with the quilters. Susan Foster and Virginia Robinson have put in many hours buying and assembling raw materials, and Sondra Wilkerson and Tommie Wilkerson have regularly participated in exhibits. Central Texas churches who have been particularly active with the group include First Baptist Church, Moffat; First Baptist, Bellmead; Southwest Park Baptist Church, Abilene; First Baptist, Troy; New Hope Community Church, Temple; First Baptist, Lorena; and Trinity Baptist, San Antonio.

Foster adds, "Because this will probably be the last showing in the area of these quilts, we anticipate a good turnout and encourage folks to come early so they can see the full array on display. In years past, many have sold in the first few hours."

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# White Lightning: Salado's worst-kept Prohibition secret

By CHRIS MCGREGOR  
STAFF WRITER

They worked in the main by moonlight, or in its absence, darkness. And much of the whole able-bodied brood would turn out, each with a task his own. The routine was well-practiced.

Wiping his palms on his pantlegs, ducked between the yaupon brush thicketed around him in the Salado countryside, the bootlegger slid small slivers of Spanish Oak, dry and smokeless, under the homemade copper still and flashed a spark. Not all that different from a laboratory, this setup was something like the moonshiner's Menlo Park.

Indeed, it was cloak and dagger, covert in its country-fried orchestrations. Its secrecy was well-founded however, as Prohibition was in full swing. The bar-busting Carrie Nation's of the country had prevailed - the production and transportation of alcohol was illegal, and a good many honest people were made criminals in kind.

But, for a man with 18 mouths to feed, austere observance of the law meant very little.

Which is why, during the Fitzgeraldian days of the Volstead Act, John Jackson cooked corn whiskey on his farm in the cedar brakes outside Salado.

He was no outlaw, though, reveling in banditry like some backwoods Al Capone. Rather, he was more like a selective interpreter of the rules.

In just one respect did he truly differ from the other working stiffs: Jackson knew how to make the best homebrew around, and his operation was one of the worst-kept secrets in the whole county.

Saladoan Wilbur Foster, now 89, was just a kid when he and his siblings moved in with Jackson - his maternal grandfather, who already had 13 children of his own - when his family fell victim to hard times. He helped make the moonshine from an early age.

Being a youngster, Foster had no choice but being the resident gopher. When water buckets had to be hauled a quarter-mile from creek to still, Wilbur got the call. When more firewood was needed to keep the product bubbling at a required 180-190 degrees, Wilbur grabbed an axe and set to it.

There's just no point in saying whose underage eyes served as lookout.

Jackson was an accomplished blacksmith, among other things. He could perform feats with heat and hammer that others could not. This skill applied spectacularly to the construction of whiskey stills. So well-regarded, in fact, were Jackson's still-making abilities, that he furnished the equipment for three other men who also moonshined in Salado.

To start, Jackson's stills were not round, as expected, but ovular. Something else also set them apart from the norm: a homemade device Jackson called the "thumper." Emerging from the main still was thin, rounded copper piping that curled out like a roller-coaster. The pipe ran in a trough shape down into the thumper, descending then rising through two layers of charcoal where impurities would collect. The pipe continued its roundabout course until it reached the cooling barrel, whereupon through the wonder of chemistry the vapor would return to a liquid, exiting drip-by-drip into a bucket placed on the ground beneath the spigot. As all whiskey is colorless upon distilling, Jackson would slowly brown the mixture in a skillet, scalding the sugar and lending the brew a golden hue.

The result of this process: less volume but better quality. Each batch started with 75 pounds of sugar, 25 pounds of corn chops (coarse, chunky remnants of milled corn) and one gallon of yeast placed in 50-gallon barrels. Through Jackson's technique, the batch would yield between four and seven gallons of 150 proof whiskey, depending on who the brew was being made for.

And for many years, it was quite a cash cow. Before the Depression, Foster says a gallon could fetch as much as \$32, but after the great crash the market price fell to a humble four bucks.

For the good stuff, whistle-wetters would come from all around, some as far away as Austin and Waco. In exchange for special recipes containing orange, plum or other fruit, a handful of local officials charitably chose to expend their professional energies elsewhere.

"He did have a reputation for making the best whiskey," Foster says knowingly. Wilbur also remembers well the mysteries of the payoff.

Every so often, he would fill four half-gallon jars with the special brew, and hide them in a preselected spot in the bushes on his grandfather's 200-acre farm. "I'd set them out one day, and I'd come back the next and they'd be gone. I knew something was happening to them," he said.

But its appeal wasn't limited to those who walk on two feet. Foster tells a story of some hogs living on the farm, and the time he and the other kids of the family lured the creatures into a roofless barn, fed them piles of fermented mash and watched with muffled sniggers from above.

As they discovered, the *sturm und drang* of gorging on all that mash exposed an inherent weakness in the swine. The hogs hobbled, they honked, they became obnoxious and crude, and, after much histrionics, succeeded in passing out on their bacony bottoms.

Seeing their bodies heaped miserably like victims of some strange, bloodless massacre, Wilbur's sister took the drunken hogs for dead, and screamed to the heavens accordingly.

The affair was only resolved when the hogs staggered awake, undoubtedly nursing apocalyptic hangovers, and returned to doing whatever it is hogs do.

Not everyone has a story like that.

Those diversions aside, things were going pretty well. That is until a prominent member of the Youngsport community took exception to Jackson's enterprise. It seems certain members of her family had developed a liking for the whiskey. Too much of a liking, perhaps.

Apparently, her boys, after indulging in a few nips, had been raising Cain all over town, and this boorishness was sullyng the family's reputation.

Through some light investigative work, she was able to trace the problem to its source: a bootlegger who named Jackson as the whiskey-maker.

A bit of old-time Texas politics was then awakened. Being a person of influence, the woman insisted the laissez-faire sheriff put his foot down for once. And she didn't mince words. "He was told that he wouldn't get a single vote in western Bell County if he didn't do something," Wilbur explained.

SEE PROHIBITION -

PAGE 16A

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# Prohibition

Against their own sense of fairness, two reluctant deputies showed up to apprehend Jackson, but he was gone for the day.

So the pair waited. Having been refused entry into the house by Wilbur's grandmother, the deputies kicked the dirt until dark, remaining essentially on the same patch of earth, which happened to be directly on top of a hidden mash barrel, buried beneath the ground. They

hung around until Jackson came home, when they sheepishly hauled him in for moonshining.

A short detention followed, but that was only a small setback. Jackson returned to cooking as soon as he could.

Little did he know that his Youngsport nemesis had tipped off a group of humorless lawdogs that could really do him damage: The Feds.

Wilbur says his grandfather was a genial,

glad-handing Irishman at his core, and thus was not too suspicious when a stranger, claiming to be camping in the wild uncultivated lands up by the creek's headwaters, showed up asking for a drink. He said he'd heard of Jackson's distilling prowess and wanted to see the sight firsthand.

The man continued hanging around the Jackson place for several weeks, but curiously showed little signs of the hard-life he claimed to have lived. He had none of the skills that a man who worked with his hands on a daily basis would demonstrate. Still, Jackson thought nothing of it.

Wilbur credits his grandfather's good nature with his undoing. "They'd have a drink, get happy and play dominoes all day," said Foster. "He was that kind of guy."

The check-mate wasn't long in coming. After finally convincing Jackson to reveal the location of his stills, the man up and vanished, not showing his face at the farm for two straight days.

Armed and black-suited feds did show up, however. And Jackson learned that the stranger he had shown so much hospitality to was actually a government spook - and a dang good one at that. The man had, one-by-one, successfully infiltrated every moonshiner of note in the area, Jackson later came to find out.

For their part, the feds wasted no time in making their presence known. They asked for a sample of the whiskey, and when Jackson brought out two one-quart jars, the feds opened one and hurled the other into a nest of nearby rocks, shattering the glass in all directions. "They told him, 'Mr. Jackson, we don't need no other quart,'" Foster recalls.

Following that display, the feds took aim, riddling the still with their six shooters and tearing gaping, irreparable rents in the copper. "Deputies used axes," Wilbur explained wryly, "but the feds used guns."

# From Page 15A



Wilbur Foster pictured with the handmade model of his grandfather's still, which was used to cook moonshine in Salado during the days of Prohibition.

For many years whiskey was made throughout the area by several different moonshiners, and it was tolerated to a large extent, until, of course, the FBI got involved. Most illicit production came to a halt in the early 1930s.

Foster, a lifelong resident of Salado, is well-known throughout the town for the miniature replica stagecoaches he builds and mostly gives away to friends and family.

Now 89 years old and legally blind, he says his woodworking days are coming to an end.

The model of the old copper still is one of his most recent projects.

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## MCCA Christmas dinner on the way

Mill Creek Community Association (MCCA) members will celebrate the holidays with the annual Christmas Dinner 6 p.m. Dec. 14 at Mill Creek dining room.

The Good Times begin with the cash bar happy hour at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. The

annual meeting will begin at 7:45 p.m. with introduction of nominees for the MCCA 2005 Board. Laron Tubb will provide music following the short business meeting and during the dinner.

A Nutcracker Ballet theme will delight the eyes, a gourmet dinner,

great music, seeing the good friends and meeting new folks of Mill Creek, special memento for the ladies, are all part of the evening's activities.

Send your reservation check of \$20 a person, (includes taxes and gratuity) to Mill Creek Community Association,

P.O. Box 562, Salado, TX 76571. Your check is your reservation.

The Association must have its menu order in early, so those planning to attend are asked to make their reservations as soon as possible.

that he is now legally blind, the model is no light accomplishment.

It shows his grandfather in a relaxed pose, eyeing his still as the family dog lounges contentedly at his feet. For embellishment, Wilbur tossed in a shotgun across his grandfather's lap. No one else is in the scene.

Capturing a moment before the feds came sniffing around, one could envision Jackson in the old days, when he was cooking whiskey with no end in sight.

And in a way, through the deftness of Foster's craftsmanship, that end remains elusive, someplace over the hills.

Where it should be.



# Salado Village Guide

Shopping Map  
Pages 6-7B

Section B Salado Village Voice December 2, 2004 12 Pages Shopping, Dining, Overnight, Events

## Historic restored cabins open during Christmas Homes Tour

Persons enjoying the Salado Historical Society's Christmas Homes Tour Dec. 3-5 can take a break from admiring the six posh homes scheduled and step back into time and visit two 19th century log cabins behind the Civic Center.

The Boles-Aiken cabin was discovered between the walls of a house on Center Circle that was being demolished. Disassembled, its logs carefully numbered, the cabin was stored until acquired by the Salado Historical Society and rebuilt on its present location.

Believed to have been constructed before Salado's founding, the structure is known to have had three different "lives." It has served as a stagecoach stop, later as a post office - possibly Salado's first - and as a school. Presently, those three phases are represented with appropriate furnishings.

The Moses Denman cabin, though not original to Salado, has a justifiable place in history as it was the home of Salado-resident Robert Denman's great-grandfather. Built in the 1860s, it was discovered by Denman and moved to the site of the Barton House, a well-known historic home in

See Homes Tour -

Page 9B



The Moses Denman Cabin was constructed in the 1860s.



The Boles-Aiken Cabin, which dates to the 1850s.

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**DECEMBER 2**

Salado Community Chorus Christmas Concert, 7 p.m. at Salado Civic Center. Public is invited.

**DECEMBER 2**

Cooking Class at the Range taught by Chef Dave Hermann. Theme: "Great Holiday Appetizers," Instruction to include Brie en croute, Thai Barbecue Chicken, Stuffed mushrooms, and Artichoke dip. For registration info call 947-3828 or visit [www.therangerestaurant.com](http://www.therangerestaurant.com).

**DECEMBER 2**

Salado Christmas Stroll Parade, beginning 5 p.m. on Center Circle. Parade will make its way north down Main St., and

will conclude with the lighting of the Christmas tree at the Civic Center. Santa Claus will be available for photos. Awards will be presented for a variety of parade categories.

**DECEMBER 3-4**

A Christmas Carol, 7 p.m. at Tablerock Amphitheater. Tickets: Adults \$5, children \$3. Sandwiches and drinks available at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 254-947-9205 or visit [www.allcentex.com/tablerock](http://www.allcentex.com/tablerock).

**DECEMBER 3-4-5**

Annual Salado Christmas Stroll, featuring a City of Lights in Pace Park. Carolers, live entertainment, nativity scene and shops all decorated in holiday finery. Info: Salado Chamber of Commerce, 947-5040, or visit [www.salado.com](http://www.salado.com).

Salado Historical Society Annual Christmas Homes Tour, annually features tours of the Boles-Aiken and Denman historical cabins - the only time of year they are open to the public - as well as tours of private homes and the Salado Silver Spur Theater.

**DECEMBER 5**

Cooking Class at The Range taught by Chef Dave Hermann. Theme "An Awesome Dinner Party." Instruction to include Bruschetta with Sweet Onions, Oyster Mushroom Soup, Roast Fillet of Beef, Roasted Corn Pudding, Carmelized Onion Jus and Creme Brulee. For registration info call 947-3828 or visit [www.therangerestaurant.com](http://www.therangerestaurant.com).

**DECEMBER 6**

Monday Club Christmas Luncheon, 11 a.m.

at the home of Katherine Tyson, 601 Baines Road. Members will meet 10:45 a.m. at the Methodist Church to car pool. Luncheon is free, but attendees are asked to bring a \$1 gift, as well as \$9 to be donated to the Salado Food Pantry. Program will be a "Music Surprise."

**DECEMBER 8**

Salado Lions Club Christmas luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at Mill Creek. Members are invited to bring their spouses. Dress is semi-casual. Musical program will be presented by the Belton High School Madrigals.

**DECEMBER 9**

Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 10 a.m. at the Halley House. All past presidents will be honored. Holiday treats will be served after a brief business meeting.

**DECEMBER 9**

Cooking Class at The Range taught by Chef Dave Hermann. Theme: "Casseroles." Instruction to include Warm Pear and Cranberry Crisp, Cornbread and Rajas Dressing, Chicken Pot Pie and New York City Style Sausage and Peppers. For registration info call 947-3828 or visit [www.therangerestaurant.com](http://www.therangerestaurant.com).

**DECEMBER 9-11**

Annual Coach Smith Memorial Tournament, featuring some of the finest boys and girls basketball teams in the area. Info: Salado High School, 947-5429.

**DECEMBER 10-11-12**

Second weekend of Annual Salado Christmas Stroll. For more information call the Salado Salado Chamber

of Commerce, 947-5040, or visit [www.salado.com](http://www.salado.com).

**DECEMBER 10-11**

A Christmas Carol, 7 p.m. at Tablerock Amphitheater. Tickets: adults \$5, children \$3. Sandwiches and drinks available beginning 6:30 p.m. For more information call 254-947-9205.

**DECEMBER 12**

St. Stephen's Women's Society Annual Christmas Dinner. Details TBA.

**DECEMBER 14**

Mill Creek Community Association Christmas Dinner at Mill Creek Restaurant. 6-7 p.m. happy hour. 7 p.m. dinner. Info: 947-3901.

**DECEMBER 16**

Salado Area Republican Women program, featuring installation of new officers and a program on the Christian Farms/Treehouse mission, presented by Jon Crosby, executive director of Christian Farms. 11:30 a.m. at Mill Creek. Reservations needed by Dec. 10. Call 947-3617 or email [bam002@earthlink.net](mailto:bam002@earthlink.net).

**DECEMBER 19**

Cooking Class at The Range taught by Chef Dave Hermann. Theme: "Cooking with Kiddos." Almond Lace Cookies, Pecan Pie, and Chocolate Mousse. Registration information call 947-3828 or [www.therangerestaurant.com](http://www.therangerestaurant.com).

**DECEMBER 20-JAN. 2**

Salado schools adjourned for Christmas break.

**DECEMBER 24**

Salado Village Voice office closes at Noon.

**DECEMBER 31**

Special New Year's Eve celebration at Salado Silver Spur

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**JANUARY 10**

**St. Stephen's Women's Society meeting,** Melissa Crawford presenting "Biblical Women of the Old and New Testaments," 6:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Parish Hall. Info: 947-3901.

**JANUARY 13**

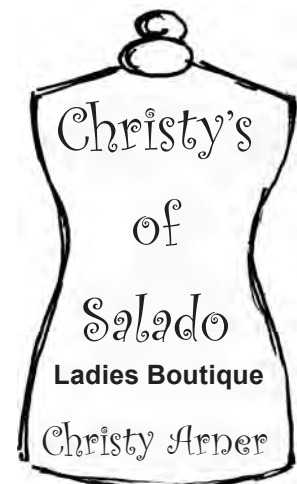
Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 10 a.m. at Salado Civic Center. Coffee served at 9:30 a.m. Stephanie Turnham, Director of the Bell County Museum in Belton, will be the featured speaker. Turnham, director of the Museum since 1994, is a life long Texan. She will talk about the Gault Site in Bell County, which is situated at the headwaters of Buttermilk Creek. The unique prehistoric archaeological site is Clovis, which refers to the oldest recognized cultures in the Americas, from a period of 11,500 years ago. Guests are invited to attend. Info: Carolyn Milliser, 947-0899.

**JANUARY 27**

**Meet your Bell County Officials dinner meeting of the Salado Area Republican Women.** 7 p.m. at Mill Creek Restaurant. Reservations: 947-3617 or bam002@earthlink.net.

**JANUARY 27**

**Salado Water Supply Corporation annual meeting,** 6:30 p.m. at Salado Civic Center. Agenda items include adoption of budget, report on improvements to water system and nomination and election of directors.



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**FEBRUARY 5**

**Music in Salado Concert Series: International Piano Duo performance,** featuring Krassimira Jordan and Wolfgang Watzinger. 7 p.m. Location TBA.

**FEBRUARY 5-6**

**Tablerock's Salado Legend's Auditions,** 3 p.m.-5 p.m. each day.

**FEBRUARY 14**

**St. Stephen Women's Society meeting,** Gwen Morrison speaking on "Celebration of Women, Conversation With God," 6:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Parish Hall. Info: 947-3901.

**MARCH 10**

**Central Texas Prose and Poetry Readings,** 7 p.m. at Tablerock Amphitheatre. Open mic at 9 p.m. Info: 254-947-9205, or www.allcentex.com/tablerock.

**MARCH 14**

**St. Stephen Women's Society meeting.** Program: "What We Are All About," by Scott Simmonds of Peacable Kingdom Retreat. 6:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Parish Hall.

**MARCH 18**

**10th Annual Denver Mills Golf Tournament to benefit Tablerock,** at Mill Creek Golf Course. \$60 entry fee. Shotgun start at 1 p.m. Directors: Bruno Matarazzo and David Apichino.

**MARCH 25-26-27**

**Easter Pageant at Tablerock Amphitheatre,** presented by the First Baptist Church of Salado. Free admission. Performance to begin at 8:15 p.m. Director: Randy Carder. Info: 254-947-5465 or www.fbcsalado.org.

**APRIL 2-3**

**Annual Salado Chamber of Commerce Wildflower Art Show.** Info: 947-5040.

**APRIL 9**

**Chisholm Trail Chapter of the American Business Women's Association Style Show,** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mill Creek Inn and Restaurant. Details TBA.

**APRIL 11**

**St. Stephen's Women's Society meeting.** Mark Klym will present the program "Attracting

Hummingbirds to Your Yard." 6:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Parish Hall.

**APRIL 23-24**

**Tablerock's 10th Annual Gospel Festival.** Featuring gospel singers, bands groups, trios, duets and solo artists and a church service. Food booths, drinks, gift booths and desserts of all kinds will also be included in the event. Tickets: adults \$5, children 12 and under \$3. Info: 254-947-5100 or 254-947-9205. Tablerock amphitheater is located on Royal St.

**MAY 14**

**10th annual Fourth Grade Play at Tablerock Amphitheatre.** Thomas Arnold Elementary students, under direction of playwright/author Jackie Mills, write, produce, crew and act in their own melodrama.

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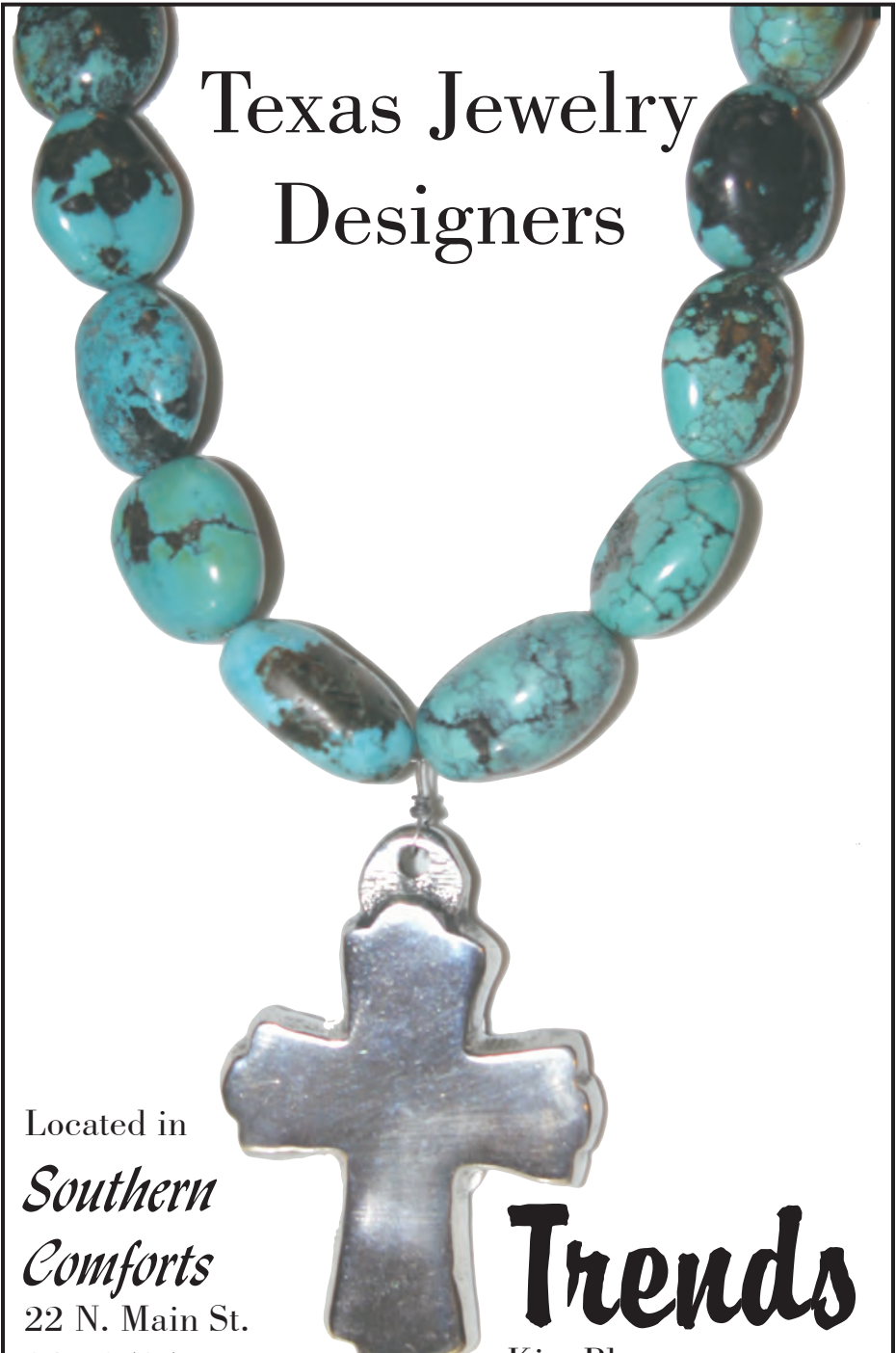
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# Monthly listing of regular meetings in Salado

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## Mondays

**Salado Community Chorus:** 5:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church, 105 Salado Plaza Dr.

**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 FFA Meeting:** First Monday of the month, 7 p.m. in the elementary school cafeteria.

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

**Salado Library District Board:** 4th Mon. at 5:30 p.m., at Salado Public Library Building.

**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. through May, 7 p.m. at Thomas Arnold Elementary.

**Exercise Class:** 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. every Monday. Class includes stretching, strengthening and Pilates. Bring a mat or blanket. Held at Salado Civic Center. Class is FREE to public. No class Memorial Day, May 31.

**Salado Democrats:** 6:30 p.m., first Monday of each month at the Civic Center.

**Salado Youth Fair Boosters:** Second Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at the elementary school library.

## Tuesdays

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

**Yoga Classes:** 6:45 p.m., Chisholm Trail Room, downstairs at Stagecoach Inn.

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

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

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

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

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

**Salado Poets and Story-**

**tellers Guild:** 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Salado Civic Center. Public is welcome.

## Wednesdays

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

**First Baptist Church of Salado:** Celebrate Recovery, Christian 12-step program, 6-7:30 p.m. Open to everyone dealing with personal hurts, habits or hang-ups. Info: 947-5465.

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

**Salado Presbyterian Church:** Friends meet second and fourth Wednesday, 10 a.m.-noon. All women welcome. Info: 947-5982.

**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., 5 p.m., at Civic Center.

**Scottish Country Dance Lessons:** 8-9:30 p.m. at the Scots Hall of the Clans. 947-0325

## Thursdays

**Salado Area Republican Women:** 4th Thursday of month. Times vary. Call 947-3617 or e-mail denisarw@vvm.com, for information.

## Village of Salado

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

**Chisholm Trail Chapter ABWA:** 1st Thurs. 6 p.m. at Stagecoach Inn. 947-0173.

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

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

**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 Business Association:** General meetings, 3rd Thursday 8:45 a.m. upstairs at the Civic Center.

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

**Salado Moms,** playgroup, contact: saladomoms@lantanatech.com.

## Saturdays

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

## Season of Light, Laser Holidays showing at Mayborn Planetarium

The Mayborn Planetarium and Space Theater will present two holiday shows, *Season of Light* and *Laser Holidays*, through Dec. 19.

*Laser Holidays* is a musical laser light celebration of the winter holiday season featuring orchestral, country, new age, and rock and roll music. Beloved and traditional holiday tunes such as Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" are presented with modern compositions such as "Christmas-time" by the Smashing Pumpkins. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 9 p.m. and Saturday afternoons at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under.

The planetarium sky show, *Season of Light*, looks at the reasons for the changing of seasons and at the seasonal celebrations observed by cultures, ancient and modern, from around the globe. From the Hopi Indians of the American Southwest to the ancient Romans and

their celebrated revival of the Sun, these traditions have their own origins in the appearance and relative motions of the Earth and celestial objects. Show times are Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

*In My Backyard*, is a special planetarium presentation for families with children seven and under. Children's entertainer Fred Penner leads a lighthearted exploration of things large and small, including an investigation of the night sky, the names of planets, the reasons for seasons, and shooting stars. *In My Backyard* plays Saturdays at 1 p.m.

Presentations of *Season of Light* and *In My Backyard* are followed by a live Star Talk, a guided tour of the current night sky using the Planetarium's Minolta star projector. Admission for planetarium shows is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under.

Also showing is the film *Amazing Journeys*.

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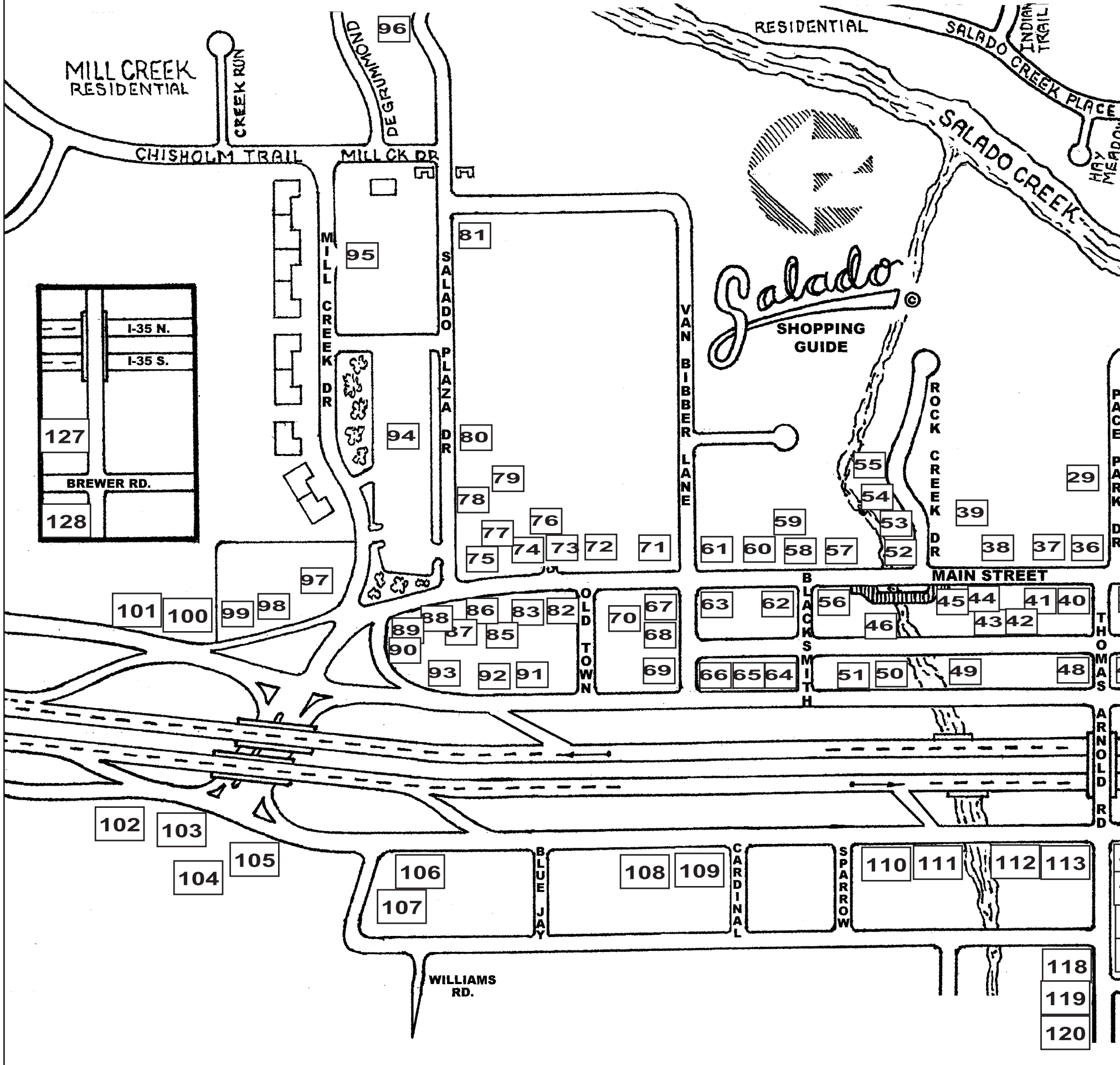


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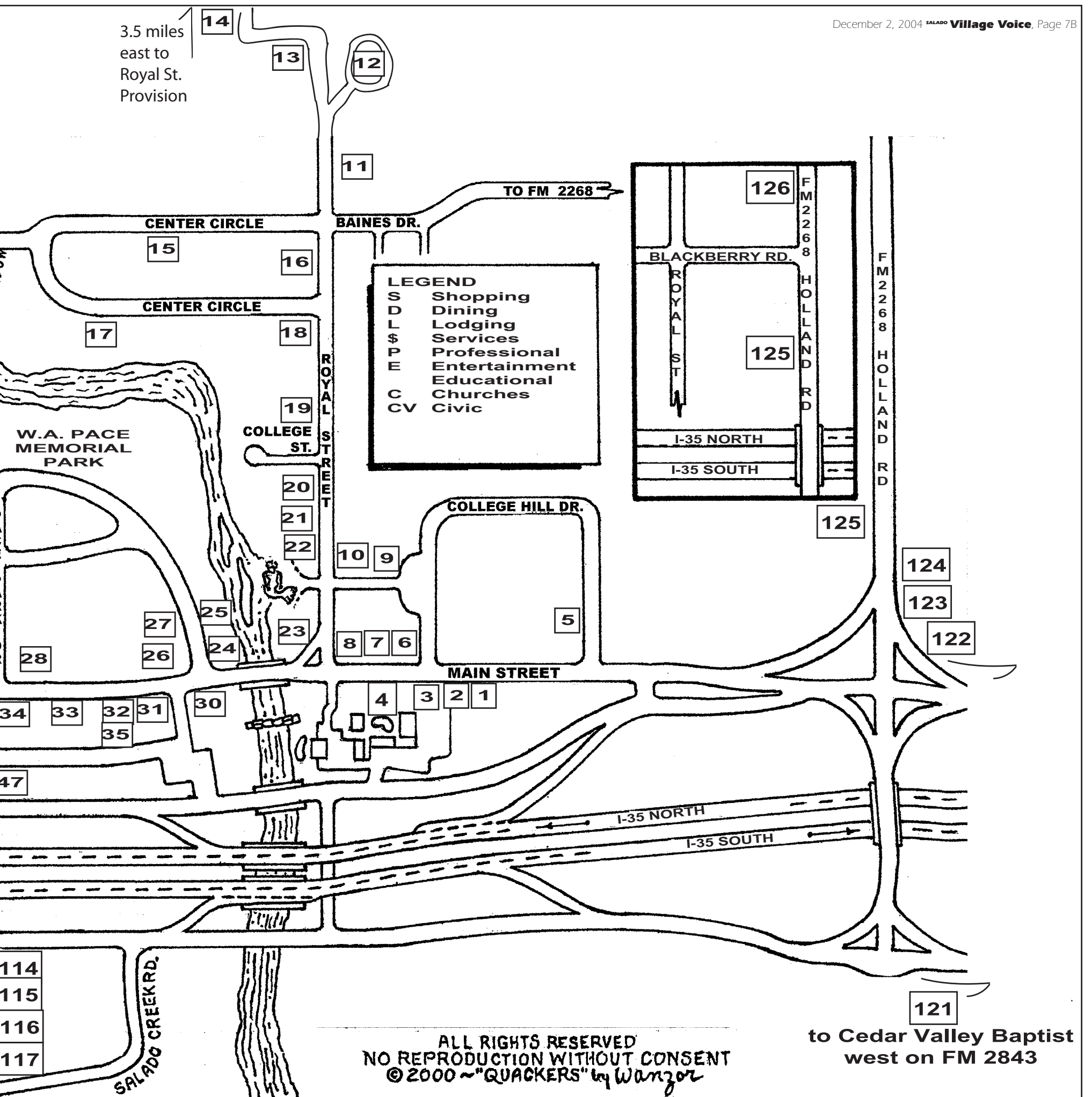
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1.	Wells Gallery	254/947-0311	S	24.	Accents of Salado	254/947-5908		44.	Salado Haus	254/947-1868	S
4.	Stagecoach Inn	254/947-5111	D,L	26.	<b>CREEKSIDE CENTER</b>			45.	Sweet Dreams	254/947-9200	S
5.	Stone Creek Settlements	254/947-9099	L		Prelop Fine Art Gallery	254/947-3930	S	46.	Wigglesworth Place Lodging	254/947-8846	L
		888/777-8844			Susan Marie's	254/947-5239	S	48.	Salado United Methodist Church	254/947-5482	C
6.	Central Texas Area Museum	254/947-5232	E	29.	Levi Tenney House B&B	254/947-1003	L	49.	Salado Printing	254/947-3590	\$
	Daughters of the Republic of Texas	254/947-5232	C	30.	First Baptist Church	254/947-5465	C	50.	Salado Fire Department	254/947-8961	CV
		254/947-5232		31.	Salado Mansion	254/947-5157	D	51.	Salado Church of Christ	254/947-5241	CV
7.	Salado Galleries	254/947-5110	S	32.	<b>THE VERANDA</b>						
8.	<b>SHADY VILLA</b>				First Texas Brokerage	254/947-5577	\$				
	Gregory's	254/947-5703	S	33.	First State Bank	254/947-5852	\$				
	Sweet Nut Things	254/947-8088	S	35.	Salado Masonic Lodge #296		CV				
9.	Peddler's Alley	254/947-9722	S	36.	Christy's of Salado	254/947-0561	S	53.	Splendors of Salado	254/947-3630	S
10.	The Dusty Rose	254/947-9215	S	37.	Inn at Salado	254/947-0027	L	54.	Charlotte's of Salado	254/947-0240	S
11.	Tablerock Amphitheatre	254/947-9205	E	38.	<b>SALADO SQUARE</b>			55.	Uniquely Europe	254-947-3222	S
12.	The Rose Mansion B&B	254/947-8200	L		Browning's Courtyard Cafe	254/947-8666	D				
14.	Royal Street Provision	254/947-3350	L		Carden's	254/947-0300	S				
	Country Inn				Classics on Main	254/947-3277	S	56.	<b>OLD CHURCH PLACE</b>		
15.	Friendship House B&B	254/947-3136	L		Linda Rountree Pritchard	254/947-4263	P		Heirlooms	254/947-0336	S
16.	The Baines House B&B	254/947-5260	L		Main Street Place	254/947-9908	S		The Front Row Emporium	254/947-5831	S
17.	Inn on the Creek B&B	254/947-5554	D,L		Magnolia's on the Square	254/947-0323	S	57.	<b>THE COLONY</b>		
18.	<b>ROYAL STREET COURTYARD</b>			39.	The Range at the Barton House	254/947-3828	D		Griffith's Fine Art	254/947-3177	S
	Botangles	254/947-4747	\$	40.	Family Dentistry	254/947-5242	P		Miller Fine Art	254/947-0771	S
	Creative Innovations	254/760-2620	\$		Dr. Douglas B. Willingham			59.	Watersong Massage	254/947-0042	P
21.	Springhouse Antiques	254-947-0747	S					60.	Skin Deep Clinic	254/947-3225	P
22.	Salado Silver Spur Theatre	254/947-3456	E					61.	<b>SALADO CIVIC SQUARE</b>		
23.	<b>ONE ROYAL</b>			42.	Mud Pies Pottery	254/947-0281	S		Properties by Larry Sands	254/947-5580	\$
	FSG Fine Jewelry	254/947-9447	S	43.	Southern Comforts	254/947-0595	S		Uncommon Grounds Cafe	254/947-3354	D
					Matters of the Heart		S	62.	Salty Creek Cafe	254/947-8550	D
					Trends		S	63.	Seasons of Salado	254/947-4769	S
							S	65.	The Village of Salado	254/947-5060	CV



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70. <b>STAGESTOP RETAIL CENTER</b>		82. <b>OLD TOWN SALADO</b>		115. Johnny's Steaks & B-B-Q	254/947-4663	D
Angelica Herbs	254/947-1909	Alice's	254/947-9000	118. Thomas Arnold	254/947-5191	E
Holly Dunn Art Song Gallery	254/947-5247	B. Herd Gallery	254/947-HERD	119. Salado Intermediate	254/947-1700	E
The Sewing Basket	254/947-5423	Cathy's Boardwalk Cafe	254/947-8162	120. Salado High	254/947-5429	E
71. <b>SALADO CIVIC CENTER</b>		Miz Tillywigger's	254/947-0124	121. Cedar Valley Baptist Church	254/947-0148	C
Salado Civic Center	254/947-8300	MJ's Country Corner	254/947-8885	122. Eagle Rock Ranch	254/947-5369	\$
Chamber of Commerce	254/947-5040	Texan by Design	254/947-4479	Hidden Springs at Salado Creek		\$
Historical Society		83. Horsefeathers	254/947-3203	888/973-5263, ext. 294		
SISD Administration	254/947-5479	86. Remember This Antiques	254/947-0858	123. Wildfire Saddlery	254/947-8080	S
72. The Halley House	254/947-1000	87. Century 21 Bill Bartlett Real Estate		124. St. Stephen Catholic Church	254/947-8037	C
73. <b>CARRIAGE PLACE SQUARE</b>			254/947-5050	127. Grace Baptist Church of Salado	254/947-5917	C
Before & After	254/947-5814	88. The Personal Wealth Coach		128. Janelle's	254/947-3584	S
Pretty Nails	254/947-8850	94. <b>SALADO PLAZA</b>		Not shown on map		
74. Etrulia's	254/947-0504	Salado Village Voice	254/947-5321	The Event Center at Tenroc Ranch		
Merle Norman Cosmetics	254/947-9993	Express Video	254/947-0045	2 miles west of I-35 on Thomas Arnold Rd.		
76. ArchAngel Antique Gallery	254/947-5933	Edward D. Jones	254/947-5128	254/947-9274	\$	
77. St. Luke's Episcopal		Old Mill Pizza	254/947-0700	Toodles (150 W. Amity Rd.)	254/947-5977	S
78. Three Dogs or a Quilt	254-947-9070	Salado Chiropractic	254/947-BACK			
79. Presbyterian Church of Salado	254/947-8106	Salado Eye Care	254/947-LENS			
81. Salado Sawmill	254/947-0137	Village Pharmacy	254/947-3185			
The Timbers at Salado Sawmill	254/947-0137	96. Mill Creek Golf & Country Club	254/947-5144			
		97. Salado Public Library	254/947-9191			
		98. Salado Cleaners	254/947-7299			
		100. Village Realty	254/947-0342			
		102. Robertson's Hams and The Choppin' Block	254/947-5562			
		104. Fairway Golf Carts	254/947-4065			
		111. Super 8 Motel	254/947-5000			

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Composer Schifrin
  - 5 Nom de crime?
  - 10 Theatrical Joseph
  - 14 Exclude
  - 19 Way off base?
  - 20 Mete out the mine-strone
  - 21 "God's Little —" ('58 film)
  - 22 Lose one's tail?
  - 23 English talk-show host
  - 25 "The Alamo" actor
  - 27 Kitchen utensil
  - 28 Arboreal animal
  - 30 Jai —
  - 31 Trombonist Winding
  - 32 Took a shot at
  - 34 Salve
  - 37 Chinese principle
  - 38 Fit for farming
  - 42 "Ligeia" author
  - 43 Conductor Jeffrey
  - 45 Thurman of "Final Analysis"
  - 48 Southern staple
  - 50 PC key
  - 52 Make wine divine
  - 55 Drives and drives?
  - 58 '87 Warren Beatty film
  - 60 Word game
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  - 46 Bovine bellow
  - 47 "Wozzeck" composer
  - 49 Chihuahua or Tabasco
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## Homes Tour, continued from Page 1B

which Denman and his wife Doris lived for many years.

When they sold the Barton House (now The Range restaurant), they donated the cabin to the Historical Society. The building was moved without any dissembling, except the chimney, to become a neighbor to the Boles-Aiken cabin. With the chimney restored, it was furnished with primitive antiques provided by the Denmans.

Both cabins, two other public buildings - the Salado Silver Spur Theater, recycled from an old granary, and St. Joseph's Chapel (Episcopal) - and six private homes will be open 5-8 p.m. Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 4 and 1-5 p.m. Dec. 5. The theater will be open to tourists only on the morning of Dec. 4, as performances will be held in the afternoons and evenings.

Tickets, priced at \$15, are available at Charlotte's of Salado, Salado Galleries, Horsefeathers and the Salado Civic Center. Tickets may also be purchased from the homes during the tour.

Private homes on the tour include Tim and Lynda Brown at 757 McKay Lane; Pete and Trish Stebbins', 1206 Ambrose; Corrine Kerr's, 409 Home Place Lane; Vic and Peggy Means', 305 N. Main; Robbie and Marilyn Griffin, 3700 Chisholm Trail; and David and Cheryl Paney's, 2907 Chisholm Trail.

The tour trail will be marked and maps are printed on the tickets.



No holiday event is complete without an appearance by the jolly old man himself. During the first weekend of Salado's annual Christmas Stroll (Dec. 3-5), both Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on hand for photo opportunities and general spreading of holiday cheer.

The Claus's will be decked out in 19th century-style clothing for the trip and encourage kids of all ages to come enjoy an old time Christmas tradition.

The couple will be seen at the south end of Main St. in front of the log cabin next to the Stagecoach Restaurant, compliments of Garden Spirits.




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# Poinsettia's brighten the season

## Master Gardener

by Candace Mullen

By now, I am sure that all of us are thinking of Christmas and the holiday season sneaking up on us. Some of the decorations are already up around town and perhaps the day after Thanksgiving is the traditional day for you to decorate your own house. One of the traditional holiday decorating plants is the poinsettia. Most of us are familiar with their colorful leaves and abundance during this season.

The poinsettia has a long and colorful history. During the 14th-16th centuries the sap was used to control fevers, and the bracts (modified leaves) were used to make a reddish dye by the Aztecs. They called the plant "Cuetlaxochitl," and Montezuma, the last of the Aztec kings, would have the plants brought into the area now known as Mexico City by caravans because the poinsettia could not be grown in the

high altitude. Much like the semi trucks of today bringing loads of them everywhere across the US. Chile and Peru call the poinsettia "Crown of the Andes."

Joel Roberts Poinsett was the first US Ambassador to Mexico and was appointed by Andrew Jackson in the 1820's. Poinsett had a great interest in botany, and while in Mexico he introduced the American Elm to that country. He also wandered the Mexican countryside looking for new plant species. In 1828 he found a beautiful shrub with large red flowers growing next to a road. He took cuttings and brought them back to his South Carolina greenhouse. Although his political career was outstanding, he will always

be remembered for introducing the poinsettia into the US.

The botanical name, *Euphorbia Pulcherrima*, was assigned to the poinsettia by German botanist, Wilenow. It means "very beautiful." As the plant grew more popular, William Prescott, a historian and horticulturist, was asked to give *Euphorbia* a new name. He had just written a book, *The Conquest of Mexico*, in which he had detailed Joel Poinsett's discovery of the plant. So Prescott named the plant the poinsettia in honor of Poinsett's discovery.

In the early 1900's the Ecke family of Southern California started growing poinsettias outdoors for use as landscape plants and as a cut flower. Eventually they switched to greenhouses and today are recognized as the leading producer of poinsettias in the US.

Did you know that in nature the poinsettias are a perennial flowering shrub that can grow to ten feet tall? The showy colorful part of the poinsettia that most people think are the flowers are actually

colored bracts or modified leaves. The flowers or cyathia are actually in the center of the colorful bracts! Poinsettias have also been called the lobster flower, the flame leaf flower and "Flower of the Holy Night." They are NOT poisonous. A fresh poinsettia, one that will last the longest during the season, has little or no yellow pollen showing on the flower cluster in the center.

December 12 is National Poinsettia Day, and the plant represents over 85 percent of the potted plant sales during the holiday season! Ninety percent of all the flowering poinsettias in the world got their start at the Paul Ecke Ranch. There are over 100 varieties of poinsettias available! Sixty million pots of them were grown in 1997, and the number of blooms determines the cost of a poinsettia.

So how do we select a poinsettia to take home and enjoy during the season? Choose a plant with dark green foliage down to the soil line; bracts should be completely colored; it should be two-and-a-half times taller than the diameter of the container; and the plant should look full, balanced, and attractive from all sides. Do NOT choose one with yellow, fallen leaves; one drooping or wilted, and one that has a great deal of yellow pollen. If you choose carefully, you may enjoy the colorful display for weeks and perhaps months!

We traditionally look for the red or white or pink poinsettias, but the many new colors that have been developed are quite beautiful. They come in some unexpected colors—coral pink, plum, cream, marbled, two tones, speckled, or frosted! Here are a few to look for and admire. A speckled choice is "Jingle Bells," marbled "Peterstar Marble," edged in ivory, "Strawberries 'n Cream," or frosted "Monet." Or perhaps a rounded flower shape with bracts that curl under called "Winter Rose," is more your choice as well as "Holly Point" which has variegated leaves. Or how about choosing a miniature variety known as Mini Star?

You also don't have to keep them in the pots. Consider cutting the stem and using the florist's flower-picks so they can be placed in various decorations throughout the house. The Poinsettia is a wonderful, traditional way to brighten up the season and enjoy growing plants all winter. Have a wonderful holiday, and enjoy your Poinsettia!



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# Verses from the Rio Grande

I met one of the most interesting and talented couples I've ever interviewed near Brownsville. Jose and Rosa Perez are both ex-teachers who have turned their attention to preserving classic Mexican music. They spend hours each week producing a thirty minute radio program for a public radio station. They don't get paid for doing the program. They just do it because they think it is important. They live on a resaca (a canal-type body of water found only in the valley) near Olmito. Their house reflects their interests. It is filled with books, art and a music studio where they produce their program. They both sing and play guitar. They also have an enormous collection of recorded Mexican music.

They recently have become involved in a writers group that meets on a regular basis in San Benito. Writers voluntarily read their works before the group, then listen to a discussion of it. The group recently produced a CD of their work. Each piece of writing is introduced with some music appropriate to the words. Jose wrote a poem about sounds he hears around his house during a single day.

"Before dawn, the sounds begin, little chirps and whistles and the far cry of tires on the distant highway. Across the resaca the chachalacas continue their traveling treetop serenade as they seek the perfect mate. I

## Tumbleweed Smith



walk out to greet the day, listening to the faint flutter of nighthawk wings as they chase another mosquito.

"Yellow hues of the rising sun fall on the cooing dove as fishtails splashing echo from the resaca waters. I watch and listen. The rebellious mocking bird defends with a chatter the bush with bright red chilis, as the daring kiscadee steals yet one more fiery morsel. And the green flashes of hummers skip over the knarled wild olive.

"Shimmering heat of a noonday sun blends with the cicada's drone, soothing the racket of grackles fighting over the last seed. I hear woodpeckers working their wood and larks calling as they flutter across the ground.

"Evening breeze rustles the leaves as a kingfisher screeches and dives, slapping the surface, flying out with a flurry of wings. The sound of life holds me in its arms. As the resaca sighs, I feel its breath.

"Soothing dark arrives with night. Crickets, moths and pale moonlight. The owls and paorakes send calls to balmy air; soft, soulful serenades as I drift into sleep.

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# Christmas Carol kicks off Dec. 3-4 for 12th Annual presentation

The cast and crew of Tablerock's 12th Annual presentation of *A Christmas Carol* number 58 men, women and children. Harry Sweet will direct Charles Dickens' Yuletide, all-time favorite at the Goodnight Amphitheater on Royal Street in Salado on Dec. 3-4 and Dec. 10-11.

Sweet has directed "Carol" for the past nine years. He is a Professor of Ethics at UMHB. Sweet has served on the Temple Civic Theater Board and has played many roles on the Temple stage. His one man show "Henry the VIII, His Wives and Times," is in popular demand at colleges and stages throughout Texas. He is a member of the Tablerock Board of Directors.

Charlie Voelter will once again grace the Tablerock stage with his wonderful portrayal of Ebenezer Scrooge. Voelter limits his appearances on stage to his favorite character, Scrooge. He did, however, consent to play the role of Mr. Levi Tenney in Salado Legends this past season.

Donnie Williams, of Salado, will star in the role of Bob Cratchit. Williams and his family have been a



Chuck Clark, Sr. as Old Joe in "A Christmas Carol."

part of the "Carol" family for the past eight years. He is the Talented and Gifted Facilitator/Advanced Placement Coordinator at Ellison High in Killeen.

Each year the cast and crew of *A Christmas Carol* mixes new actors and veteran actors. Husband and wife Denver Mills, sets, and Jackie Mills, producer, have been members of the crew from the inception of Tablerock's *A Christmas Carol* 12 years ago.

Performances will begin

at 7 p.m. each evening on Dec. 3-4, and Dec. 10-11 at Tablerock's Goodnight Amphitheater located on Royal Street in Salado.

Tickets are available at the gate; \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under and all students.

The concession stand opens at 6:30 p.m. for sandwiches, cold and hot drinks, chips, and candy. For information or seat reservations for large groups call Tablerock at 254-947-9205.

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**MARY KAY - Complimentary facial.** Visit [www.marykay.com/](http://www.marykay.com/) AnneMarieHarwell. (254) 947-3159. tfnb

**Yard Maintenance:** Mow, weed eat, trim. 721-4699 Popeye or 913-4692 Herbie. tfnb

**Bernie's Home Maintenance,** 25 yrs experience. Electrical, plumbing, carpentry, install ceiling fans, doors, etc. (254) 760-7608. tfnb

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

**Lemus Lawn care** residential, commercial, mowing, edging, trimming, Ruben J. Lemus owner and operator Free estimates 947-0865 or 760-8424 tfnb

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

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

**Fencing- Residential, Commercial,** Repairs, wooden chain-link, picket. Whitt Fencing 254-947-8432 512-748-8511 Call anytime. Free estimates. tfnb

**Bookkeeping in my home.** Quick books, payroll, data entry, reports etc. References 947-7129 tfnb

**Home Repairs, Remodels,** Painting, Minor Welding, Star-Art 254-947-7161 12/16p

**Need last minute home improvements?** SA Home Repairs 20 years experienced. Local references provided 721-7270 12/2p

**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. Move outs. References. Call 254-947-8533 Salado tfnb



**Stow Away Storage** Household -Commercial 10X10 - 10x20-22x40 Clean, lighted, fenced, Key punch entry 24 hours. 947-5502 or 721-1807 Paul Sanford - Owner tfnb

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



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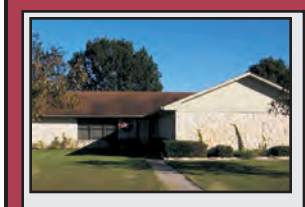
**Country home on half-acre** of beautiful trees. Metal roof, storage building, wood burning fireplace, large utility room with lots of storage! 3BR/2BA \$110,000



Unique home located near Lake Belton. Gorgeous architectural details. Separate finished shop. Soaring ceilings, two living, Italian tile floors and counters, up-stairs loft and bonus room, office, plank flooring, custom built-ins, play yard, surround sound...just a few of the bells and whistles! 3BR 2 1/2 BA \$249,000



On the golf course! Great room living area is open with fireplace and tile. Granite kitchen countertops; breakfast nook, formal dining room with hardwood floors. Fully landscaped; sprinkler system; decorator colors; and custom shutters are a plus! 4BR 2-1/2 BA \$269,900



Yes, you can afford Mill Creek! Updated Austin stone home on large corner lot. Huge fenced backyard with two patios. Two living areas and two dining areas. Separate utility room. Attached two car garage. 3BR/2BA. \$146,000.



Austin stone home with metal roof! Small quiet neighborhood hosts this manicured home just minutes from Salado shopping and lake. Vaulted ceiling in LR; tile and designer colors throughout. Covered porch. 3BR 2BA \$117,900



Salado Beauty! Beautifully landscaped on over 1/2 acre lot. Large trees frame this lovely home. Custom crown moulding, shutters and valances. Spacious master bedroom bath with whirlpool-style tub. Country kitchen has island. Separate finished brick building. 4 BR/2BA. 2001 Parade of Homes. \$259,900.

- Salado: 10 acres. Trees, great home site. \$75,000.
- Salado: Mill Creek lot. \$33,500.
- Close to Lake Belton: In Morgan's Point. 3 BR/2 BA house with open floor plan and raised ceiling. Attached garage and great deck. Deer galore! \$93,000.
- Austin stone ranch-style home under construction on 15 acres, 4BR/2BA, pick your colors now....\$244,900
- One-half acre lot in Salado Springs, \$16,000.
- Prestigious building site on 10 acres, Bell Meadows, Holland ISD, \$85,000.

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## Properties By Larry Sands

### "Our Star Properties This Week"



**Victorian Style in Mill Creek**  
This Fall, enjoy the lovely covered front and back porches that this cute home has to offer. The landscaping and huge trees are a real amenity as well. APriced at \$195,000, this home won't last long. Call Today!



**OWN A PIECE OF SALADO'S HISTORY!!** The "Josiah Fowler" house, built in 1872, with its Federal-style architecture can NOW be yours! Also, has a 1 bedroom, 1 bath guest house and a New-England style barn w/walk-in fireplace!! This is a prime property for a B&B, Tea Room, Restaurant, or fantastic Antique shop!! Call TODAY for more information.

**P.B. Properties By Larry Sands**  
(254) 947-5580

For more information on these or more of our STAR properties, please call us or visit our web site.  
[www.saladoproperties.com](http://www.saladoproperties.com)

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Classified ads cost \$5 for the first 15 words and 20 cents for each word that follows.  
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Ad \_\_\_\_\_  
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Mail to: Salado Village Voice PO Box 587 Salado TX 76571

### Pets & Livestock



**Yorkie Puppies, baby doll face, unusually tiny, gold and blue.** Rita Oden 718-7956.

**Puppies for sale** Just in time for Christmas!! 1/2 Yellow Lab, 1/2 Golden Retriever. Call 947-5302 12/9p

### Garage & Yard Sales



### Employment



**Part-time help needed.** Sales experience required. Must work some weekends and holidays. Apply in person at Heirlooms in Salado.  
tfnb

### For Sale



**Wilson Jr. Golf set- driver, 5,7,9 and putter with bag \$65 call 254-947-8556 12/2p**

**For sale: 45 piece Nikko Christmas dishes.** \$100 947-3619 12/9p

**Part-time retail assistant needed** by Salado's most unique antique gallery. Experience, sales ability, knowledge of antiques a must. Management experience a plus. Some weekends. Pay negotiable. send resume' to Arch Angel Gallery Box 916.

tfnb

**Make up to \$2,000 in 13 days.** Looking for enthusiastic adult to manage a fireworks stand outside Salado Dec. 19 through Jan. 1 No investment required. Phone 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. for more information. 210-622-3788 or 1-800-364-0136 12/9p

### Homes For Sale



**Located facing Hole 5 Creek 2 of Mill Creek** is this beautiful 3/2. Features include hardwood flooring and formal dining. Enjoy outdoor entertaining at the stone fireplace just off the covered patio. \$214,000 Call First Texas Brokerage (254) 947-5577.

**Large oak trees surround this lovely southern style home** on approximately 3 acres. Separate building large water-driven paddle wheel can be office or guest house. Enjoy quiet country living in this comfortable home. \$333,000, Call Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050 tfnf




**1313 Stagecoach Salado, TX 76571**  
Mobile: 254/624-4070  
Office: 254/947-0342

**Peggy M. Bush Realtor**  
PeggyMBush@hotmail.com  
www.templesource/VillageRealty

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**Price Reduced!!** A message of attainment enhances this gorgeous brick traditional style home on country setting. Space aplenty. Covered patio includes hot tub. \$295,000. Call First Texas Brokerage, (254) 947-5577

**Call Marilyn at 254-947-5321 for more information about display advertising.**

### Country Place Apartments

1 bedrooms starting at \$450  
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**Absolutely beautiful Immaculate home** located in very desirable area in Salado. Beautiful wooded lot. Circular drive adds beauty to this custom home. Many extras 2 a/c units, water softener & charcoal filter, Full RV hook up & pad, security system, phone & TV connections in study and all three bedrooms, lights under kitchen cabinets and trash compactor. \$219,000 Call Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050 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, lake view home sites. Salado schools. Call C-21 Bill Bartlett 254-947-5050 tfn

**30, 50 or 100 acres,** 6 mi. S. of Salado. Beautiful land, well located, owner finance. Some restrictions. Salado Schools. Call Bill at Century 21-Bill Bartlett, (254) 947-5050 or 800-352-1183. tfnb

**140 acres Hill Rd.** & I-35, 5 miles south of Salado all or part. Call Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050

**30108 Twin Creek Drive/ Equestrian Community/** 3.17 acres/Gorgeous Custom; 3/2.5/2; \$330,000; Call Pam (512)751-6211 ERA Colonial tfnb

**For sale by owner.** Mill Creek newly remodeled ranch, \$154,500. 3Bdrm, 1 & 1/2 baths, 2 car garage. Approx. 1830 sq. ft. Large lot with mature trees. (Owner financing available with 0-closing costs & minimum down payment, plus one year warranty). 717 Whispering Oaks, call: 947-5779 for an appointment. 12/2b

**Lovely building site on acreage** in Hidden Springs on live creek Call Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050

**448 ft. of Salado Creek front property.** Heavily wooded, on a cul-de-sac. 3.87 acres, Lot #81 Hidden Springs, 512- 869-9999 1/2705p

**For Sale 6.04 acres of Salado creekfront property.** Wooded with beautiful building site. \$249,000 Call 254-947-9225 leave message 12/23b

**For Sale by Owner, Hidden Springs, 3.27 acres.** Only \$41,500 Lot #326 254-541-5449 or 512-285-2563 tfnb

**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



**1710 Old Mill Road, Unit 11 (Salado) Offered at \$182,000**

**by Casablanca Realty, Joe Luna**

This beautiful condo features 2 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms, 2 dining rooms, 2 living rooms and an enclosed sunroom with a relaxing view of the 5th hole of the Mill Creek Golf Course. Approx. 2810 sq. ft. Offered at \$182,000. Seller will pay 3% Buyers Agent Commission. **Call Joe Luna, Broker, Casablanca Realty, at 512-635-9553 or 1-800-692-6856 for information.**



**Call Rita. Class dismissed.**



Rita Oden, Realtor Salado Specialist since 1992 Century 21 Bill Bartlett 254/718-7956

**Featured Homes at GoToni.com** Toni Hedstrom ERA Colonial Real Estate REALTOR, ePRO 254-702-4209

**9770 Hodge Canyon MLS#62807** **PRICE REDUCED!!** Settle into this wonderful Salado home this winter. Custom built with unique TX flair! 3 LVG and 2 MBR with over 3,500 sq. ft. on over 4 treed acres. \$319,000.

**6515 FM 1123 PARADISE FOUND!!** 26+ Gorgeous acres surround this 3,360 sq. ft. ranch in SE Belton w/ 6-stall horse barn, semi-trailer barn, office building with separate utilities, lighted arena, and MORE. \$495,000

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- Now building on Mill Creek Golf Course and soon to come ... Heritage Addition.

**Definitively Salado**

**Price Reduced** Historic Salado at its best! Genuine 1870s home with log barn and carriage house. Wood floors, transom doorways, high ceilings, fireplaces in parlor, bedroom, dining room. 3 BR/2 BA, located in Victorian Oaks. Now \$369,000

Currently the Home of Wigglesworth Place Vintage Oak trees just beside Salado's historic "green bridge", a **UNDER CONTRACT** most fantastic dream come true. Street to trees on Main and Church, Two darling cottages perfectly suited for guests. Approximately .69 acre with 130' on Main Street. \$319,000.

**SOLD** Oak Park Lane In quiet Salado, less than a mile to I-35 for convenience. One level, original owner. Native limestone. Updates: kitchen countertops, appliances, beautiful wood flooring! 3 BR/2 BA. Price Reduced \$99,500

Royal View Looking for the perfect setting to build your new Salado Home! HERE IT IS! Just up the hill from Main Street, in one of the village's most elite neighborhoods, surrounded by other FINE homes over of a very few remaining lots. Approximately 7/10 of an acre with well-placed trees. Min 2200 SF heated area home to be

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## Gidley Construction

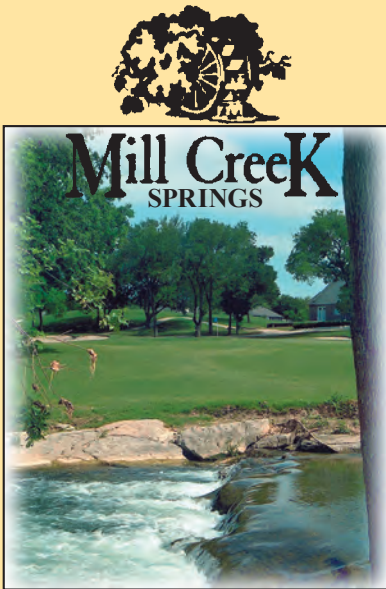
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Block 1	Block 2	Lot 8	GC	Price
Lot 1 Sold	Only 7 Golf Course Lots left. Hilltop views.	Lot 9	GC	\$35,000
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Lot 3 \$35,000	Lot 1 GC \$45,000	Lot 11	GC	\$40,000
Lot 4 \$35,000	Lot 2 GC SOLD	Lot 12	GC	SOLD
Lot 5 \$35,000	Lot 3 GC SOLD	Lot 13	GC	\$55,000
Lot 6 \$35,000	Lot 4 GC \$42,000	Lot 14	Hilltop	SOLD
Lot 7 \$35,000	Lot 5 GC \$48,000	Lot 15	Hilltop	SOLD
Lot 8 \$35,000	Lot 6 GC \$48,000	Lot 16	Hilltop	\$55,000
Lot 9 \$35,000	Lot 7 GC SOLD	Lot 17	Hilltop	SOLD
Lot 10 SOLD				

Mill Creek Springs, the latest addition to the Mill Creek Golf Course community. Our uncrowded golf course community features wide clear creeks, rolling hills, breathtaking views and stately oaks as well as an award winning 27 hole golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones, II. Half acre and larger homesites featuring comprehensive deed restrictions and underground utilities are ready for your custom home. You can also choose from the inventory of homes by our participating builders.



Make an appointment today to tour Mill Creek Springs. Call Rita Oden at Century 21 Bill Bartlett: 254-947-5050 or 254-718-7956 E-mail [Rita@C21BB.com](mailto:Rita@C21BB.com)

### Commercial Rental



Prime office space available now for your Office address in Salado Civic Square at the corner of North Main and Van Bibber Lane. 1,000 sq ft. Lovely office with reception, conference room, large computer work area or secretary area, private bath, large filing room and coffee bar with sink. Prestigious wood floors & crown molding. \$900/mth. Call Properties By Larry Sands 947-5580 or 913-5467. 12/30b

Artist studio/residence/ or office: beautiful space with approximately 2,000 sq. ft. plus loft. Lots of light, great combination of living, working and displaying space. Call (254) 947-5575. tfnb

Salado- Main St. retail outdoor space available plus Glass House nearly 100 sq. ft., Total space garden area over 3,500 sq. ft. Call 947-9200 tfnb

Retail space for lease in new emporium on Main Street. Front Row. 947-5831 tfnb

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Run a business card for \$10 a week, just \$260 for six months of the Salado market area. Call 254-947-5321

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Charming duplex, recently built in Salado, garage, tile/carpet floors, w/d connections, 2 BR, 2 BA \$725 mo. Call Mary Kite, Village Realty 718-2484 tfnf

Stillhouse Lake Rentals, You'll find the perfect place to call your home. Walking distance from Stillhouse Lake at Union Grove Park, Charming Lake Cottages, Ideal location for the bass fisherman, enjoy the serenity of country living, two bedroom homes now available. Professional maintenance provided, fireplace, patio, clothes care center, lawn care provided. Call now and ask about our rent special! (254) 634-0491. TFNB

For Rent - 1BR/1BA completely furnished cottage with water, cable, and yard work included. \$750/month plus \$400 deposit. Now available! No pets. (254) 947-7145. TFNB

Artist studio/residence: beautiful space with approximately 2,000 sq. ft. plus loft. Lots of light, great combination of living, working and displaying space. Call (254) 947-5575. tfnb

For Lease Royal Street Duplex 2 Bedroom 2 Bath, 1100 sq. ft. No pets/no smoking. \$700 per mo. \$400 desposit. 254-913-1545 tfnb

Large 2 BR apartment in quiet country setting near Stillhouse. Lake Water/ trash paid. \$600 per month. Call Kathy 254-721-0128 tfnb

Mill Creek Dr. 2 BR 2 BA, 1 car garage, spacious Townhome for rent \$795 W/D inside, 6 closets, vaulted ceiling, ceiling fans, covered front porch with rocker, Large yard, lawn care provided. Walk to grocery, shops. 254-338-5083 tfnb

Duplex, 2 BR 2 BA 1 car garage W/D hookups. water and lawn maintenance provided \$400 deposit, 1 year lease. Professional couple or single. Phone 947-8062 Leave message 12/23p

Riverfront, bluff top, on 24+ acres. Beautiful, stone fireplace, hardwood floors, Great location. Ideal for artist, writer, etc-very inspirational. Premium TV and utilities paid. \$1075. Nonsmoking. (254) 933-1234 12/9b

For Lease in Belton: 1800 sf of warehouse/office, Water, electric, phone, fenced lot. 1 mile east of I35 on Loop 121. \$600 per month. 254-939-2966 tfnb

Unfurnished country home for rent. Central air & heat. Salado area. No indoor pets, Fenced back yard. 947-5502 or 721-1807 12/2b

Deadline for classified placement is noon Monday. Deadline for display ad changes is Friday noon

Midnight is a 9-year-old neutered male who went blind three years ago. The owners brought him into Salado Veterinary Hospital to have him put to sleep because they did not have a fenced yard. The staff decided to keep him, but they would like to find a home for him. He has a very good temperament, and is updated on all shots. He currently takes Rimadyl or Derramax for arthritis. He can be indoors or outdoors in a fenced yard where he can get plenty of exercise. If you are interested in adopting or fostering Midnight, please contact the Salado Veterinary Hospital at 254-947-8058. For tips on caring for blind dogs, visit [www.blinddogs.com](http://www.blinddogs.com) The Salado Humane Society plans to have Midnight attend the Christmas Stroll this weekend.

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- \$124,900: Showplace 3 BR/2 BA home in Temple.
- \$153,500 - Cabin-style doublewide with deck on 13+ acres.
- \$159,800 - 4 BR, 2.5 BA, handyman's dream.
- \$160,500 - Remodeled 4 BR home on 2.995 acres. UC
- \$168,000 - Great buy in Mill Creek. Garden room, jacuzzi.
- \$169,000 - Facing golf course & creek. Gameroom.
- \$173,800 - 4 BR home with family-friendly floorplan.
- \$174,800 - Unique kitchen design in this new home.
- \$175,800 - 3 BR, 2 BA Austin stone with brick accents.
- \$189,000 - 2 story home on 21 acres of rolling hills. Sold
- \$209,800 - Custom detailed home w/ 2-story building.
- \$219,000 - Custom house with many extras. RV hook-up.
- \$219,000 - 3 BR, 2.5 BA across from Salado Creek.
- \$219,900 - Home on 14th fairway. Handicap equipped.
- \$219,900 - 4 BR home with in-ground pool, convenient to I35
- \$222,000 - 2.5 acres in Woods of Salado, 3 BR and bonus.
- \$239,500 - 3 BR overlooking Salado Creek & #13 Green.
- \$249,500 - Secluded country home with storage & barn.
- \$269,000 - Spacious 4 BR home on 9.48 acres in Holland.
- \$269,900 - 4 BR, 5 wooded acres, boat/rv storage, barn. UC
- \$279,900 - Under construction, 4th BR could be study.
- \$299,500: View creek & golf course from this 4BR/3BA home.
- \$299,500 - 4 BR home overlooking Mill Creek #4 hole.
- \$299,921 - Cozy yet elegant 4 BR home in Royal Oaks.
- \$325,000 - Hilltop view from deck of 3 BR home on 23 acres.
- \$327,500 - 4 BR overlooking 3rd fairway in Mill Creek.
- \$329,000 - 4,000 SF home on 2 acres in Woods of Salado.
- \$333,000 - Southern style home on 3 acres.
- \$715,000 - 5 BR, 4-1/2 BA home by golf course. Media Room.

### Acreage Available

- 439 acres on FM 487, Florence. Oaks, lush grasslands.
- 140 acres on Hill Rd. and I-35, 5 miles S. Salado, all or part
- 33 acres very near Salado, huge oaks, well priced. UC
- 17.85 acre ranchette on FM 2484. \$120,000
- 20 to 363 acres 6 mile S. Salado, Lovely view, owner finance.

### Lots

#### Mill Creek Lots

- Mill Creek Dr. - \$69,750
  - 700 Indian Trail. - \$30,000
  - Fletcher Ct. - \$64,000
  - Mill Creek Springs I & III - \$30,000-70,000
  - Mill Creek Springs IV
  - Club Circle \$50,000
  - 1218 Ambrose - \$45,000
  - O.W. Lowery - \$70,000.
- Golf course & hilltop view lots start at \$40,000  
Interior lots start at \$25,000  
The Overlook, estate-sized lots start at \$79,000.

#### Woods of Salado Lots

- Mountain Dr. - 5A- \$35,000. 5B - \$35,000. 6A - \$35,000.

#### Other Lots

- Windy Hill Ranch - 2 acre lots - \$55,000 to \$90,000
- Heritage - 1 to 3 acre wooded, near Salado. Restricted.
- Hidden Springs, Lot 78, Live creek. Lot 119
- Great Oaks, 2.374 acres, \$48,900; 1.692 ac. \$49,200.

### Commercial

- \$429,000 - 5.66 acres commercial property off Main St.
- \$395,000 - 7.65 acres N of Salado w/ office, bldgs. storage.
- \$75,000 - Mini-storage buildings on 2 acres, Holland.



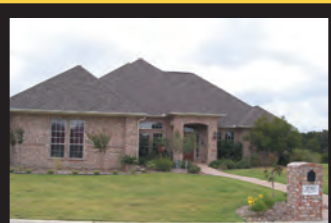
**\$329,000: Room to roam! Over 4,000 SF home on beautiful 2 acre wooded lot in Woods of Salado. Three living areas and game room make home wonderful for entertaining. Large, open kitchen. Master bedroom downstairs and two bedrooms and living area upstairs.**



**\$219,000: Located on a beautiful street in Mill Creek, directly across from Salado Creek and golf course. The large kitchen opens into the formal dining and den. The formal living area in the rear of the home is accessible through the den or glass doors which open onto a covered porch. The backyard is large enough for a garden. 3 BR/2.5 BA, study.**



**\$299,921: Located in beautiful Royal Oaks, this 4 BR home is cozy, yet elegant. Great space for a family to live, play and enjoy life. Near downtown Salado for convenience.**



**\$327,500: Overlook the 3rd fairway in Mill Creek through a large plate glass window. Relax on the covered back porch. Features include stainless steel appliances, marble counters, tile, irrigation, jetted tub in MBA.**



**\$174,800: Unique kitchen design is roomy with large pantry and island. Master BR with window seat and TV niche. Formal dining plus breakfast room. Split bedrooms.**



**\$159,800: Handyman's dream! 4 BR/2.5 BA. Needs new carpet, paint and updating, but lots of house for the money.**

# Caps: This well device separates pollutants from drinking water



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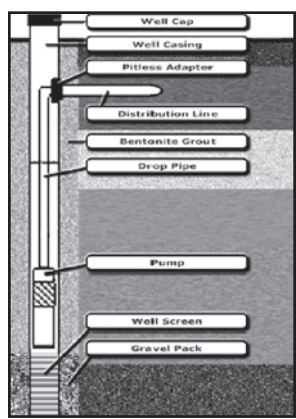
The cap covering a well may be a small part of the overall household water well system, but it is an extremely important one.

A properly installed well cap separates potential pollutants from your drinking water. The cap, which should be sealed tightly at all times, keeps out everything from liquid contaminants to bugs that can crawl inside a well and wreak havoc.

Following is more information about the well cap, a small device that can make a big difference in the water quality of your household water well system.

## WHAT IS A WELL CAP, AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

The well cap is the cover on top of the well casing that sticks out of the ground. It serves many purposes. Most caps,



Well diagram

which are usually aluminum or a thermoplastic, include a vented screen so that the pressure difference between the inside and outside of the well casing may be equalized when water is pumped from the well. However, the cap's main function is to keep contaminants out of the water supply.

## WHAT TYPE OF CONTAMINANTS DOES THE WELL CAP KEEP OUT OF THE WELL?

A properly sealed well cap protects against all types of contamination. It is the first line of protection against non-point source pollution, which constitutes the majority of ground water contamination. Non-point source pollution includes runoff of pesticides and herbicides, soil erosion, and

elements from the street.

Well caps also keep out insects, such as earwigs, which prefer a dark, damp environment to nest. Insects can cause major problems in a well. Bacteria levels can rise from their droppings, and sometimes the bugs themselves can get trapped in the wells, die, and decompose in the well water.

the well cap. If you landscape your yard, make sure there is not a low area near the well where rain water could collect. Rain water can carry pollutants that can seep into a well.

And when working with oil and gasoline, or mixing herbicides or pesticides, do so over concrete so spills can't seep into the ground.

## DOES THE WELL CAP MAKE MY WATER SAFE?

Surface water can encounter many types of pollutants and transport them. These are not always easily detected by taste or smell. A properly sealed well cap is a safeguard in preventing those contaminants from penetrating the household water supply.

Having your well tested is the surest way to determine that the water is safe. Even if your well cap fits tightly on your well and your water tastes fine, the water well system should be given a checkup by a contractor every year.

## IS IT OK TO COVER THE WELL CAP?

If you don't like the look of the exposed casing and well cap sticking out of the lawn, you can camouflage it. There are companies that manufacture plastic covers designed to look like landscaping boulders. Often called "mock rocks," the products are lightweight, hollow, and durable to the elements. The covers, which come in a variety of sizes and shapes and are growing in popularity, have been used to cover everything from wellheads to septic access ports and risers, tanks, utility panels, and water garden devices.

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO TO ENSURE THE WATER IS SAFE?

Check the well cap from time to time. Make sure that it is sealed tightly, and look for cracks and evidence of tampering. If your well cap has a lock, check to see if the lock has been tampered with. Also, practice safe water habits. Do not landscape around

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFO?

For more information on your private water well, contact your local contractor or visit [www.wellowner.org](http://www.wellowner.org), a Web site of the National Ground Water Association (NGWA). To find a water well contractor near you, go to [www.wellowner.org](http://www.wellowner.org) and click on "Contractor Lookup."

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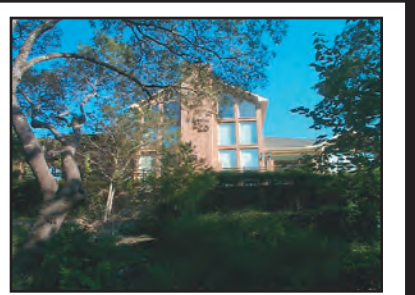
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**109 West Creek Dr.**  
Great Reduction on this 4 BR/2.5 bath, formal living and dining rooms, great room, breakfast room and 2 car garage. Features include hardwood, carpet and tile floors, vaulted ceilings and beautiful lot! Close to Salado schools. Approx 2,530 sq. ft. Only **\$242,500**



**719 Park Drive, Salado**  
This custom built home is very unusual. Generous sized rooms include great room with soaring ceilings, formal dining room, kitchen with breakfast room, and master suite all downstairs. 3 BR on the second floor. Interior open to front yard with tree and an arbor. Must See! Offered at **\$449,000**.



**1607 Old Mill Road**  
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# Is rinse-aid safe for environment?

**Dear EarthTalk:** My new dishwasher has receptacles for both soap and "rinse-aid." Is rinse-aid safe for the environment, and do I need to use it in my dishwasher? -- Britten Clark, Seattle, WA



According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), drinking hard water regularly poses no health threat and can actually help lower the incidence of heart disease, as the abundant magnesium and calcium salts help break down arterial plaque in the bloodstream.

**CONTACTS:** Earth Friendly Products, (800) 335-3267, www.ecos.com; Ecover, www.ecover.com; Simply Clean, www.simplyclean.ca; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, www.epa.gov.

**Dear EarthTalk:** With all the talk of hydrogen fueled vehicles, I can't help but wonder if millions of cars driving around spewing out water vapor--a well-known "greenhouse gas" itself--is any better than the carbon dioxide emitted by traditional cars? -- Kelly Grube, Fleetwood, PA

Climate analysts do believe that water vapor in the atmosphere--mostly due to natural evaporation from bodies of water--is already contributing significantly to climate change. According to the esteemed International Panel on Climate Change, atmospheric water vapor

exacerbates warming caused by the emission of fossil fuels by as much as 50 percent. However, the additional water vapor that might be created by millions of fuel-cell vehicles running on hydrogen--while it may sound like a lot--would constitute only a drop in the bucket compared to that which naturally occurs.

Water vapor is actually present in our atmosphere at much higher concentrations than carbon dioxide. According to Mississippi State University meteorologist Jeff Haby, who runs the Weather Prediction Website, the average concentration of water vapor in the atmosphere around the globe is presently between two and three percent, while carbon dioxide levels are only at about .04 percent (four one-hundredths of a percent). "That means there is more than 60 times as much water vapor in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide in average conditions," says Haby.

However, water vapor is far less efficient at trapping heat within Earth's atmosphere than carbon dioxide, the leading fossil-fuel-based greenhouse gas. Despite its prevalence, water vapor tends to concentrate locally and then get cycled through the meteorological system quickly (in the form of clouds and then rain). Meanwhile, carbon dioxide is an insidious

greenhouse gas that lingers in the upper atmosphere for long periods of time and forms a dense barrier to the escape of heat. While water vapor can cause short-term day-to-day warming locally, carbon dioxide can actually raise the Earth's temperature both globally and permanently.

Meanwhile, fuel cell advocates such as industrial designer Robert Q. Riley do not see the increased production of water vapor by the hoped-for hydrogen-powered vehicles of the future as a major concern. "Natural evaporation from lakes and rivers produces about 1000 times more water vapor than would come from a transportation system that was totally powered by fuel cells," says Riley. "So the increased moisture in the air is pretty much inconsequential."

**CONTACTS:** International Panel on Climate Change, www.ipcc.ch; The Weather Prediction Website, www.theweatherprediction.com; NASA's Earth Observatory, www.earthobservatory.nasa.gov  
**GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION?** Send it to: EARTHTALK, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit your question at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk.html; or e-mail us at: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

If your region's water source is rich in magnesium and calcium salts ("hard" water), adding rinse-aid to your dishwasher along with the detergent may help prevent streaks and spotting on your glassware and dishes.

Rinse-aid--the ingredients of which are usually ethanol, citric acid, sodium, dyes and acrylic acid polymers--breaks down the salts in hard water, thereby preventing the adhesion of soap clumps during the rinse cycle, leaving cleaner-looking results (although consuming food and drinks from streaked or spotted dishes and glassware is not a health hazard in its own right). The National Institutes of Health report that most rinse-aid is completely biodegradable, and while it is neither carcinogenic nor dangerous if used properly, it can cause eye and skin irritation following prolonged exposure and should not be ingested, of course.

While the use of rinse-aid to combat dishwasher streaking is no environmental crime, those concerned about the consumption of resources might think twice about the need for it. Mainstream rinse-aid, like dishwasher soap itself, contains phosphates in its cleaning agents. Wastewater containing phosphates which escapes sewage treatment can cause excessive algae growth in waterways which in turn pollutes drinking water and leads to marine "dead zones"--underwater environments deprived of oxygen and thus unable to support life. Consumers should keep in mind that dishwasher soaps, as well as laundry detergent and many other household items, also contain phosphates that can cause problems if not disposed of properly.

It's easy to avoid rinse-aid and other household items with phosphates by seeking out products from any of several companies that only use plant-based ingredients. Earth Friendly Products, Ecover and Simply Clean, to name just a few, make environmentally friendly rinse-aid that can be found in most natural foods markets. Beyond avoiding phosphates, these companies also pride themselves in avoiding petrochemicals and dyes in their products.

Also, just because your dishwasher may need rinse-aid does not mean you should fear drinking hard water from the tap.

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