

Salado Village Voice

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50¢

Glory to God Let the story be told

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

- 1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Ceasar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.
- 2 And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.
- 3 And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.
- 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David;
- 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
- 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
- 7 And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.
- 8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
- 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
- 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
- 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
- 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
- 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
- 15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us.
- 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.
- 17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad they saying which was told them concerning this child.
- 18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
- 19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.
- 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.
- 21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.



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Happy Holidays

Salado Village Voice will close at noon Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. The newspaper will re-open for business the Monday following the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

The deadline for the Dec. 30 issue of the newspaper will be noon Dec. 23. The deadline for the Jan. 6 issue will be noon Dec. 30.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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FORUM

An Open Exchange of Ideas



The Greedy AARP

If any more confirmation were needed, we've just received it: The AARP's most fundamental principle is "Get all you can, while you can -- young people be damned."

The nation's largest seniors organization has sent its 36 million members a scorching message opposing private Social Security accounts, raising the prospect of benefit cuts, Wall Street profiteering and mayhem just short of the apocalypse. The blast is prompted by President Bush's endorsement of Social Security reform and proposals to allow younger workers to voluntarily divert some of their payroll taxes into a private retirement account.

There is nothing about these accounts -- the AARP used to signal its approval for some form of them -- that would necessarily mean benefit cuts. But the AARP invokes cuts as part of what is standard operating procedure in senior-citizen politics -- present seniors with some outlandish scenario (typically a very frightening one), and hope they are just credulous enough to believe it.

It seemed things might be different when the AARP endorsed a GOP prescription drug bill a year ago. AARP representatives met with White House aides, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and House Speaker Dennis Hastert and dangled the possibility of a new era of AARP-GOP cooperation. Nothing came of it. The group, as is its wont, took the money from the drug bill and ran.

The AARP knows that, in the end, the Democrats are the most reliable party of government giveaways. So, AARP officials did the least they possibly could to promote the law once it passed, slyly reinforcing Democratic complaints about the law's deficiencies and complexity.

There are a couple of wrinkles here. One is that -- despite the AARP's reluctant advocacy -- the prescription drug bill is a good deal for seniors (giveaways usually are). Any Medicare recipient who

Rich Lowry



doesn't call 1-800-Medicare to check it out is making a mistake as a matter of sheer self-interest.

The second is that the costs of the law -- originally pegged at a low-ball \$400 billion over 10 years -- are spiraling higher. The program contributes to the budget deficit, which makes fixing Social Security -- which will probably require more government borrowing -- politically more difficult. The drug bill thus doubly served AARP's interest. Behind the group's savage opposition to reform, most fundamentally, is its belief that if young people get a taste of private accounts, they might like them and want something better than a 70-year-old government program. But the AARP is actually being shortsighted.

As Michael Tanner of the Cato Institute points out, what is more likely to create a revolt against Social Security is ever-higher payroll taxes funding an ever-worse deal for younger workers as they support more and more baby boomer retirees. This is precisely the AARP solution to the program's looming financial problems: Lift the cap on the amount of wages to which the payroll tax applies from \$88,000 to \$140,000.

For the AARP, piling more taxes on people who aren't retired -- i.e., working people -- is always the best option.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

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"Dear Santa Letter" highlights today's political commentary

Traditionally at this season of the year, *Off The Record* departs from its usual frothing at the political pen, and keeping an uneasy weather eye on Santa's "naughty or nice" list, we unabashedly offer some "appropriate" gift ideas - this day before Christmas Eve.

First, however, a sincere hope that your holiday "to-do" list is down to locating an extra-large stocking to "hang by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon will be there."

In that vein - we now offer our annual "Dear Santa" letter, complete with ideas we trust the grand old gentleman will incorporate into his gift giving for a variety of "headliners" this year. All suggestions freely offered with a dab of dryness and slyness; a sprinkling of sauciness and sassiness; and covered over with a topping of fact and fun.

GHOST OF SEASON PAST

One quick note before venturing into our "wish list" adventure. Concerns a 2002 "Letter to Santa" from Don Clayton who asked for full membership in the **Salado Chapter of the International Society of Do-No-Gooders**. At that time he was a lowly "probationary" member.

Don was finally granted full membership this year. Regrettably, local DNGers have failed to notice any improvement in the new member's deportment since inauguration day. On the other hand, the general level of "group-curmudgeonry" has accelerated - noticeably!

DEAR SANTA.....

Now, on to the Spirit of Christmas Present (borrowed from Scrooge) and the "appropriate" gift hints, for the high and mighty.

For President Bush (the younger): Difficult to suggest something "special" for a man who has everything, both in hand and apparently going for him the next four years. So, how about a "Crown and Scepter?"

Our holiday idea for Bush's rough-as-a-cob mouthpiece, **SecDef Donald Rumsfeld**, would be a quick trip to Bethesda Naval Hospital for massive "wisdom" infusions to cure his near-terminal "foot in mouth" problem - especially when visiting "at risk" troops in war zones. **This guy could also use a year's supply of "pleasant pills." Plus a permanent "hidey-hole" for his shoot-from-the-hip style.**

STUCK IN "DUMB"

With the 79th Legislative Session less than two weeks away, we hurriedly suggest some urgently needed "gifts" for key Texas GOP officials, starting with **Governor Rick (the Reluctant) Perry** - who suffers from a major shortfall of sagaciousness. Here's our State's top leader ready to once again unfurl his out of touch "no-new-tax" banner, despite a recognized need for billions of new state education dollars.

Holiday wish for the Guv therefore is a **king-size prescription of multi-purpose "get-smart-compassion-tablets" with instructions written in one syllable words.** This might help Perry pull free from his thoughtless, "stuck in stupid" political position, that toadies almost totally to the boys-from-business and their road building cronies!

And let's not overlook another favorite - **Grandma Carole Strayhorn** - the rowdy and rambunctious Comptroller of Public Accounts. This lady, (who would love to unseat Perry), is the powerful "Certifier of the Budget" and although she won't become Governor anytime soon, she serves a needed conscience-harassing purpose in Austin.

So for this "Grandame of bean-

Off the Record

by Ken Clapp



"counting," we recommend a gift-wrapped "package of persistence," to assist in keeping her elected colleagues constantly aware of the damage they are doing to their constituents (both "red" and "blue").

SPECIAL GIFT FOR BELTON-KILLEEN

Santa - you really need to put some giant sized "bridles" under the Christmas Trees of all the elected council members, and their appointed helpers, over in Belton and Killeen.

Restraints are desperately needed to curb their insatiable appetites for new land, as they sprawl and crawl over central Texas. Grabbing here, there, and everywhere with ETJ authority. Caring little (actually not at all) for the feelings of those being swallowed up against their will.

We have to wonder what their final "top secret," plans include, and how much more "Lebensraum" will be snatched. That word lebensraum (living room) was used by Hitler as an excuse when he overran the Rhineland, Austria, the Sudetenland and Czechoslovakia. All needed, shouted Der Fuhrer, because Germany needed more "living room" for its citizens.

Folks around Killeen and Belton wonder if the two city managers and councils not only want more "living room" but also our dining rooms, kitchens and bathrooms!

BAD MOVE - EL PASO GOPers

We regret that for a certain group of **GOP entrepreneurs from El Paso** there will be **nothing** under this year's tree for these political fumblerers. Why you wonder? These guys, (who are major financial backers of Governor Rick), met with Senator Kay Hutchison last week in Washington and told her in no uncertain terms that they didn't want her to run against Perry and she should stay in the Senate!

WOW! Can you imagine the good Senator's reaction? Here she is - on the verge of moving her federal dollars to the State (\$6.7 million) to take on Perry - **and then told by his contributors not to run!**

Bad move, GOPers. And bad advice from Perry. This was a political blunder rivaling Custer's plan to "pacify" **Indians at Little Bighorn**; or Lincoln's wife urging her husband to attend a play at Ford's Theater.

OK! OK! So as to not appear totally like "old Ebenezer", let's ask Santa to give the hapless El Pasoans an audio-tape of **Dale Carnegie's "How to Win Friends and Influence People."**

They could play it at home during Hutchison's inauguration - since they probably won't be invited.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Once a year it's fun to inject a little humor (some would say - "mighty little") into this political column. Helps calm the noisy foofaraw that is all part of the great free-for-all we call Democracy.

A sincere Happy Christmas to each of our readers - who may or may not have agreed with what's been written during the past year but have, with a few notable exceptions, been courteous and instructive in letters and phone calls.

That's -30-

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Tim Fleischer, Editor-in-Chief

Marilyn Fleischer, Managing Editor

Chris McGregor, Staff Writer

Ken Clapp, Political Commentary

MD: hospital ERs provide peace of mind

By DAN STULTZ, M.D., CHE
CHAIRMAN,
TEXAS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Access to emergency health care services is something everyone wants and expects. That's especially important during the holidays when more people are traveling to visit loved ones. It is reassuring to know that emergency rooms and trauma centers in Texas hospitals are staffed 24 hours a day, every day of the year, with highly skilled staff and the latest in lifesaving and diagnostic technology. Health care – like food, clothing and shelter – is one of life's basic necessities, and everyone in the community benefits from the "standing ready" status of emergency departments.

But unlike grocery stores and other businesses, hospitals are required by law to provide their services regardless of a patient's ability to pay. With Texas having the highest uninsured population in the nation, uncompensated care provided by hospitals is growing. Yet in approximately two-thirds of designated trauma facilities, there has been no public financial support for this function. The other designated trauma facilities receive local tax dollars as part of a hospital district.

With Rep. Dianne White Delisi's (R-Temple) leadership, the Texas Legislature in 2003 recognized the importance of preserving access to emergency care across the state, and created the Designated Trauma Facility and Emergency Medical Services Account to help offset these facilities' costs to provide uncompensated trauma care. The money comes from court fees and surcharges on the licenses of drivers cited for driving drunk or without a license or insurance, as well as for certain traffic violations. In August 2004, the 234 eligible Texas hospitals received a total of \$18.2 million to offset more than \$222 million reported in uncompensated trauma care provided in fiscal year 2003.

Some people are questioning why ticketed drivers are being assessed stiff financial penalties for their violations. In fact, some want the Legislature to repeal the program and eliminate the surcharges. The Legislature did the right thing in 2003, appropriately penalizing those who create much of the burden of uncompensated trauma care. Let's look at the facts:

In 2001, uninsured

trauma patients accounted for 29 percent of all trauma patients, according to a survey conducted by the Texas Hospital Association. Uninsured trauma patients consumed 30-44 percent of expensive services.

Of the 3,675 people killed in traffic accidents in 2003, some 1,709 deaths (47 percent) were the result of alcohol-related accidents, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, for 2003, major trauma patients can be grouped into the following categories:

- 40 percent, motor vehicle accidents;
- 34 percent, falls;
- 10 percent, assault;
- 1 percent self-inflicted injuries;
- 1 percent, fire/burns; and
- 14 percent other/unspecified.

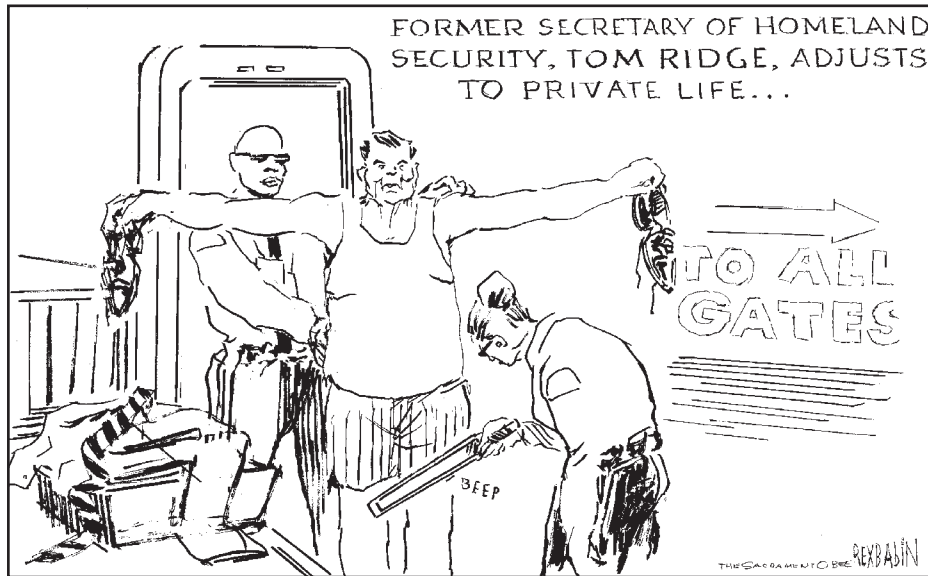
The Texas Department of Public Safety reports that 216.276 billion vehicle miles were traveled in Texas during 2001, an increase of 2.8 percent from 2000. In 2001, a total of 340,554 individuals were injured in motor vehicle traffic accidents.

Motorcycle accidents and fatalities are growing, with a 16.8 percent increase in fatalities from 2000 to 2001. Some 67 percent of fatally injured motorcyclists were not wearing helmets at the time of the accident.

Yes, the penalties are stiff, but wouldn't it be great if the Driver Responsibility Program actually worked and reduced the number of traffic accidents and discouraged drinking and driving? Then, maybe fewer people would die from traffic accidents. And, those paying the surcharge may feel better knowing that their mistakes are helping preserve the state's trauma and emergency health system.

All of us enjoy the benefit of access to emergency services, especially at this time of year. Yet designated trauma facilities and emergency services providers need more resources to serve the ever-growing demand for care, and to be "ready" regardless of who needs help. While the first payment was modest, the trauma/EMS fund is expected to generate more than \$100 million in fiscal year 2005. If you follow the traffic laws, you won't have to pay one penny more for your driver's license. This seemed fair to the Legislature in 2003, and Texas hospitals agree!

FORUM



It's time for Texans to act on medical marijuana

By RAE L NIDESS, M.D.

As a doctor, I have in good conscience suggested that marijuana might be beneficial to some terminally ill patients for the treatment of nausea, anxiety and depression related to their diseases. I have done so because I have read sufficient medical literature to know that marijuana may offer many therapeutic benefits with little, if any, harm in these instances.

Doctors need to be able to discuss the best possible treatment plans with their patients.

Marijuana is a drug that has benefited people for 5,000 years. There is a substantial body of scientific (and anecdotal) evidence that suggests marijuana relieves symptoms of nausea and vomiting, chronic pain, muscle spasms, anxiety, and even stimulates appetites suppressed by the effects of illness or medication.

The many Texans who have diseases such as cancer, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and AIDS, to name a few, are all subject to these chronic symptoms. Isn't it our duty as a state and as compassionate human beings to act upon the knowledge that we have and care for the sick and dying in the best way we can?

I believe it is and the majority of Texans agree.

Public support for legalizing medical marijuana in the state has never been greater. In a recent Scripps Howard Texas Poll, 75 percent of Texans said they approve of legalizing the use of medical marijuana for seriously ill people if their physician approves.

Advances in neurobiology in the last 16 years have given us a wealth of new scientific informa-

tion. The marijuana plants active molecules, called cannabinoids, react with specific receptor sites in our brains to induce certain medically beneficial reactions in our bodies.

These discoveries have created a stir in the scientific community and spawned several definitive studies. In 1997 the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy asked the Institute of Medicine to conduct a review of the scientific evidence and assess the potential health benefits and risks of marijuana, including the constituent cannabinoids. The report was released in 1999 with one of the following conclusions: "Nausea, appetite loss, pain and anxiety all can be mitigated by marijuana."

Further, the Texas Medical Association House of Delegates weighed in on the issue in May 2004. It adopted a policy recommended by the Council on Scientific Affairs that physicians be allowed to discuss any and all treatment options, including medical marijuana, with their patients without fear of regulatory, disciplinary, or criminal sanctions.

With this knowledge available, denying patients and their loved ones access to a medicine that relieves their misery, makes no sense. Placing chronically and terminally ill patients in legal jeopardy for using marijuana medically makes even less sense.

Doctors must be able to recommend marijuana to their seriously ill patients and also protect those patients and their caregivers from any legal recriminations when they act upon this recommendation.

Some people may object to legalizing medical marijuana, believing that smoking it is unhealthy. I agree. Smoking anything can, in the long run, be harmful.

However, if a person is seriously or terminally ill, smoking is generally of lesser concern than their comfort and symptom control from a medical and humane viewpoint.

Additionally, there are other ways of metabolizing marijuana. New medical devices - vaporizers - allow one to inhale only the vaporized active ingredients of the plant, thereby avoiding the harmful tars and hydrocarbons. It can also be cooked into foods, or if nausea is a problem, it can even be used as a suppository.

Finally, doctors need access to all available treatment alternatives when caring for the terminally ill or chronically debilitated patients who don't respond well to traditional medications. Some patients cannot tolerate the physical and psychological side effects of pharmaceuticals, others have allergic reactions, and there are those that just don't respond in a therapeutic manner.

If symptoms indicate that marijuana may be useful in treating those patients, it is very likely to be a safe and effective choice. Let's bring this subject into the light of day and give it a full and fair hearing in the halls of our state Capitol. I encourage our leaders to put partisanship aside and really listen to the scientific evidence and personal testimonies of patients who were suffering and found relief with medical marijuana. If they do, I predict they will realize that a law allowing doctors and patients to make their own informed medication choices will be a good thing for Texas and Texans.

DR. NIDESS IS A RETIRED UROLOGIST WHO LIVES IN MARSHALL.
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Merck Execs get bonus for failure



Jim Hightower

Merck, the giant drug maker loves ya, that's who! Well, this assumes that you're one of the 230 senior executives at the company. Merck is showing its love to its top executives by giving each of them a brand new, gleaming golden parachute. What about the other 30,000 employees? You're on your own – goodbye and good luck.

Those executives might need their parachutes soon, for Merck is in trouble. As widely reported, its best selling drug, Vioxx, has been found to cause heart attacks in many of those who take it. Not a good selling point. Merck withdrew Vioxx from the market, but subsequent evidence indicates that its executives have known about this little side effect for quite some time, but didn't disclose it to regulators, doctors, or the unsuspecting patients who took the stuff. The company now faces federal investigations and thousands of lawsuits.

Since the withdrawal of Vioxx, Merck's stock price has plummeted by 40 percent, on top of a 30 percent fall the company had already suffered because of its failure to develop promising new products for the market. All of this makes Merck a likely target for a takeover by another drug giant.

Takeover threats make top executives very nervous, for the company doing the taking usually ousts the old team and puts in its own. Hence, Merck's sudden rush to provide executive parachutes. If another company takes over Merck – or even buys as little as 20 percent of its shares in an effort to take it over – the 230 top dogs become eligible to bail out with a special payment of three times their annual salaries, plus their expected bonuses, as well as stock payments. For example, CEO Raymond Gilmartin, who helped engineer this sweet deal, would get about \$57 million to soften his landing.

Yes, this does amount to top executives rewarding themselves for their own failures ... and taking care of themselves without regard to the fate of others.

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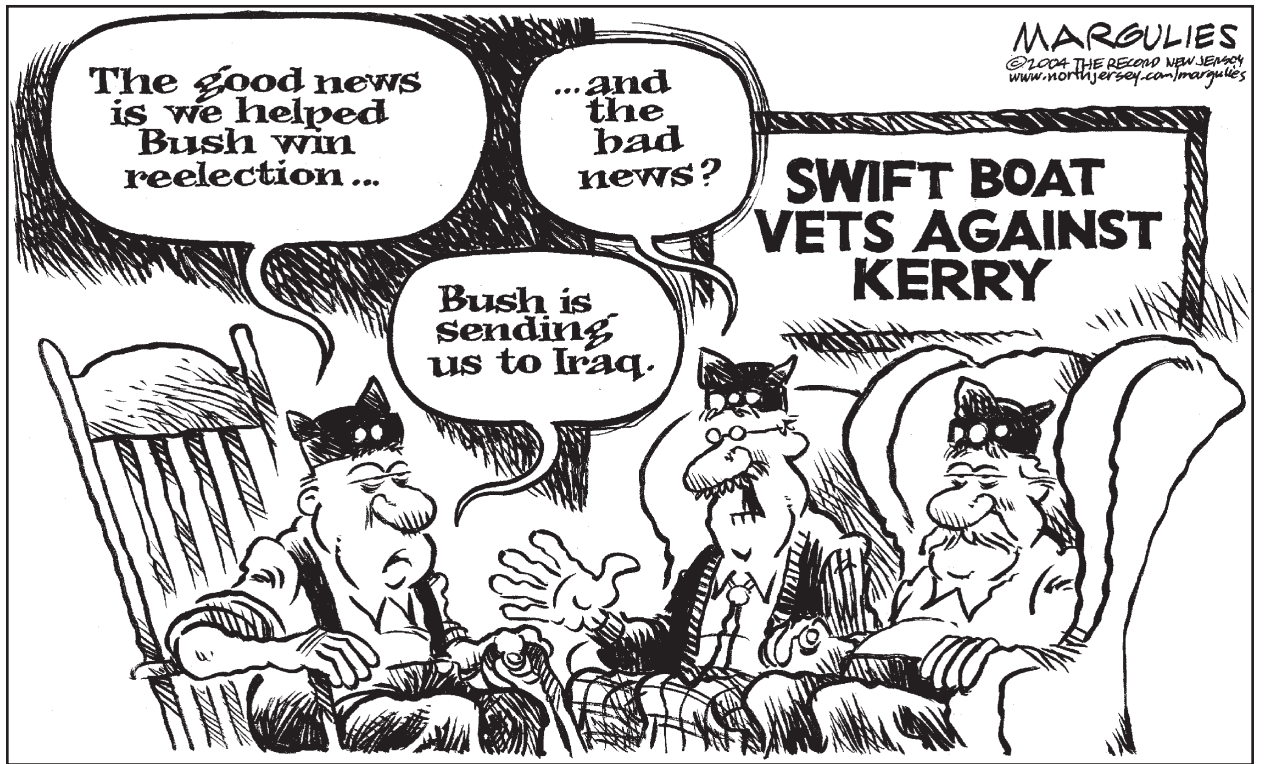


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Who's been naughty and who's been nice

By JACK FARIS

With the Christmas season in full swing, holiday shoppers are in a mad rush to find just the right thing for that special someone on their gift list. For those who are ready to wrap the big gifts, how about a new armoire for the family television -- originally priced at \$425, now available for only \$295. The natural oak cabinet has two doors and adjustable shelves to make room for the family DVD and VCR players.

Or if you're looking to give something more practical, why not a nice pair of black, "pucker moc" Oxford shoes with soft, full-grain leather up-

per and thick, cushioned wedge outsole, reduced half-price to just \$8.

Unless you're shopping on behalf of federal agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security or the Pentagon, don't expect to get your hands on these bargains. They are just some of the items available at a clearance sale going on now at Unicor, also known as Federal Prison Industries (FPI), a corporation that is wholly owned by the federal government.

Created 70 years ago to help rehabilitate inmates, FPI has taken full advantage of cheap prison labor and protected status to become a huge

operation that enjoys an unfair advantage over our nation's small businesses. In 2002, this monopoly ran 111 factories that benefited from the work of more than 20,000 prisoners who were paid a sub-minimum wage (\$1.23 per hour or less). Over 300 products and services were produced by federal prisoners, totaling nearly \$680 million in sales to the federal government in 2002.

With cheap labor and exempt from many mandates small businesses must comply with every day, FPI provides clothing and textiles-including custom-made draperies and curtains-vehicle repair, industrial products, office furniture, recycling and a variety of services such as printing.

Surely, among the millions of small businesses in America, the government could find a few that meet its requirements to produce these goods and provide these services. Instead, denied the ability to fairly compete, small businesses have found the walls of government contracting too high to scale. Since FPI was given preferential status in the government procurement process, federal agencies have been locked

into buying only from Unicor even if a small-business owner could provide the service or product cheaper, faster, and of better quality - a disservice to small business and to taxpayers forced to pay more money for goods and services.

Dayton, Ohio businesswoman and NFIB member Bobbie Gentile, in testimony before Congress, confirmed that the bidding process for government contracts excluded small firms. Her firm, Q-Mark, Inc., a manufacturer's representative company offering the services of 15 small businesses, was automatically shut out of the bidding process even though the price she offered was lower than FPI's. She told lawmakers, "In all cases, my price was lower than the price offered by FPI. The government had no option but to award to them."

Congress, however, has been paying attention. They may not have wrapped it in pretty paper, but in early December, lawmakers passed and the president signed a bill that bans FPI from locking out small businesses from federal government contracts. For American small-business owners, it's one of the most sought after gifts on their wish lists: the ability to compete for business that for too long has automatically been awarded to those who have been naughty rather than nice.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas!

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Members of the Treat a Special Person (TASP) Club at Salado Intermediate School who helped organize a special shopping day for Salado school teachers and employees are shown above. They are the following: (seated, from left) Billi Pipes, Shelby Cecil, Ciera Pipes, Taylor Reed, Courtney Lavadia, Brittney Frazier; (standing from left) Megan Harvell, president; Hailee Pipes, Bailie Reed, Kandace Little, Callie Hill, Hadley Joiner, Ashlee Arnold, Morgan Van Winkle.

TASP students find unique way to thank SISD staff

A teacher's schedule is filled, right up to the holidays: classes all day, conferences, papers to grade and tests to give.

A respite is indeed welcomed by teachers and staff in Salado schools, which is why several students banded together last week to say thank you to the school employees for their work year-round.

Members of the Treat A Special Person (TASP) Club at SIS banded together to give employees a break in their hectic day. Throughout the day Dec.

14, the library was filled with refreshments, door prizes and the opportunity to do a little Christmas shopping without fighting the crowds at the stores.

Megan Harvell, TASP President, and other members arranged for local vendors to offer selections for teachers and staff to purchase. Knowing how tight school employee budgets are, the vendors even took checks dated for pay day.

All a way to thank the people the students see on a daily basis.



(PHOTOS BY TIM FLEISCHER)

SISD staffers Jennifer Berumen and Anna Kate Mackie peruse the gift ideas at the SIS Library Dec. 14.

Crime rate is down in 2004, Salado Police Chief reports

Village of Salado Chief of Police Alan Rogers has announced that crime in Salado is down in 2004, as compared to 2003.

Rogers credits the decrease in criminal activity to a combination of citizen awareness and precautions and more proactive enforcement by the Salado P.D.

"In comparing 2003 with 2004 it is clear that the crimes that most affected our city is down considerably," he commented.

The chief stated that in 2003, there were 30 reported incidents of criminal mischief. By comparison, in 2004 there have been 17 reported cases of criminal mischief - representing a 44 percent decrease.

Salado has also seen a marked reduction in the number motor vehicle burglaries. With 39 reported in 2003, and only seven in 2004, there has been an improvement of 557 percent in this type of crime.

According to Rogers, the only crime to not decrease in the past year is burglary - or attempted burglary - of a building. There were 18 reported in both 2003 and 2004.

"I wanted the citizens of Salado to know that the Salado Police Department is working to help safe-

guard its citizens from criminals, and we respectfully request your assistance in doing your part to help eliminate crime for our village," said Rogers.

The Village of Salado has four full-time police officers and one reserve officer.

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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.



www.fbcshalado.org
(254) 947-5465

SALADO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Loving, Growing, Sharing

A church family for all ages that is committed to following Christ's example and caring for all people.

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

Thomas Arnold Road and Church St.

(254) 947-5482



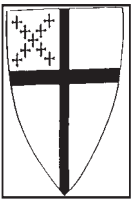
St. Joseph's Episcopal Chapel

Holy Eucharist

Sat. • 5 p.m.

Sun. • 9:30 a.m.

Tues. • 9:30 a.m.



939-1033

behind Fletcher's Book Store
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.

Office Hours:

Every day
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

601 FM 2268

947-8037

ststephenchurch@earthlink.net

Thompson marries Hodge

Dec. 18 in double ring ceremony

Kristen Thompson, of Galveston, and Claude Barry Hodge, also of Galveston, were wed Dec. 18 in a double ring ceremony at the First Baptist Church of Salado.

The bride is the daughter of Terry and Betty Thompson, of Temple. The groom is the son of Claude and Myrta Hodge, of Salado.

Reverend Allison Joyce officiated the ceremony. Pianist was Judy Bruton, of Salado. Dan Fulmer, of Belton, served as soloist, and David Kaulfus, of Belton, was organist and

trumpeter.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a designer, strapless, ivory satin A-line gown with organza split front accents throughout the front and back of the dress. The sweetheart neckline was embellished with elegant floral detail, accented with silver embroidery, rhinestones, crystals and pearls. The back of the dress was finished with sating buttons down the center of the back.

Maid of honor was Robin King, of Temple, sister of the bride. Matron of honor was Melanie Thompson, of Austin, sister-in-law of the bride. Bridesmaids were Diedra Hodge, of Belton, sister of the groom, Jeni Clark, of Austin, Ashlea Norman, of Houston, and Marisa Conley, of Galveston.

Best man was Ryan Hodge, of Salado, cousin of the groom. Groomsmen were Mark Thompson, of Austin, brother-in-law of the groom, Justin Hodge, of Houston, cousin of the groom, Brady Johnston, of Austin, Ryan Harper, of Whitesboro, and Joey Conley, of Galveston.

Flower girls were McKayla Hodge and Amissa Jiminez, both of Salado. Ring bearer was Coleson Curry, of Magnolia. Ush-



Mrs. Claude Barry Hodge

ers were Chase Williams, of Memphis, TN, Drew Williams, of Fort Worth, Colin Simmons, of Temple, and Jason Foegelle, of Belton. Chase and Drew Williams also served as candlelighters.

The bride is a 2004 graduate of the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, with a bachelor of science in nursing. She is employed at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston, as a Hematology-Oncology Nurse.

The groom is a 2002 graduate of the Univer-

sity of Texas in Austin, with a bachelor of arts in biology. Currently, he is a third year medical student at the University of Texas Medical Branch, School of Medicine, in Galveston.

Both bride and groom are graduates of Salado High School.

Prior to the ceremony, a rehearsal dinner was held at the home of the groom's parents. Following the wedding, a reception was held in the Longhorn Room of the Stagecoach Inn. The couple took a wedding trip to Maui, HI.



Community Church

www.hope4bell.org

254-933-8222

FIND HOPE WITH US
100 Water Street
Downtown Belton

SUNDAY

1:00 p.m.

Pre-Worship Adult Bible Study

2:00 p.m.

Family Worship
Preschool/Nursery Care
Children's Worship

Encounter Group Bible studies throughout the week

"A Unique Baptist Experience"
Mike Bergman, Pastor



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

Sunday Morning Service • Dec. 26, 2004



Joe Keyes
Minister

"Triangular Living"
(Luke 2:41-52)

Today we're going to see how Jesus perfectly modeled for us the concept of three-dimensional living; recognizing we are not self-sustaining entities, but we must relate with others and most especially with God the Father.

We hope you'll join us.

Sunday

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

Evening Worship • 6 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes • 6:30 p.m.

IH-35 at Blacksmith Rd.

947-5241

<http://www.vvm.com/~snip2saladoch.htm>

Presbyterian Church of Salado
10 A.M. Sunday Worship
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Salado United Methodist Church

Grace Baptist Church

John Warden Pastor

2 mi. West of I-35 on 1670/2484

Worship Schedule

Sunday School • 9:45a.m.

Worship • 11 a.m.

Bible Study • 6 p.m.

Wednesday Praise & Prayer • 7:00 p.m.



Scott Charles Marley to wed Elizabeth Ann Gordon

James and Connie Gordon, of Grapevine, have announced the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Elizabeth Ann, to Scott Charles Marley. Scott is the son of Steven and Vonda Marley, of Salado. The winter wedding is planned for January 15 at the First Baptist Church in Salado.

Elizabeth Ann is a graduate of UMHB, with a nursing degree. Scott is a 2000 Salado High School graduate employed with Federal Express.

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.

Services held Dec. 5 for Joyce Edwina Smith

Services for Joyce Edwina Smith, of Temple, were Dec. 5, 2004 at Harper-Talasek Funeral Home in Temple with Rev. Joe Bentley officiating. The body was cremated. She died Dec. 3, 2004 at Wellington Living Center in Temple.

Joyce Edwina Smith was born in Agua Dulce, Texas to John William Smith and Nell Jones Smith Brandhorst. She graduated from the Incarnate Word Academy in Corpus Christi at age 17.

She operated a very successful telephone answering service in Alice, Texas during the 1950s.

She moved to Waco, where she worked as a bookkeeper for Texas State Technical Institute, now TSTC. After retirement, she moved to Temple and was a professional, specialized seamstress.

Smith was preceded in death by her mother Nell Jones Smith Brandhorst in 2001, her husband Jacob Ronald Smith in 1970 and her grandson Jason Ran-

dall Smith in 1997.

Survivors are three sons, J.R. Smith, of Kingsville, Texas; John Wm. (Bill) Smith, of Salado, and Fredrick A. Smith, of Temple. She is survived by 10 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Salado United Methodist Church Building Fund, PO Box 771, Salado, TX 76571 or Church of the Epiphany Episcopal, 206 N. 3rd, Kingsville, TX 78363.



Joyce Edwina Smith

Sue Farrell, Agency on Aging benefits counselor, to speak at Temple Brethren Church

Sue Farrell, benefits counselor with the Area Agency on Aging of Central Texas, will speak about the role the agency plays as a resource for individuals over 60, and their family members and/or caregivers, 10 a.m. - noon Jan. 15 at Temple Brethren Church.

Topics will include long term care planning, Medicaid assistance in a nursing home, advanced

directives, long term care insurance and Medicare/Medicaid coverage, according to Dr. Kim Kotrla, church evangelism team member.

The event is free, open to the public and will include a light lunch. For reservations or more information, interested persons may contact the church office at (254)778-8759.

Temple Brethren is located at 2202 Bird Creek Dr. in Temple.

Holiday worship services at local churches

Salado United Methodist Church: Christmas Eve candlelight services, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Salado: Christmas Eve carols, candlelight service with the Lord's Supper, 6 p.m.

St. Stephen's Catholic

Church: Christmas Eve mass, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. family mass, midnight mass. Christmas Day: 9 a.m. Spanish mass, 11 a.m. English mass.

Presbyterian Church of Salado: Christmas Eve service, led by George

Holland, 6 p.m.

St. Joseph's Episcopal Chapel: Christmas Eve service, 8 p.m., followed by a reception.

Grace Baptist Church: Candlelight Christmas Eve service with Communion, 6 p.m.

Intro to Islam begins Jan. 6

Dr. Bob Volle and Lyle Radebaugh will be starting a seven-session class on an introduction to Islam, 11 a.m. Jan. 6 at the Presbyterian Church of Salado. The classes will

be one hour long and will be held and will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the church.

The first class will cover the purpose and scope of the series, and will also include a brief video on the Islamic faith. Subsequent sessions will continue to explore to faith of Islam; the early history of Islam and Islamic law; Christian Crusades; and Islam

in modern Iran. The last class will study Eurabia, the future of Europe in the face of immigration from Islamic nations.

According to class organizers, Dr. Volle has held previous classes for the community, all of which have been well attended.

For more information contact Shirley Pinkston at 947-3372.



Carolyn Roberts, of Salado, retired last week from Scott & White Health Plan. She is a 40-year employee with the Scott & White system. She worked for the Health Plan when it was initially started. She and husband Jerry live in Salado.

Bland Doesn't Sell in Salado

Salado, Texas (12/23/04) **Local Enterprise Backdates Company Image**

Relative newcomer to Salado, Gibson Communications, is not new to the business of advertising and marketing. Founded in 1978 in Houston as a creative house for radio and TV commercial production and corporate communications, the company served such diverse clients as The Texas Renaissance Festival, GTE, Vargo's Restaurant, The Houston Business Journal, Travelview International, The Woodlands, Randall's, Wild Well Control, Town & Country Shopping Village, and Kwik Kopy, International. The years of experience proved that contrary to popular belief, R/TV advertising, when its done right, is not a budget buster.

After four months in Salado, proprietor, Dell Gibson realized that the company name was not in step with the soul of the historic "Vintage Village" on the Chisholm Trail. The time had come to backdate the company image to match the spontaneous, energetic spirit of Salado and the village merchants.

Taking history as his guide, Gibson looked back to a time before R/TV advertising became a blow-dried statistical exercise in frenetic mediocrity. The "drummers" arrived creek side to blazon and trumpet the bountiful benefits of their goods and sundries; a time when even the medicine show was a welcome wagon. Then as

now, a little humor goes a long, long way. Therefore, Gibson Communications is hereafter to be known as "Ballyhoo, Herald & Tout," the "Vintage Village Marketeers."

The name has changed - the objective remains the same: effective, affordable, enjoyable advertising and promotion. Creative copy, humor and believable dialogue invite people to actively listen to the story. Most modern radio and TV commercials depend on volume, repetition, flash and trash to hammer home mundane messages, but hearing is not the same as listening. Most folks will concentrate on a conversation but tune out an announcement.

Media advertising comes in two parts: production and placement. The electronic media is sold by the minute. They have no incentive to encourage creativity that requires fewer of either to be effective. A modest sum invested in creative content can save even more in media costs yet make a greater impression. There is no limit to how well you can inform when you entertain along the way.

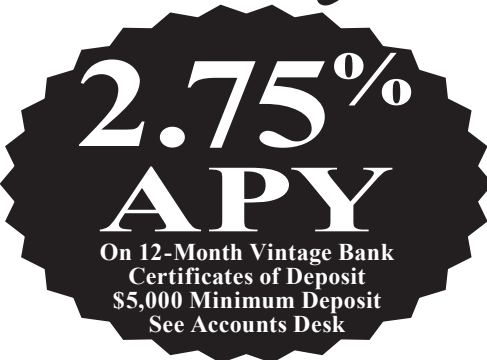
Ballyhoo, Herald & Tout (aka Dell Gibson) will be happy to review your past advertising and suggest ways to get more bang for the buck, and the only cost is about an hour. You may be surprised to learn that Radio or TV is actually within your budget. Call 254-913-5411, and yes, this is a paid advertisement.

Saladoans among Dec. UMHB grads

Almost 300 students were awarded degrees at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor commencement on Saturday. Students who completed their requirements for graduation in both August and December were part of the 148th graduating class at the university.


Salado residents to receive diplomas were the following: Bryce Austin Bolick, Bachelor of Science; Cynthia Guzman Gonzales, Bachelor of Arts; Lori Suzan Townsend Maughan, Bachelor of Professional Studies; Erin Rebecca Scales, Bachelor of Science in Nursing; and Brandi Lynn Wigley, Bachelor of Science.

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Rev. P. Jae Stanley

SPORTS

Travis Clark scores 20 in 68-41 trouncing of Bartlett Dec. 13



Devon Dunn puts up a baseline shot in Salado's 68-41 win over Bartlett. (PHOTO BY CHRIS MCGREGOR)

When Travis Clark catches fire, the fourth ranked Salado Eagles are a very tough team to beat. The visiting Bartlett Bulldogs found that out first-hand Dec. 13, as the senior racked up 20 points - including a rafter-rattling dunk in the fourth - in a 68-41 blowout win in front of the hometown crowd.

From Bartlett's perspective, Salado had put

up an almost insurmountable lead before the game really got underway. Clark scored eight in the first, six of those on three pointers, while in the paint James Gregurek - who has come through with some impressive performances since Matt Caskey went down with a foot injury - scored nine of his 17 points in the first. Aided by the output of Clark and Gregurek, Salado opened up a 19-4 lead after one.

It was more of the same in the second, as the younger of the Clark brothers, Ryan, came off the bench with seven points while Salado increased the lead to 37-12 at the half.

With the game well in hand, the Eagles put on the brakes in the tail end of the game, cruise-controlling to the 27-point victory, which improved the team's record to 9-4.

If Coach Tom Long was looking for a downside in the game, the Eagles did have a bit of trouble containing Bartlett's big man, Louis Walker, who

accounted for 23 points. Fifteen of those, however, came in the second half when Salado eased up the defensive pressure. No other Bulldog scored more than five.

Behind the offensive efforts of Gregurek and Travis Clark, Matt Jennings and Ryan Clark both chipped in nine points. Scott Williams had six, Barrett Brashier scored four and Devon Dunn had three.

Salado began district play at home Dec. 21 versus 19th-ranked Academy. The game took place after presstime. A long road trip then awaits the Eagles, as Coach Long will take his boys to the Lubbock Caprock Invitational Tournament Dec. 29-31.

The tournament features some of the best basketball teams in west Texas - 30 in all, ranging from small schools all the way to Class 5A programs.

Junior Varsity

Dec. 13 just wasn't

a very good night for Bartlett boys basketball, as the JV handed the Bulldogs a 61-19 defeat before the varsity took the floor.

Salado had put this one away by halftime, as the Eagles enjoyed a 16-8 lead after one and a 29-12 advantage at halftime. In fact, in the first period alone, Craig Sniggs, Justin Konzen, Blake Newman, Chad Tumey, Noah Harbison and Chris Redman all scored points.

While the Salado offense kept rolling in the third, the Eagle defense held Bartlett to only seven points in the entire second half.

Harbison led Salado with 13 points, while Won Im scored 10, Kozen had nine, and Newman and Redman each scored seven. Rounding out the scorers were Tumey, five, Tanner Myers, four, Sniggs, four, and Stephen Quick, two.

No Bartlett player scored more than five points.

The win improved the JV to 5-4 overall.



Matt Jennings sets up the offense.

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Lady Eagles 2-0 in district

GIRLS PICK UP WINS OVER SOMERVILLE, LAGO VISTA

From being on the receiving end of a 71-20 loss just a month ago, to now holding a 10-4 record and - more importantly - a 2-0 mark in the District 25AA standings, the Salado Lady Eagles have shown a near record level of improvement.

And with Salado sporting a streak of 11 consecutive trips to the playoffs, first year head coach Scott Copeland couldn't have scripted a better start to the district season, with a 62-35 win over Somerville Dec. 14, followed by a 38-27 victory on the road over Lago Vista three days later.

Hosting the Lady Yeguas of Somerville to open district, Salado started out slow, gaining a 10-8 lead at the end of one. Those 10 points were spread out amongst the roster, however, as Jenny Goode, Kelsey Smith, Kristen Smith and Kelsey Gobin all got on the board in the first.

Salado's offense got going in the second, though, as Kelsey Smith's three-point shooting helped to expand the Lady Eagle lead to 27-15 at the half.

Goode then took over the third, scoring eight of her 15 points (including six from behind the arc), while Kristen Smith contributed another seven points in the fourth, resulting a comfortable 28-point win for the Lady Eagles.

In addition to her 15-point effort, Goode also had seven assists, six rebounds and four steals. Gobin had a strong game on the both ends of the court, dropping in 14 points to go along with eight rebounds.

The sister act of Kristen and Kelsey Smith accounted for 18 points

- nine apiece. Kate Marshall tallied six points, but also pulled down 10 boards and notched five assists. Also scoring on the game were Courtney Dunnahoo, three, and Tamra Stanish and Jessica Shumate, who both had two points.

The Lady Eagles' game versus Lago Vista on Dec. 17 (which featured a coaching matchup between two Salado High School alums: Copeland, Class of '83, and Kurt Salisbury, Class of '97) was less an offensive explosion, more than it was a chance for Copeland's squad to practice their free throw shooting.

Whistles abounded in this one, with Salado gaining 35 trips to the charity stripe for the game. Had they converted on more than 15 of those (43 percent), the 11-point margin of victory would have been substantially increased.

A playoff team a season ago, Lago Vista was never able to get on track offensively against the stingy Salado defense.

In a low-scoring first, Kate Marshall put in four of the Lady Eagles' nine points, while Lago Vista was held to just seven points in the period.

Salado duplicated their offensive effort in the second, dropping in another nine points (seven of those coming on free throws), to open up a 18-13 lead at halftime.

With the second half becoming a series of foul calls, Salado enjoyed a 28-17 advantage after three, holding that double-digit lead through the end of the game.

Two Lady Eagles narrowly missed double-doubles on the night. Continuing what has been a terrific senior

season, Jenny Goode had 14 points, nine rebounds, five steals and four assists, while Kelsey Gobin had nine points and nine boards.

Kate Marshall contributed 10 points, coming on 5-8 shooting. Kristen Smith scored three points, and Nicole Weatherly had two.

Following a post-press-time game against district rival Academy Dec. 21, the Lady Eagles will compete in the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce Tournament Dec. 27-29.

Salado will open play 8 a.m. Dec. 27 with a game against Waco University.

Junior Varsity

The JV Lady Eagles split their games last week, winning against Somerville and losing to

Lago Vista.

Brandi Lott's 16-point game propelled Salado to a 28-13 victory over Somerville Dec. 14. Although the game was close throughout much of the first, Salado pulled away from the Lady Yeguas with a strong second half.

In addition to Lott's impressive offensive showing, Natalee Cantrell scored six, Mary Runyon had four and Sarah Moffatt scored two.

The Lady Eagles followed that win with a 21-17 loss to Lago Vista. Salado played Lago Vista close most of the way, but an anemic second half of offensive effort did them in.

Moffatt led the girls with eight points, while Lott scored six, Cantrell two and Shumate one.



Jenny Goode defends against Somerville. Goode scored 15 points on the game, but also had four steals.

(PHOTO BY TIM FLEISCHER)



Freshman Tamra Stanish moves to block a shot in Salado's district-opening win over Somerville.

(PHOTO BY TIM FLEISCHER)

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SALE PRICE	\$21,715

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M.S.R.P.	\$37,518
MANF. REBATE	\$3,300
PATRIOT SAVINGS	\$8,038
SALE PRICE	\$26,180

W/GMAC FINANCING SAVE \$2,000
SALE PRICE \$24,180

0% A.P.R. FOR 72 MONTHS AVAILABLE*



2004 GMC YUKON XL SOUTHERN COMFORT

M.S.R.P.	\$58,187
MANF. REBATE	\$5,000
PATRIOT SAVINGS	\$10,248
SALE PRICE	\$43,939

W/GMAC FINANCING SAVE \$1,500
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2005 PONTIAC G6

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M.S.R.P.	\$33,055
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SALE PRICE \$26,281



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\$8,300 OFF M.S.R.P.^B ENTIRE STOCK + SAVE \$1,500 W/GMAC FINANCING
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\$11,485



2002 BUICK CENTURY, 4 DR., LOW MILES. STK #T1214316

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2004 CHEVY AVALANCHE, Z-66, ONLY 18,000 MILES. STK #P6128840

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2002 CHEVY TAHOE, LS, 3RD ROW SEATING. STK #PR164505

\$12,499



2000 DODGE DAKOTA, CLUB CAB, V-8, SLT. STK #PS614246

\$7,995



2004 DODGE NEON, 4 DR. STK #PS25042

\$14,499



2002 GMC SIERRA, 1/2 TON, EXT. CAB, SLE PACKAGE, V-8. STK #P1171815

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Need a last minute stocking stuffer? Look into buying a pedometer

By LINDA FUCHS
BELL COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

If you are in need of just one more simple gift idea, or if you are wondering how you might help your family and friends to remain healthy by helping them to get rid of those few extra pounds that could be gained during the holidays, let me suggest purchasing a pedometer.

This small, inexpensive device which counts your steps can be an excellent motivational tool for physical activity and the health benefits of physical activity are well established.

Modest, regular physical activity substantially reduces the risk of dying from coronary artery disease (the nation's leading cause of death) and

decreases the risk of colon cancer, diabetes, and high blood pressure. Physical activity also helps to control weight; contributes to healthy bones, muscles, and joints; helps to relieve the pain of arthritis; and reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression.

Walking is one of the easiest, safest, most cost effective forms of exercise. Walking can be accomplished during your lunch hour, or on a walking trail. It can be done on a vacation or on a business trip - outdoors or indoors. It can be done individually, with a partner, or in groups.

Walking can be done by the beginner just starting to exercise for the first time and can be done for a lifetime with little risk of strain or injury. All you need is a good pair of shoes, a bottle of water and

perhaps a pedometer.

Here's something to think about in regards to walking...According to the Center for Disease Control, 29 percent of American adults are not physically active at all, and 50 percent are not active enough to achieve health benefits.

Here's what it costs...Direct and indirect costs of sedentary living are \$150 billion. Estimated direct costs of obesity and inactivity together account for approximately 9.4 percent of U.S. health care expenditures. The medical care costs for people with chronic diseases account for more than 70 percent of the nation's total medical care costs.

Now, think about this...“If 10 percent of

adults began a regular walking program, \$5.6 billion in heart disease costs [alone] could be saved” (reference: National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, 2004).

A pedometer is a simple, inexpensive device that counts your steps. In fact, you can purchase a basic one for less than 10 dollars. They are also very small devices, which can be worn throughout the day without being obtrusive. In fact, considering all the pagers and cell phones I've seen hanging from peoples waistbands, a pedometer might go completely unnoticed, even if you are dressed for a business meeting. You might motivate others in your workplace to start walking with a pedometer.

Where can you buy one? Pedometers can be found in many sporting goods stores and local multi-purpose stores as well.

What features should you look for when purchasing one? Accuracy is the most important consideration. You want one that counts your steps as accurately as possible. Second to accuracy, you will want to consider comfort. Choosing other features is dependent on your personal preferences. You might want to choose other features if they help to motivate you or keep your interest in continued physical activities.

While you're thinking of others, consider adding a pedometer or other physical activity motivating gadget to your own wish list as well. Happy Holidays! Be safe and stay healthy.

In the rush of events, we tend to overlook the important friendships that are the true basis of business relationships. One of the great pleasures of the Holiday Season is the opportunity to exchange greetings with those whose friendship and goodwill are valued so highly. In this spirit it is a pleasure to say "Thank You" and extend sincere appreciation for the very pleasant association enjoyed with you. May a bright and prosperous New Year bring happiness to you and to yours.

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Carol Walls (above) was recently installed as President of the Salado Area Republican Women. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. Call 947-8422 or 947-3617 for info.



Elaine Wolf (right), of the Salado Humane Society, is pictured alongside Saladoan Margaret Yeoman (left), winner of a Lil Driver Electric Golf Cart Ride-On, raffled off to benefit the Salado Humane Society. The cart, bearing a retail value of \$269, was donated for the raffle by Fairway Golf Carts. According to Wolf, the raffle raised over \$600.

The newly reformed Salado Humane Society needs volunteers to house animals until they can be adopted out.

To find out more about the new group and how you can help, call 254-624-9678 or 947-9540.

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Adopt-a-Beach poster art contest deadline Feb. 7

Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, is calling on Texas students to participate in the 9th annual "Treasures of the Texas Coast" Children's Art Contest. The deadline to submit artwork is Feb. 7.

"The toughest job I have is choosing the contest prize winners, because we get so many excellent entries," Patterson said. "The artistry and insight of these kids is simply amazing. They've taken our slogan to heart: Trashing Texas beaches isn't cool."

Began in 1996 with the 10th anniversary of the Adopt-A-Beach Program, the annual competition encourages Texas school-children to learn more about the many splendors found along the Texas coast and express what they've learned in their art.

Open to students in grades K-6 across Texas, the contest produces thousands of drawings every year. The 2004 contest drew more than 7,200 entries. Artwork by fifth-grader Celina Hernandez, who attends Hawthorne School in San Antonio, earned the grand prize in the General Land Office's Treasures of the Texas Coast 2004 Children's Art Contest. Celina's colorful, creative style was chosen over more than 7,200 other entries.

Any medium may be used, except for computer-generated artwork. Three-dimensional art is ineligible. Artwork should be based on the theme, "Treasures of the Texas Coast," and should show why the Texas coast is special to the student.

Only one entry per student is allowed, and all entries must have a completed parental release form taped to the back. Parental release forms may be printed from the GLO Web site located at www.texasadoptabeach.org. Each contest entry must be postmarked by Feb. 7, and submitted on an 8 1/2-inch by 11-inch sheet of white paper.

Students are encour-

aged to color copy their artwork prior to sending it in as all artwork submitted becomes property of the Texas General Land Office and will not be returned.

Two winners will be picked from each of the 24 regional councils of government in Texas. From these 48 winners, one grand prize winner will get two round-trip, coach-class tickets from Continental Airlines to any Continental destination in the United States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii. They'll also get a class party at one of two Schlitterbahn Waterparks (in New Braunfels or South Padre Island).

Two winners from every region in the state will also be chosen. All

48 of the regional winners will receive a ticket to the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi, two all-day passes to Schlitterbahn, a soft-sided, insulated lunch bag from Keep Texas Beautiful, a certificate of recognition from the commissioner and a calendar featuring the winning artwork.

The grand prize winner's teacher will

also receive two round-trip, coach-class tickets courtesy of Continental Airlines.

For more information and contest guidelines on the "Treasures of the Texas Coast 2005" Children's Art Contest, contact the General Land Office at 1-877-TXCOAST or visit www.texasadoptabeach.org.

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Nearing retirement? consider these "tax-smart" moves

Financial Focus

by Allen Mantanona



If you're planning to retire in the next few years, you've got a lot of questions to answer. Will your employer-sponsored retirement plan, Social Security and personal savings provide you with a comfortable lifestyle? How much can you afford to take out each year? From what sources? All these issues are important. But one area that might slip beneath your "radar" is taxes - and they can be troublesome if you make the wrong moves.

One potential tax problem can crop up if you need to tap into your retirement savings before you reach age 59 1/2. If you take money out of your IRA or company retirement plan, such as a 401(k), you may have to pay a 10 percent penalty, in addition to regular income taxes, on your withdrawals.

So here are a few "tax-smart" moves you may want to consider in your

pre-retirement or retirement years:

* Take regular payments from your traditional IRA - If you must tap your traditional IRA before you're 59 1/2, you can avoid the 10 percent penalty by taking "substantially equal periodic payments" - as determined by an IRS formula - for at least five years or until you reach 59 1/2, whichever is longer. For example, if you start taking these payments at 50, you must keep taking them until you're 59 1/2. However, if you don't start collecting this money until you're 55, you'll have to keep making withdrawals until you're 60.

Roll over company stock into a traditional

IRA - If you leave your job, and you have company stock in your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, you can defer taxes by rolling the stock over into a traditional IRA.

If your company retirement plan contains stock that has grown significantly in value over the years, you could potentially save on taxes through an Internal Revenue Service rule called "net unrealized appreciation" or NUA. These rules apply to certain distributions of company stock from a qualified retirement plan. They can help turn a portion of your retirement-plan distribution, which normally would be taxed as ordinary income, into long-term capital gains, which are usually taxed at lower rates.

* Convert traditional IRA to Roth IRA - When you reach 70 1/2, you'll need to take "required minimum distributions" (RMDs) from your traditional IRA and your 401(k). If you don't take these distributions, you'll be slapped with a penalty of 50 percent of what you should have taken, but didn't, plus ordinary income tax when you do take the distribution. And if you don't want to withdraw money from your traditional IRA, you can convert it to a Roth IRA. You'll have to pay taxes upon the conversion, but, after that, you'll never face RMDs - and your Roth will grow tax-free for your lifetime, plus that of your spouse's and subsequent beneficiaries.

Before you act on any of these suggestions, see your tax advisor. In fact, it's a good idea to get professional advice well before you think you'll need to make any moves. By planning ahead, you can make your pre-retirement and retirement years far less "taxing."



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Buy the neighborhood

Buying and Selling

by Ryan Hodge

When beginning your home search, you should have a good idea of the features you want - the number of bedrooms and baths, a large or small yard, modern kitchen or office space. Even more important, however, is where it will all be located. The community in which you will live will

determine your whole way of life.

Do you have or plan to have a family? Consider proximity to schools and how many other children are in the neighborhood. Have a job in town? Think long and hard about your commute. What shopping and dining options are close by?

Even if you don't have a family, it's still wise to select a neighborhood in or near a district with good schools. No matter what your plans, you should always be considering the potential resale value of your home. Future buyers will likely put good schools near the top of their priority list.

Be aware of how much homes in the area have appreciated over the last few years to get a good indication of the quality of the neighborhood. Of course, a real estate professional in the area will be very familiar with all the communities that interest you - their character and strengths and weaknesses. Aside from driving around and talking with residents, the agent is your best source of information for making this all-important decision!

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Salado Police Dept. requests tasers for officers as added tool in the field

By TIM FLEISCHER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Once you've been hit with a taser, "you don't want it again," Salado police officer David Buchanan told aldermen Dec. 16.

Salado Police Chief Alan Rogers requested permission of the board of aldermen to purchase tasers for his officers. The tasers are \$800 each with \$20 cartridge costs.

Chief Rogers discussed the safety aspects and other concerns surrounding the use of tasers by police departments.

"I was skeptical about tasers myself," Chief Rogers said, adding that after he went to school on the proper use of the instrument "I became a believer in them."

Both Chief Rogers and officer Buchanan have attended school on the use of the tasers. Part of the training includes "being tased" yourself so that officers have a first-hand understanding of what happens when the instrument is used.

But an instrument of force is the last resort for

officers in the field, Chief Rogers told aldermen. An officer's first instrument when confronting a possibly violent person is his "commanding presence." The second instrument is his voice command.

Only when those fail and confrontation is inevitable should an officer use his instruments of force. Those instruments include sprays, asps, tasers, cuffs, and his gun.

Pepper sprays have often proven ineffective in highly confrontational situations, particularly if the suspect is under the influence of drugs.

An asp, which Officer Buchanan showed aldermen, is a "pain compliant" instrument and can require multiple strikes in a physical confrontation. Sometimes these blows can result in broken bones and other injuries.

"An asp or spray can be taken away from an officer and used on the officer by the suspect," Chief Rogers said.

A taser, with a range of up to 21 feet, incapacitates a subject for a short period of time to give the officer

the opportunity to cuff the subject.

The shock from a taser is an impulse of only five seconds, Chief Rogers said, "but you are unable to do anything but fall to the ground."

That's because the current of the taser is the same as the current of electrical impulses controlling your voluntary muscles. The current controlling your involuntary muscles is a different one and is unaffected by the taser.

Chief Rogers told aldermen how each use of the taser is recorded in a database and each cartridge is uniquely identified so that the department will know when and who has discharged the taser should that information be needed.

"We have had very few physical confrontations," Chief Rogers assured aldermen, "but you never know what might come off the highway."

As with any tool, it can be abused. Currently, there are 74 lawsuits against police departments concerning the use or abuse of tasers.



Officer David Buchanan shows Salado aldermen a Taser gun.

"I trust the maturity of all of our officers," Chief Rogers said, adding later that with the proper training an officer "knows how to use it and not to cause injury with it."

Yet the taser is rarely used, because, as Officer Buchanan said, "when that red dot gets on their chest, they give up."

In other business, aldermen approved the \$25,000 annual contract with the Salado Volunteer Fire Department, which would require a financial report from the fire department. The board also approved the property abatement schedule of fees in support of two earlier property maintenance ordinances.

Tates will give program on Holland family

The Holland Family, of Grimes County, pioneers of the Republic of Texas, will be featured in the next Daughters of the Republic of Texas program, 10:30 a.m. Jan. 15 at the Central Texas Area Museum.

Dottie and Danny Tate, of Riesel, who led Scottish games for the Salado Log Cabin Children of the

Republic of Texas, at the Gathering of the Clans in November, will deliver a festive program to launch a full 2005 schedule of Village of Salado CRT and DRT activities.

For more information about the program or Republic of Texas organizations call Salado DRT president Doris Kemp, 933-0240.

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Eads named Salado municipal judge

Salado aldermen appointed Arthur C. "Cappy" Eads as Municipal Judge Dec. 16. Eads, the former Bell County District Attorney for more than two decades, will bring 34 years of experience as a lawyer to the position.

Eads was graduated from Baylor Law School in 1970. He also holds a BBA degree from Southern Methodist University, which he attained in 1965. He is also a graduate of the Career Prosecutor Course and Executive Prosecutor Course from the National College of District Attorneys.

In addition to the state bar, Eads has been admitted to the bar of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Eads was an investigator for the District Attorney's office in 1968-69 and Assistant District Attorney, 1972-75. He was Bell County Attorney in 1975-76 before being elected District Attorney for the 27th Judicial District in 1976, a position he was re-elected to until 2000 when he retired from it to return to private practice.

As Assistant District Attorney and later as District Attorney, Eads was Co-Counsel or Lead Counsel in five capital murder cases in which the

defendants were sentenced to death.

He has received many honors and distinctions during his career: Prosecutor of the Year, from the State Bar of Texas (1987); Outstanding Texas Leader from the John Ben Shepherd Leadership Institute (1998); Governor's Distinguished Service Award (1993); Advocate for Justice award from the State Victim Coalition (1993), awarded as outstanding prosecutor for victims' rights in Texas and the Lecturer of Merit award from the National College of District Attorneys.

Former President (1986) and Chairman (1987-89) of the National District

Attorney's Association, he continues to serve on that Board of Directors. He was also a Regent of the National College of District Attorneys (1987).

He has been appointed to several advisory committees by Governors Mark White, Bill Clements and Ann Richards. He was appointed by President Reagan to the President's Child Safety Partnership.

Eads is a member of the Texas State Bar Association, Bell-Lampasas-Mills Counties Bar Association, National District Attorneys Association.

Eads served his country in the Marine Corps in 1959-1967.

He has been inter-



Arthur C. "Cappy" Eads

viewed on many national media outlets. Among them: National Public Radio, McNeil-Lehrer News Hour, The Today Show, Good Morning America, Phil Donahue, Nightline, ABC Evening News and Night Talk.

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Few men have the natural strength to honour a friend's success without envy.... I well know that mirror of friendship, shadow of a shade.

—Aeschylus

Toy Drive

Salado intermediate School students held at Toy Drive and Friday Night Movie Dec. 17, sponsored by the Seventh and Eighth Grade Gifted and Talented classes. The toys were donated by students who got to watch "Elf" along with their friends.

Shown at right are volunteers (from left): Coral Fraire, Haley Kemp (GT), Kristie Everett and Chelsea Lomprey (GT).



PHOTO BY MARILYN FLEISCHER



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Dancers in Ballet Renee', the official company of the Newcomb School of Ballet in Killeen, performed for the Mill Creek Community Association at its annual Christmas Dinner Dec. 14. Renee' Gillenwater, director and instructor has made a tradition of performing the Nutcracker Suite in the area each Christmas. The Newcomb School offers classical ballet lessons for all levels, beginning to professional and has been training dancers for more than 40 years. Shown above are the Arabian Dancers, one of the vignettes taken from The Nutcracker. During the evening, Jack Schrock was elected President of the MCCA for 2005. (PHOTOS BY TIM FLEISCHER)



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Trustees set Jan. 4 meeting on bond

Salado ISD Trustees have called a special board meeting and bond planning workshop for 6 p.m. Jan. 4 at the Salado Civic Center.

Trustees will consider approving the projects, budget and propositions for the proposed school bond election.

Current proposed budgets include \$18.5 million for new high school construction; \$1.3 million for elementary renovations; \$3.6 million for new athletic facilities; \$3.5 million for new auditorium and \$1.7 for athletic facility renovations.

At their Dec. 13 meeting, trustees examined an election calendar for calling an April election, but have not yet set a date to call the election.

The meeting will be open to the public.

Salado Police Department Offense Reports, Nov. 2004

Date	Offense	Location
11/1	Dog Bite	DeGrummond Way (Exception)
11/1	Accident	I-35 284 Mile Marker (Cleared)
11/2	Theft Over \$50	Stagecoach Circle (Exception)
11/4	Possession of Marijuana Under two ounces	Old Mill Road (Arrest)
11/4	DUI/Minor	Old Mill Road (Arrest)
11/4	Minor Consuming Alcohol	Old Mill Road (Arrest)
11/4	Minor Consuming Alcohol	Old Mill Road (Arrest)
11/9	Credit Card Abuse	Main Street (Active)
11/10	DWLS	Thomas Arnold Road (Arrest)
11/11	Agg. Assault w/Deadly Weapon	Vanessa Street (Arrest)
11/11	Possession of Marijuana Over four oz. Under five lbs.	Vanessa Street (Arrest)
11/13	DWI	North Robertson Road (Arrest)
11/18	DWLS/Warrant Service	South Ridge Road (Arrest)
11/18	Accident	Rose Way (Cleared)
11/19	Possession of Marijuana Under two ounces	FM 2268 (Arrest)
11/19	Public Intoxication	South Stagecoach Road (Arrest)
11/19	DUI/Minor	FM 2268 (Arrest)
11/19	Minor Consuming Alcohol	FM 2268 (Arrest)
11/22	Burglary of Coin Op. Machine	Robertson Road (Suspended)
11/24	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	Robertson Road (Suspended)
11/24	Accident	Old Mill Road (Cleared)
11/24	Warrant Service/Bell County Sheriff's Office	North Main Street (Arrest)
11/27	Public Intoxication	North Stagecoach Road (Arrest)
11/27	Fail to Identify	North Stagecoach Road (Arrest)
11/29	Theft Over \$1,500	Hester Way (Suspended)
11/29	Assault with Bodily Injury	Mill Creek Road (Exception)

26 Offenses Reported
22 Cleared by Arrest or Exception
3 Suspended
1 Active Suspect Identified; Case Will Soon be Presented to DA's Office

Soil testing is a key to properly managing your lawn

By DIRK AARON
Co. EXT. AGENT - AG

Christmas Season is here, and with it comes the dawn of a New Year in Agriculture. We have been planning and preparing the annual Crops Clinic this month, and have a great event in store for Central Texas farmers and ranchers.

We have received approval for five hours of continuing education units for the Jan. 21 event to be held at the Bell County Expo Center. Producers will have an opportunity on this day to hear the latest news on crop production, animal identification, premise identification, weed control in pastures, integrated pest management, water quality, well head protection, and an update on laws and regulations for private and commercial operators.

The event will begin at 8:30 a.m., with registration and program beginning at 9 a.m. Producers will have an opportunity to view the Education and agri-business booths. We expect to have 20 or more businesses providing the booths related to agriculture. I strongly encourage any business wishing to purchase a booth space to contact our office as soon as possible.

Farmers and Ranchers need only to put Jan. 21 on the calendar for the Crops

Clinic. Participants will be charged \$10 and will receive educational material, five CEU's, lunch and breaks.

I also want to remind homeowners that they have an opportunity to have their soil tested, just as agriculture does. Turf management is the key to a successful attractive lawn.

Once again we have entered into the winter season – leaves are falling and lawns are going dormant. What does this mean? Well, for most of us, it means no more mowing or fertilizing until spring. With that being said, it's a perfect time to take advantage of a very important part of turf management – taking a soil sample!

Unfortunately, most people in Texas have never taken a soil sample. It's

a very easy task and the information obtained from the analysis is vital in creating an environmentally safe nutrient management program for your turf grass. Without an analysis of your soil, you could be applying nitrates, phosphates, and other constituents into your soil that are not required. Furthermore, you could be damaging both the turf and the environment if you use inorganic or organic fertilizers inappropriately.

So, contact our office for a sample bag, make the right choice for your turf and your environment – take a soil sample. It will pay dividends down the road. For more information on "Soil Sampling", go to the Aggie-Turf web site at <http://aggie-turf.tamu.edu> and click on "News/Publications."

Mark Your Calendar!

Monday, January 3
is Tamale Day!

Angelita's Catering
presents
Sylvia Villarreal's
Famous Durango Tamales
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Prior to the holiday break, the Salado band entertained with a Christmas concert at the Intermediate School. Above, director Tom Bremer leads the flutes.



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Merle Norman Cosmetic Studios have been independently owned and operated since 1931.

Santa Claus visited children at the Salado Public Library Dec. 20. The event included a story time and the chance for kids to browse the new holiday books, including "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town" by J.F. Coats, "Dream Snow" by Eric Carle and "Christmas in the Barn" by Margaret Wise Brown.

(PHOTOS BY MARILYN FLEISCHER)



Make Christmas memorable
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Salado Village Guide

Local Businesses Announce Holiday Hours

Business Name	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	New Year's Eve	New Year's Day
Jj's 'TIQUES	Closed	Closed	10 am until ?	Closed
Accents of Salado	10 am til 5 pm	Closed	10 am until 5 pm	10 am to 6 pm
Art Song Gallery	Open until 5 pm	Closed		
Skin Deep	Open until 2 pm	Closed		
Southern Comforts	Closed	Closed	Open until 5 pm	Closed
Mud Pies Pottery	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
All Lathered Up		Closed		
FSG	Open until 5 pm	Closed		
Carden's	10 am until 3pm	Closed		
Charlotte's	10 am until 3pm	Closed		
Christy's of Salado	Closing at 3 p.m.	Closed	10 am until 5 pm	Open
Alice's	9:30 am - 2:00 pm	Closed		
Susan Marie's & Scarlett's	Open until 4 pm	Closed		
Mill Creek	Open until noon	Closed		
The Range	Closed	Closed		
Splendors	10 am until 3pm	Closed	10 am until 5:30	
Sweet Nut Things	10am to 3pm	Closed	10 am until 5 pm	10 am til 5 pm
Sewing Basket	Closed	Closed	Closed	10 am to 5 pm
Salado Village Voice	Closing at noon	Closed	Closing at noon	Closed
Remember This	Open until 2 pm	Closed		
Uniquely Europe	10 am to 5 pm	Closed	10 am to 5 pm	10 am to 5 pm
Angelic Herbs	10 am to 5 pm	Closed	10 am to 5 pm	
Heirlooms	10 am until ???	Closed		
INGS	10 am to 6 pm	Closed		
Remember This	10 am to 2 pm	Closed		
Salado Galleries	Closed	Closed	10 am to 5 pm	Closed
Griffith Fine Art	Closing at noon	Closed	Closed	Closed
First State Bank	Close at noon	Closed	Close at 3 pm	Closed
Compass Bank	Close at 2 pm	Closed	Normal hours	Closed
Sweet Dreams	10 am to 3 pm	Closed	10 am to 3 pm	Closed
Strawberry Patch	10 am to 3 pm	Closed		
Stagecoach Gallery	10 am to 5 pm	Closed	10 am to 5 pm	Closed
Gregory's	closing at 3 pm	Closed	10 am to 5 pm	??

Store closings were compiled by the Salado Chamber of Commerce. Hours may change without notice.



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Bridal guide to be published in January 2005

Salado Village Voice announces the publication of its second annual bridal guide, Bridal Dreams, which will be published as a special insert into the newspaper in both January and June. The Bridal Guide will have a total circulation of 10,000 copies, inserted into three editions of the newspaper. Additional copies will be distributed through advertisers, as well as the Salado Chamber of Commerce information kiosk.

The Bridal Guide will offer two forms of advertising: a traditional display ad or a story ad that can include pictures. The Bridal Guide will have three sizes of ads available: 1/8 page (3 columns by 4 inches) for \$72; 1/4 page (3 columns by 8 inches) and 1/2 page (6 columns by 8 inches) for \$250. Advertisers reserving the 1/4 page or 1/2 page ads may choose to have those ads in the forms of "stories with pictures."

The 1/4 page story ad can have one accompanying picture and the 1/2 page story ad can have two photos in the copy. Staff writers will work with you to compose a story unique to your business.

Full color will be available for 1/4 page and larger ads for an additional cost: \$40 for a quarter; \$75 for a half page.

The Bridal Guide is a terrific vehicle for B&Bs and hotels, restaurants,

florists, jewelers, dress shops, gift shops, bridal services, catering companies, travel agents, etc. The Guide will be a valuable tool for couples planning their weddings.

The publication will also be posted on the Salado Village Voice website for easy downloading with links to advertisers' websites.

Please call the newspaper at 254/947-5321 or email saladovillagevoice@earthlink.net. Deadline is Jan. 12, 2005.



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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 Theater**. Package includes 7-8:30 p.m. dinner at Stagecoach Inn, followed by 9-10:30 p.m. Murder Mystery Dessert Theater at the Silver Spur, featuring the Get a Clue Theater Company. Temple College Jazz Combo will take the stage 11 p.m.-1 a.m. Reservations should be made by Dec. 22. Info: 947-3456 or www.saladosilverspur.com.

JANUARY 1
Red Cross Blood Drive and Customer Appreciation Day at Old Mill Pizza. Blood drive will be held 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Donors will receive free personal pizza. All day: buy one, get one free pizza deals, bring a canned good for Salado Food Pantry and receive a pizza coupon, live radio remote from noon-3 p.m., free rock climbing from Boulders Sport Climbing Center and door prizes from local businesses. Info: 947-0700.

JANUARY 3
Salado Monday Club meeting, 2 p.m. at Salado United Methodist Church. The program will be given by Inspector Best of the Temple Police Department on the subject of identity theft. All ladies are invited to attend.

JANUARY 6
Presbyterian Church of Salado begins seven session class on an introduction to Islam. 11 a.m. in the church's Fellowship Hall. First class will cover the purpose of the series, and will include a video on the faith of Islam. Other sessions will include examinations of Islam in modern Iran, the Christian Crusades, Islamic law and Islamic immigration in Europe. Community is invited to attend. Info: Shirley Pinkston, 947-3372.

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 15
Village of Salado Daughters of the Republic of Texas meeting, 10:30 a.m. at Central Texas Area Museum. Dottie and Danny Tate, of Riesel, will present a program on the Holland family of Grimes County, pioneers of the Republic of Texas. Info: Doris Kemp, Salado DRT president, 933-0240.

JANUARY 23
Annual Harry A. Wilmer Lecture, 3-5 p.m. at Salado Silver Spur Theater. Lecture is titled "People Need People," featuring Dr. Harry Wilmer and Pam Marvin. Free and open to the public. Info: 947-5729 or www.salado-institute.org.

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.

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.

FEBRUARY 24-28
Salado Artists Workshops and Studio Tours. Featuring intensive workshop instruction for artists and aspiring artists of all ages. Artist workshops include stone carving, pottery, watercolor, cane and basket weaving, decorative painting, glass art, oil painting, sculpture, drawing and acrylics. On Feb. 26, 24 private artists' studios and public Salado galleries are open to the public during the Artist Studio and Gallery Tours. Info: 947-8300.

MARCH 9
Annual Salado Eagle High School Alumni Baseball game at Eagle field. Any former Salado baseball player is welcome to play. Home-run contest, divided into

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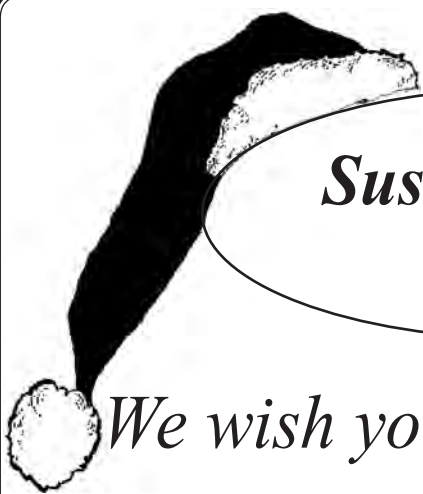
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the Village of Salado?

Over-30 and Under-30 divisions, will precede game, which will pit even-year graduates against odd-year graduates. Odds hold 2-1 series lead. Food and drink concessions will be open, and players are encourage to bring their families. Any proceeds benefit Salado baseball. Info: Coach Melvin Bates: mbates@saladoisd.org.

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.fbcshalado.org.

APRIL 2

Five-K Salado Rabbit Run/Walk, sponsored by the Salado United Methodist Church.

More details TBA. Info: Clodene Greer, 947-7129.

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 10 a.m. 8 p.m. April 23. Gospel singers, bands groups, trios, duets and solo artists. April 24 10 a.m. singing, 11 a.m.-noon church service. 12:30- 6 p.m. More festivities and musical groups. Food booths, drinks, gift booths, desserts of all kinds, Adults \$5 Children 12 and under \$3 254-947-5100



Penny and Grainger Esch (above), of the Salado Silver Spur Theater, will host a special New Year's Eve celebration, featuring a murder mystery dessert theater from the Get A Clue Theatre Company, followed by live music from the Temple College Jazz Combo until 1 a.m. Dinner at the Stagecoach Inn prior to the dessert theater is included in the ticket price. For reservations, call 947-3546 or visit www.saladosilverspur.com.

or CVM USIC-MINISTRY @aol.com 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. Proceeds banked for the fourth graders senior class trip. Time: 7:30 p.m. Tickets: adults \$5, children \$3.

JUNE 13

Tablerock's Salado Legends rehearsals begin.

JULY 23, 30 & AUG. 6

Tablerock's 13th Annual Salado Legends. Dinner 7:15 p.m. with cost of \$8 (all ages reservations required). Performance begins at 8:15 p.m. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$5 children 12 and under. Call 254-947-9205 for group rates and further information, or visit www.allcentex.com/tablerock. Email: tablerock1@aol.com.

SEPTEMBER 10, 17 & 24

Tablerock's produc-

tion of Shakespeare's "Hamlet." Performance at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10 adult, \$5 child.

SEPTEMBER 17-18

Tablerock's Fantasy Faire, featuring music, dance and historical demonstrations. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily. Admission: \$7 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under, seniors and military personnel. Info: 254-947-1339 or email pangea@vvm.com, or tablerock1@aol.com.

OCTOBER 1-2

Tablerock's - A Christmas Carol Auditions Sat.- Sun.: 3 p.m. Information: 254-947-9205. Directed by Harry Sweet.

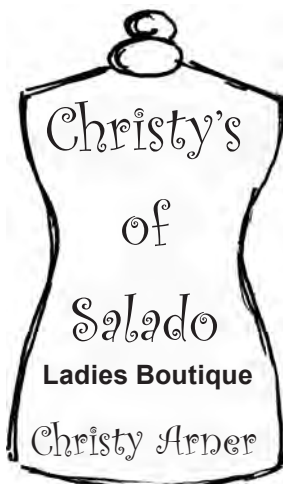
OCTOBER 29, 30 & 31

Tablerock's Fright Trail, 7 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Admission: \$5 adults and \$3 for children 12 and under.

DECEMBER 2-3

Tablerock's 13th annual presentation of A Christmas Carol, 7 p.m. each night. Tickets: adults \$5, children 12 and

under, \$3. Sandwiches and drinks available beginning 6:30 p.m. Info: 947-9205 or www.allcentex.com/tablerock. Email: tablerock1@aol.com.



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Red



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"Transitions"

Saladoan's paintings to be shown at CAC

The Cultural Activities Center's Saulsbury Gallery, located in Temple, will host "Transitions," the first major exhibit in 10 years by Saladoan S. Chuck McCarter, featuring a number of large and small canvas paintings and mixed media on paper. The exhibit will open with a 7 p.m. Jan. 14 reception and will be on display until Feb. 19.

The recent deaths of two of McCarter's family members left him with many questions about where we go and what happens to us after we die or when we dream. These "transitions" are the themes of his most recent works.

Inspired and led, in part, by his background as an art history professor, his paintings commonly feature faces reminiscent of the masks placed over the faces of the dead in the ancient Mycenaean culture. Funerary masks and other facial coverings for the dead emphasized an ancient cultural belief in the fragile state of transition that the dead would have to successfully transcend in their physical and spiritual journey from this world to their divine transformation in the next.

Hence, whether worn by the living or the dead, masks played a

similar role of magically transforming an individual from a mortal to a divine state. This is why, explains McCarter, the faces in his paintings all wear very somber looks, have closed eyes and slightly pouty mouths.

McCarter says it was not as difficult as he first feared to begin painting again after his hiatus. He describes it like keeping things pent up inside that should have been let out, "Once you finally start to let them out, they just spill over."

McCarter's exhibit will be co-sponsored by the Public Arts League of Salado (PALS).

"PALS mission is to promote public art," said PALS representative Troy Kelly, who explained that this mission is accomplished in part by sponsoring and hosting a variety of exhibits in Salado. When PALS decided they wanted to promote an exhibit by McCarter they realized they would need more space and approached the CAC about partnering on the exhibit. In addition to helping promote the exhibit, PALS will sponsor the opening reception for McCarter's exhibit.

For more information about the McCarter exhibit contact Kim Miller at 254-773-9926.



Kitty with Yellow Spots



Petting Jungle Kitty



Christ Episcopal Church in Temple

Christ Episcopal Church is newest ornament in Bell Museum series

Newest in the Bell County Museum's historic church ornament series is Christ Episcopal Church in Temple. The charming three-dimensional replica sells for \$15.00 plus tax; museum members receive a ten percent discount.

Founded as a mission in 1883, the congregation of Christ Episcopal Church achieved parish status in 1902. A.O. Watson of Austin designed the Gothic Revival structure, built in 1904-05, and the Rt. Rev. George H. Kinsolving, bishop of Texas, consecrated the building in 1913.

This limited edition ornament is the third in

a series of ornaments showcasing historic church structures in Bell County. Salado United Methodist Church and the First Baptist Church of Temple are the first two in the series. First United Methodist Church of Belton will be featured in 2005.

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

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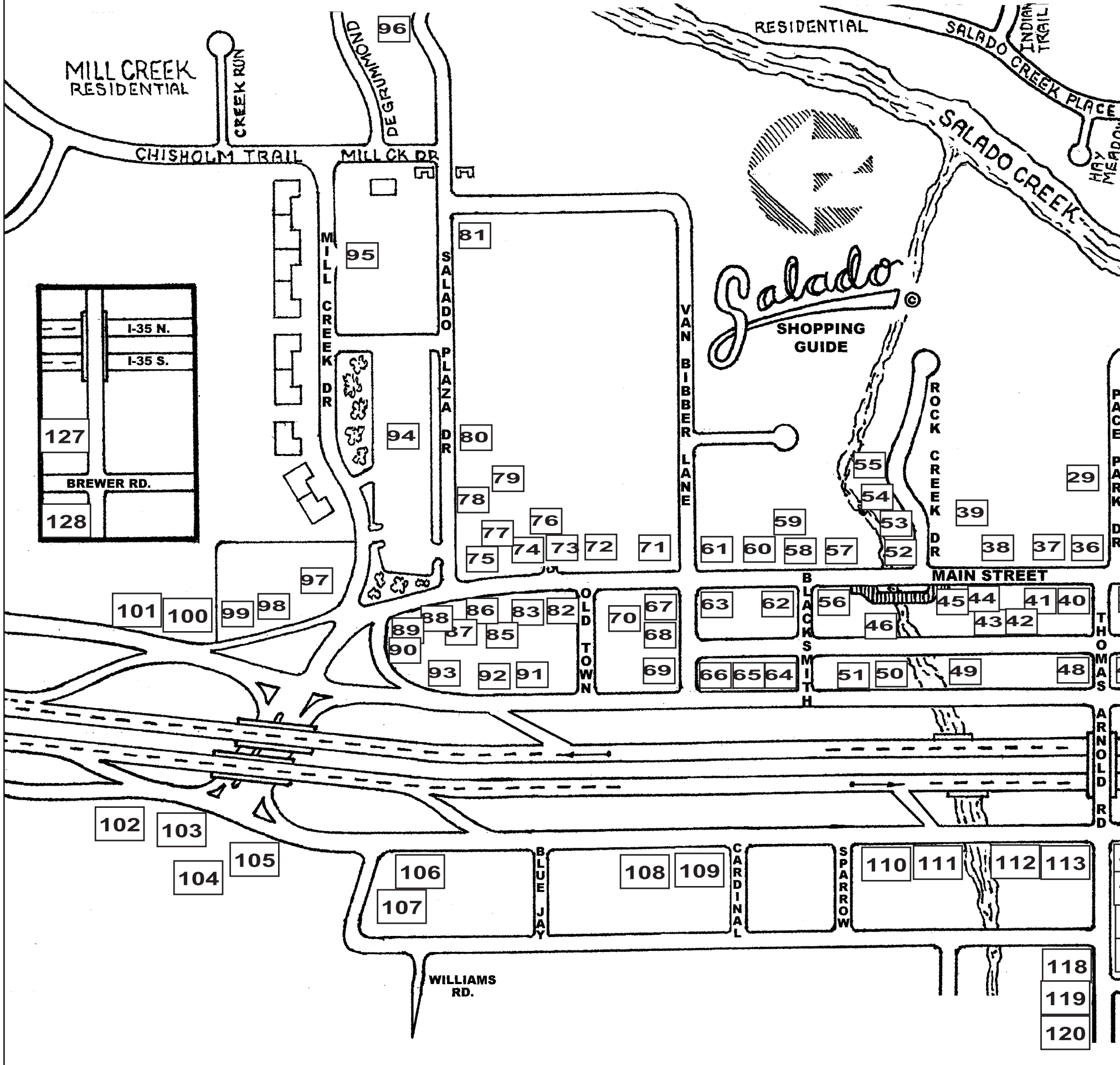
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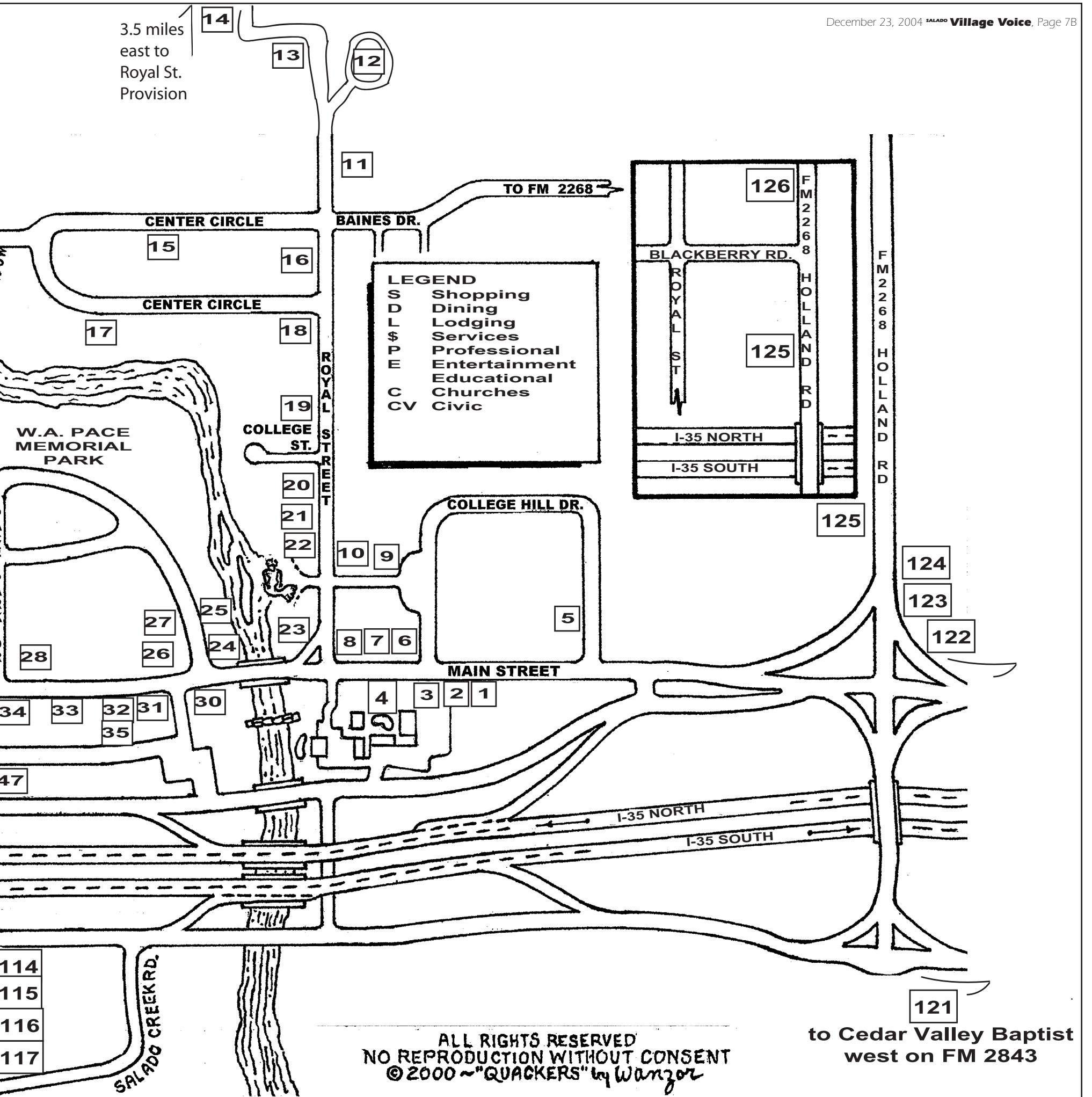
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4. Stagecoach Inn	254/947-5111	D,L	26. CREEKSIDE CENTER			45. Sweet Dreams	254/947-9200	S
5. Stone Creek Settlements	254/947-9099	L	Prellop Fine Art Gallery	254/947-3930	S	46. Wigglesworth Place Lodging	254/947-8846	L
	888/777-8844		Susan Marie's	254/947-5239	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. THE VERANDA					
8. SHADY VILLA			First Texas Brokerage	254/947-5577	\$	ROCK CREEK		
Gregory's	254/947-5703	S	33. First State Bank	254/947-5852	\$	53. Splendors of Salado	254/947-3630	S
Sweet Nut Things	254/947-8088	S	35. Salado Masonic Lodge #296		CV	54. Charlotte's of Salado	254/947-0240	S
9. Peddler's Alley	254/947-9722	S	36. Christy's of Salado	254/947-0561	S	55. Uniquely Europe	254-947-3222	S
10. The Dusty Rose	254/947-9215	S	37. Inn at Salado	254/947-0027	L			
11. Tablerock Amphitheatre	254/947-9205	E	38. SALADO SQUARE			56. OLD CHURCH PLACE		
12. The Rose Mansion B&B	254/947-8200	L	Browning's Courtyard Cafe	254/947-8666	D	Heirlooms	254/947-0336	S
14. Royal Street Provision	254/947-3350	L	Carden's	254/947-0300	S	The Front Row Emporium	254/947-5831	S
Country Inn			Classics on Main	254/947-3277	S	57. THE COLONY		
15. Friendship House B&B	254/947-3136	L	Linda Rountree Pritchard	254/947-4263	P	Griffith's Fine Art	254/947-3177	S
16. The Baines House B&B	254/947-5260	L	Main Street Place	254/947-9908	S	Miller Fine Art	254/947-0771	S
17. Inn on the Creek B&B	254/947-5554	D,L	Magnolia's on the Square	254/947-0323	S	59. Watersong Massage	254/947-0042	P
18. ROYAL STREET COURTYARD			39. The Range at the Barton House	254/947-3828	D	60. Skin Deep Clinic	254/947-3225	P
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Creative Innovations	254/760-2620	\$	Dr. Douglas B. Willingham			Properties by Larry Sands	254/947-5580	\$
21. Springhouse Antiques	254-947-0747	S	42. Mud Pies Pottery	254/947-0281	S	Uncommon Grounds Cafe	254/947-3354	D
22. Salado Silver Spur Theatre	254/947-3456	E	43. Southern Comforts	254/947-0595	S	62. Salty Creek Cafe	254/947-8550	D
23. ONE ROYAL			Matters of the Heart		S	63. Seasons of Salado	254/947-4769	S
FSG Fine Jewelry	254/947-9447	S	Trends		S	65. The Village of Salado	254/947-5060	CV



The Bluffs at Salado Creek

70. STAGESTOP RETAIL CENTER			Alice's	254/947-9000	S	117. The Barber Barn	254/421-5173	\$
Angelica Herbs	254/947-1909	S	B. Herd Gallery	254/947-HERD	S	118. Thomas Arnold	254/947-5191	E
Holly Dunn Art Song Gallery	254/947-5247	S	Cathy's Boardwalk Cafe	254/947-8162	D			
The Sewing Basket	254/947-5423	S	Miz Tillywigger's	254/947-0124	S	119. Salado Intermediate	254/947-1700	E
71. SALADO CIVIC CENTER			MJ's Country Corner	254/947-8885	S	120. Salado High	254/947-5429	E
Salado Civic Center	254/947-8300	CV	Texan by Design	254/947-4479	S	121. Cedar Valley Baptist Church	254/947-0148	C
Chamber of Commerce	254/947-5040	CV	83. Horsefeathers	254/947-3203	S	122. Eagle Rock Ranch	254/947-5369	\$
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72. The Halley House	254/947-1000	L		254/947-5050		123. Wildfire Saddlery	254/947-8080	S
73. CARRIAGE PLACE SQUARE			88. The Personal Wealth Coach			124. St. Stephen Catholic Church	254/947-8037	C
Before & After	254/947-5814	\$	94. SALADO PLAZA			127. Grace Baptist Church of Salado	254/947-5917	C
74. Etrulia's	254/947-0504	S	Salado Village Voice	254/947-5321	\$	128. Janelle's	254/947-3584	S
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76. ArchAngel Antique Gallery	254/947-5933	S	Edward D. Jones	254/947-5128	\$	The Event Center at Tenroc Ranch		
77. St. Luke's Episcopal		C	Old Mill Pizza	254/947-0700	D	2 miles west of I-35 on Thomas Arnold Rd.		
78. Three Dogs or a Quilt	254-947-9070	S	Salado Chiropractic	254/947-BACK	P	254/947-9274	\$	
79. Presbyterian Church of Salado	254/947-8106	C	Salado Eye Care	254/947-LENS	P	Toodles (150 W. Amity Rd.)	254/947-5977	S
81. Salado Sawmill	254/947-0137	S	Village Pharmacy	254/947-3185	\$			
The Timbers at Salado Sawmill	254/947-0137	L	96. Mill Creek Golf & Country Club	254/947-5144	D,L			
			97. Salado Public Library	254/947-9191	E			
			98. Salado Cleaners	254/947-7299	\$			
			100. Village Realty	254/947-0342	\$			
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An unofficial history of Santa Claus

By CHRIS MCGREGOR
STAFF WRITER

Just a couple of days until Christmas. Well-remembered Yuletide tunes rattling out of the of the radio speakers since Thanksgiving. Dusty lights and stockings fetched from the attic or garage in their once yearly exodus from seclusion.

Furniture shuffled to fix space for the tree. Ornaments crafted in grade school by tiny, articulate hands dangling from the limb, light curving off their surfaces in a fractional sweep of color. A cause to celebrate nostalgia.

And of course, with Christmas there's Santa Claus, the most recognizable of all of America's holiday accoutrements.

Old Saint Nick, the lover of mirth and goodwill, the master of reindeer and magical sleds; an utterly jovial doughboy who seems unwilling to strike even the most recalcitrant of youngsters from his gift list. We can all conjure him to mind without effort. Red suit, black boots and all.

So whom do we owe this department store image? Has he always been this way: plump, bearded and be-capped, from time immemorial? Certainly not.

He is like all things American. An amalgam of no certain antecedent, stretched across centuries like a cultural chain, linking past and present, old and new. A true work in progress.

In some respects, the real life St. Nicholas was a far cry from our modern Santa Claus. He was a godly man, born around 270 AD to wealthy parents in the town of Patras, in what is now Turkey. Later in life, the devout Nicholas ascended to the bishopric of Myra, where he devoted himself to prayer, good acts and the needs of those less fortunate, often distributing presents to the poor. As an early man of the cloth in that

part of the world, he would have worn robes of either red or burgundy, likely embellished with white trim.

After his passing in 343 he was canonized by the church, and great miracles were credited to St. Nicholas by those who subscribed to the cult that grew in his name. Reportedly, invoking the saint's name would aid in fertility, drive out evil spirits and mend incurable ailments.

The historical Nicholas has had quite a decorated career as a saint. He has been, at various times, the patron of Russia, Greece, Paris, pilgrims, preachers, prisoners, spinsters, orphans, thieves, bakers, brewers, butchers, apothecaries, haberdashers, tanners, fishermen and sailors, just to name a few. Vessels of the European Renaissance were often fitted with a visage of St. Nicholas affixed to the bow to honor their spiritual benefactor. And of course, Nicholas is the progenitor of our modern secular Santa Claus.

By 450, churches in Asia Minor were already being named for him. The day of his death, December 6, is still celebrated as a feast day for both Orthodox and Roman Catholics.

As early as the 12th century, nuns in France and Belgium were distributing gifts to the poor on Nicholas' feast day, marking the infancy of the tradition that, in one form another, is still carried on today throughout the world, even Japan, where less than one percent of the population is Christian.

Until the advent of Protestantism in 1517, Nicholas held fast in his place as one of the most popular of all Catholic saints.

But along with the Reformation came an accompanying decline in the veneration of saints, and the traditions of St. Nicholas' feast day, long cemented in the beliefs of the commoners, were compelled to take on different forms.

In England, where the observance of Christmas was actually banned in 1645 by the dour Cromwellians, Father Christmas, a carry-over from the days of pagan-

ism, who adorned himself in a crown of mistletoe, holly or ivy and draped his robust frame with a robe of scarlet, became the new vehicle to celebrate the custom of gift giving and good cheer established so many years before.

This transformation eventually found its way into France, as well, taking the name of Pere Noel.

Under the influence of Martin Luther, the Germans developed their own model to replace St. Nicholas, the "Christ Kindlein," or Christ Child, who then became the symbolic gift giver. The Christkindlein would eventually, through another triumph of American bastardization, be corrupted to its present form, the recognizable Kris Kringle. In some German variations, the Christ Child assisted St. Nicholas, or vice versa, in the rewarding of presents to well behaved children. In other traditions, Nicholas' servant, Peter, black faced from climbing through chimneys, kept the tally of naughty and nice children and was also responsible for the punishment of misbehaving children, often placing, under cover of darkness, a lump of coal in the child's shoe or stocking.

America's first contact with Jolly St. Nick came through its early Dutch settlers, who brought with them their European Christmas traditions. It is these early Dutchmen that gave us their Sint Nikolaas, or, in its shortened form, Sinter Klaas. It doesn't take much imagination to deduce that Sinter Klaas is the root of our Santa Claus.

For their part, in 1804 a group of New Yorkers, among them novelist Washington Irving, formed the New York Historical Society, adopting St. Nicholas as their patron. They included among their practices the Dutch tradition of gift giving at Christmas time.

Irving to a large degree popularized the Santa mystique through his 1809 work "A History of New York," where he penned the look and habits of Santa Claus. An 1821 poem written by a

William Gilley refers to Santa dressed in fur and riding a sled pulled by a single reindeer.

A year later, in 1822, Clement Clarke Moore, drawing extensively from European tradition, composed one of the most famous poems of all time, the sentimental "An Account of a Visit from Saint Nicolas," best known by its opening line, "'Twas the night before Christmas..."

In his poem, Moore presents Santa as an elf and introduces, for the first time, Santa's eight reindeer, each named accordingly. Incidentally, the ninth and most well known, Rudolph, didn't come along until 1939. The red-nosed reindeer was purely an advertising creation of Robert L. May, who worked for Montgomery Ward.

If there is one man, though, that deserves credit for formulating our perception of Santa Claus it is 19th century political cartoonist Thomas Nast, who, for nearly four decades, contributed images of a plump and laughing North Pole dwelling Santa to *Harper's Weekly*, one of the most widely circulated publications of its time. In his own right, Norman Rockwell created eight Santa Claus covers spanning 30 years for the *Saturday Evening Post*, adorning many of them with halos.

Following Nast's lead, artist Haddon Sundblom, working for Coca-Cola in the 1930s, standardized the look of Santa Claus, completing a visual evolution some 1,500 years in the making. Sundblom, through his ads, lent a uniformity to all things Santa Claus, from his beard and his eyes, his clothes to his cap. Perhaps an explanation for this image uniformity lies in the fact that Sundblom often used himself as a model.

That famous rosy-cheeked countenance didn't exist prior to Thomas Nast, but it was perfected by Sundblom. By adding a human dimension to the myth, the explosion in popularity and recognizability of Santa Claus are testament to the talent of Sundblom and the reach of Coca-Cola's advertising arm, not to mention our own ravenous consumerism.

This is no new development, however. Stores were already advertising Christmas shopping in the 1820s, and the first department store Santa appeared in was in the 1840s.

For better, or, as most would argue, worse, Christmas has morphed into a secular celebration, absent in large part of its spiritual underpinnings. Funny then how Santa Claus, the oft-changed exponent of one of the most celebrated and pious saints in Christian history, has become its prevailing image.

But such is life. Be confident, though, that he's probably not done changing, and he's certainly a long way from disappearing. As sure as children will continue to listen for reindeer hooves on Christmas Eve, there will continue to be a Santa Claus, or Christkindlein, Papa Noel, or a Kerstman if you happen to be in the Netherlands.

And that's a good thing. A little hope for the future never hurt anyone, especially if you're a kid.



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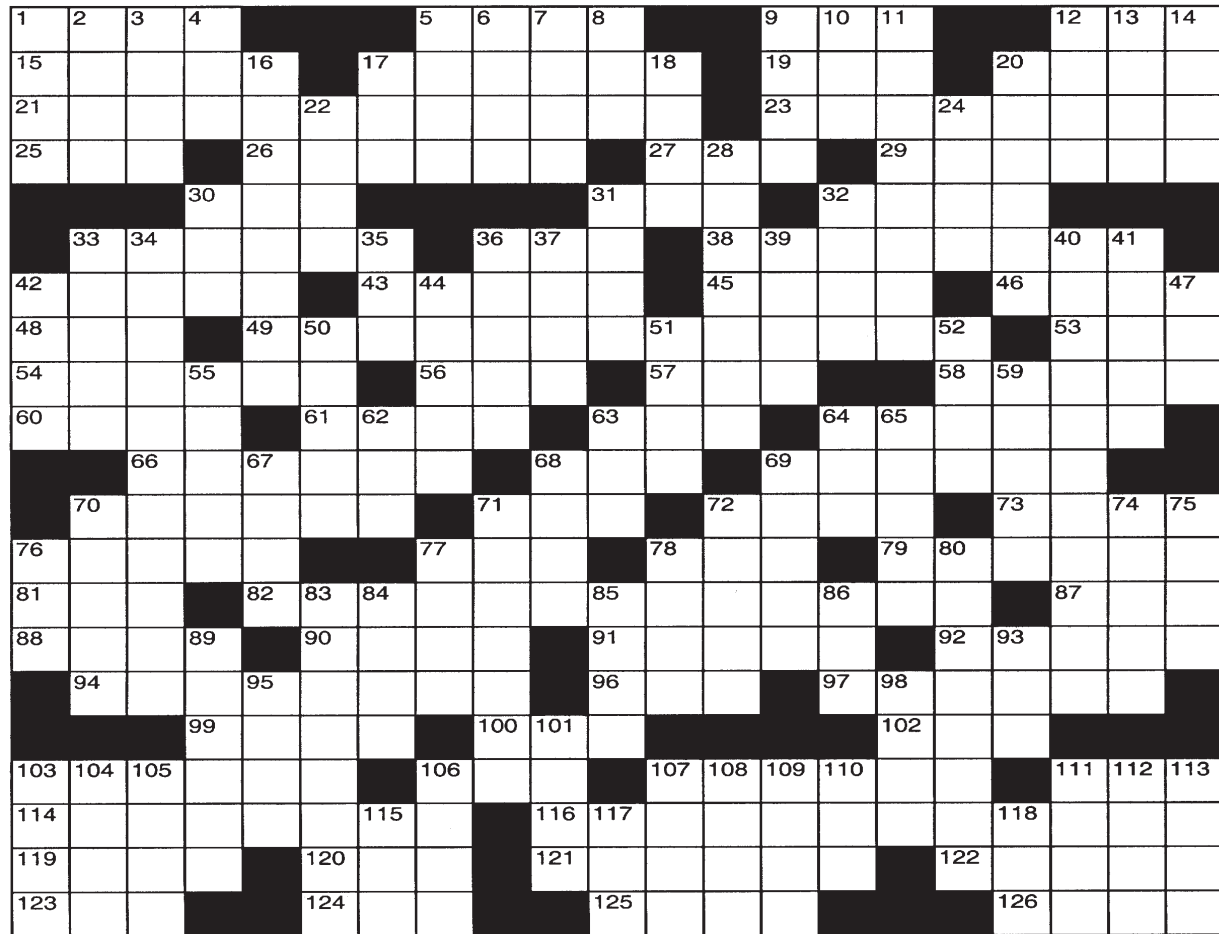
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Move like a mouse
 - 5 Neighbor of Java
 - 9 "Medicine" ('88 hit)
 - 12 Corpulent
 - 15 Early computer
 - 17 TV's "Heroes"
 - 19 Campbell of UB40
 - 20 Poorly
 - 21 Restaurant critic's zine?
 - 23 Librarian's journal?
 - 25 Explosive initials
 - 26 Column
 - 27 Max — Sydow
 - 29 Bunch of ballplayers
 - 30 Solidify
 - 31 Weber's "Freischutz"
 - 32 Prepared to drive
 - 33 Let up
 - 36 Arthur or Pons
 - 38 — carrier
 - 42 Snapshot
 - 43 — Lama
 - 45 Strained
 - 46 DEA officer
 - 48 Browning's bedtime?
 - 49 Gardener's monthly?
 - 53 — jongg
 - 54 Hymns of praise
 - 56 Viper
 - 57 Milne creature
 - 58 Digression
 - 60 Gouda alternative
 - 61 — River, NJ
 - 63 Tenor
 - 64 Like Simon
 - 66 Groovy
 - 68 Pugilistic poke
 - 69 Stephen King book
 - 70 Mutiny
 - 71 Produce a parka
 - 72 — fide
 - 73 Byzantine art form
 - 76 Pants parts
 - 77 Ram's ma'am
 - 78 Directional suffix
 - 79 Sock style
 - 81 Feign
 - 82 Tree surgeon's periodical?
 - 87 Middling mark
 - 88 Whippet's wagger
 - 90 Enormous
 - 91 Terpsichore's sister
 - 92 104 Down, e.g.
 - 94 Broadway arrangement
 - 96 Kennel feature
 - 97 Kitten gear?
 - 99 Petite pie
 - 100 Sprite
 - 102 "Buttermilk Sky" ('46 song)
 - 103 Classify
 - 106 Maestro de Waart
 - 107 "Electric —" ('83 hit)
 - 111 To and —
 - 114 Sailor's reading?
 - 116 Depression era magazine?
 - 119 Icelandic epic
 - 120 Capek play
 - 121 Bring to light
 - 122 Goatish gambler
 - 123 Have unpaid bills
 - 124 "Hiver" opposite
 - 125 — to Order" ('87 film)
 - 126 Highflying agcy.
 - 3 Crowdburst?
 - 4 Lincoln son
 - 5 Pipe part
 - 6 Turkish title
 - 7 Den
 - 8 "Newhart" setting
 - 9 Holstein's home
 - 10 Flagon filler
 - 11 Patois
 - 12 Beat
 - 13 Felipe, Jesus, or Matty
 - 14 Little one
 - 16 South African port
 - 17 Cholesterol letters
 - 18 Golfer Ballesteros
 - 20 Nigerian city
 - 22 "Aida" river
 - 24 Forest ruminant
 - 28 Ciceronian speech
 - 30 "GoodFellas" gun
 - 31 Place to pontificate
 - 32 Correct
 - 33 Forward
 - 34 Rover's review?
 - 35 Presidential monogram
 - 36 Sanctify
 - 37 Tombstone lawman
 - 39 Shakespearean heavy
 - 40 Wholesome biker's publication?
 - 41 Carpentry or printing
 - 42 Monsieur Le Pew
 - 44 Patriot Samuel
 - 47 "Evita" character
 - 50 — Park, CO
 - 51 Uninteresting
 - 52 Subdue Simba
 - 55 Pavarotti's love
 - 59 Bit of parsley
 - 62 Northwestern st.
 - 63 Mouth piece?
 - 64 Anger or envy
 - 65 Composer Albeniz
 - 67 Slender trace
 - 68 Be a wise guy
 - 69 French impressionist
 - 70 Chingachgook's son
 - 71 Nailed a gnat
 - 72 Boitano or Blessed
 - 74 New York city
 - 75 Require
 - 76 The Kit — Club
 - 77 In addition
 - 78 Stocking shade
 - 80 Antsy
 - 83 Opera feature
 - 84 Future of the present
 - 85 Medieval menial
 - 86 — de plume
 - 89 One of the Jacksons
 - 93 Gobbled up
 - 95 Apparel
 - 98 Debtors' letters
 - 101 Stud site
 - 103 Lhasa —
 - 104 Cabbage concoction
 - 105 Philosopher
 - 106 Bronte heroine
 - 107 Where to find an onager
 - 108 "Veni, vidi, —"
 - 109 Markey or Bagnold
 - 110 Fisherman's snare
 - 111 Chalky cheese
 - 112 Skates
 - 113 Gumbo thickener
 - 115 Absent
 - 117 City on the Danube
 - 118 Ashen



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Merry Christmas, Y'all

Cynthia (Mama) and I would like to thank all of those who have enlightened our day by coming into our restaurant and sharing their company with us. But, Guess What? **We will be closed December 15, 2004 to January 12, 2005** so that we can relax for a while and enjoy the holidays.

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

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The Grinch wants to steal your car this Christmas

The Grinch not only wants to steal Christmas, he wants to steal your car, too! Protect your vehicle this holiday season from Mr. Bah Humbug himself: The Auto Thief.

A car is stolen every 25 seconds in the United States, amounting to over 1.2 million vehicles stolen across the country last year alone. In 2003, Texas motor vehicle theft victims suffered losses totaling \$782,330,063, making auto theft the number one property crime in the state.

Sgt. Jerry Hataway with the Arlington Police Department warns, "Thieves are everywhere. Most are opportunists who try to take the easy way out. Don't leave your car anywhere you're not sure of and be aware of your surroundings."

Thieves are always looking for the next victim, and the holidays are a perfect time for them to score big. While you are out shopping, dining or enjoying friends and family this season, you can help protect your vehicle, valuables and life if you follow these simple

preventative steps:

1. Always take the keys with you and lock the doors.
2. Park in well-lit areas.
3. Use anti-theft devices anytime your vehicle is left unattended.
4. Do not leave valuables out in plain sight to tempt thieves.

"Over the holidays motor vehicle burglary picks up at the shopping malls and congestive areas. Thieves go where the crowds are because it makes it easier for them to blend in and commit a crime," Sgt. Hataway said.

Thieves target all vehicles, which makes every driver a potential victim of auto theft.

By stealing your car a thief can also gain access to your identity and personal information. Be proactive this holiday season by staying attentive and helping to reduce auto theft in Texas.

For more information on auto theft prevention or to be put in contact with your local ATPA task force, call 1-800-CAR-WATCH.

UMHB sets registration

Registration for spring classes at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor is scheduled for Jan. 10-11

Day classes at the UMHB campus begin Jan. 12. Night classes begin on Jan. 18. The university will be closed Jan. 17 for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Registration is based on the student's last name. Students with last names beginning with S through Z and A to B only will register on Jan. 10. Students with last names beginning C through R will register on Jan. 11. Registration will close between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Night registration will be from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the same dates.

UMHB campus registration will be held in the Sanderford Administrative Complex. Fort Hood personnel and dependents may register at the Fort Hood UMHB office, room G256, Building 33009. The UMHB Bookstore will be open during registration allowing students to purchase textbooks and supplies.

For more information, contact the Admissions Office at 295-4520.



See Crossword Puzzle on page 9B

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Christmas adventure in a Frazer car includes "toikey dinnahs" in Boston

I was getting some remarks ready for a speech to a classic car group and I started listing the cars I had owned during the fifties: a Plymouth Concord, Ford convertible, Studebaker Starlight coupe and a Chevy 4-door sedan. I got the Chevy when I was home one Christmas while I was in the Army. I got it because my daddy felt sorry for me.

Tumbleweed Smith



finished his date, met up with us and we made it back to Fort Devens.

My buddy Tom had a Frazer automobile. He and I had gone to Baylor together and happened to be in the same branch of service (the Army Security Agency) without knowing it. We ran into each other while standing in the chow line Thanksgiving Day at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, not far from Boston. We decided to forego the Army food, get up to date on each other since graduation and go into Boston for a good meal.

I will never forget the way the waitress in the restaurant called out in a high, loud, Yankee voice, "two toikey dinnahs."

We had driven to Boston in Tom's Frazer automobile. It didn't run very good, but it was transportation. We rode in the car sparingly, usually deciding to take public transportation. One time Tom had a date in New York City and decided to take his Frazer. A couple of soldiers and I went along. When we got to Times Square, Tom let us out and he chugged off in his Frazer. A couple of hours later, while we were walking along, taking in the sights, we came to an intersection where pedestrians were walking through steam coming from a car stopped for the red light. Sure enough, it was Tom and his date. We told Tom we were willing to give him a push if he needed it. Somehow, Tom

though, Tom wanted to pick up his car. But he couldn't remember the name of the town where he left it. We took a few exits off the turnpike, looking for the repair shop where Tom's car was. Finally Tom said, "take me to the nearest airport." He hired a pilot to fly him over the

turnpike until he recognized the town where he left his car. That car cost Tom a fortune. He did find it and brought it back to the post. He sold it soon after that. My Chevy lasted a long time. It ran like a top and took my buddies and me all over New England.

A few days before Christmas about six of us headed home to Texas in Tom's Frazer. Everything was fine until we got to the Pennsylvania turnpike. The Frazer died. Tom found a mechanic who just happened to have an old Oldsmobile for sale. We pooled our money and bought that car. It made it a good 200 miles before it quit. We found another mechanic who said it would take a few days to fix the car. We hitchhiked on home to Texas in time for Christmas.

That's when my Daddy took me to a car dealer and shucked out \$350 for the Chevy 4-door. I took Tom and the rest of our group back to Devens.

When we got to the Pennsylvania turnpike,

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Force bulbs indoors for beautiful winter color

All of us need a few bright and cheery spots of color to help us cope with the relatively colorless winter season.

The term "forcing" refers to inducing a plant to produce its shoots, leaves and flowers ahead of the natural schedule and out of the natural environment. You compress and mimic the process of growing that the plant would undergo outdoors in the garden. We would most often choose major spring bulbs for this such as daffodils, tulips, amaryllis, and hyacinths but other plants can be "forced" as well, such as lily of the valley. Minor spring bulbs could include snowdrops, scilla, muscari, chionodoxa, and

Master Gardener

by Candace Mullen

crocus. Every nursery and floral shop is quite familiar with the process because when you call and order plants out of season, what you get is a "forced" plant.

When selecting bulbs for forcing, be sure you select first-rate, high quality, and top size varieties. High quality bulbs are necessary because they contain the food required to produce a flowering plant.

And of course, that is the reason we force them - we want that touch of color

and fragrance in those dreary months. Choose a good catalogue offering a wide variety and look for bulbs identified as good forcing varieties. Ideally, you would want to order them by early October so you can get started by November at the latest, but you can do this when you want if you can find the bulbs. If you start planning now, you can be ready for the next year by buying pots and any other components on sale.

Actually, any type of pot is acceptable. The plastic pots won't dry out as rapidly, are easier to clean and lighter in weight as well as less expensive. Clay pots, on the other hand, have aesthetic qualities and a wider choice of sizes and shapes. They usually don't need a basket or covering to make them attractive. The clay pots should be soaked for several hours to saturate the pores and any pot should be scrubbed clean if you are reusing it. The pot dilemma becomes one of personal preference.

The soil or planting mixture you need should

be equal parts of peat moss, potting soil, sand, and vermiculite or perlite. Bulbs need both moisture and perfect drainage so your planting mixture is very important. You won't need fertilizer as the bulbs have all the stored food necessary to bloom one time. If you do plan to plant them outdoors after forcing, you can add one teaspoon of 5-10-5 fertilizer to every quart of potting mixture.

If you try hyacinths, crocus, and narcissi in only pebbles and water, with no extra nutrients, discard bulbs after blooming, as they will be completely exhausted.

Mix thoroughly and moisten your medium to a damp consistency, not saturated. Make sure you have placed a few pieces of broken pottery or stones over the drainage holes in the pot, and then add the damp mixture. Fill the pot half full, and then adjust the soil level until the top of the bulbs to be planted reach the rim of the container.

Plant them as close together as possible without letting them touch. Cold storage is the secret and important part to successful "forcing." Bulbs must be given a cold temperature treatment of 35 to 48 degrees F for a

minimum of 12-13 weeks. This cold treatment can be provided by either a cold frame, an unheated attic or cellar, under a porch, or even your refrigerator's vegetable section. I have an old one in the garage that is quite useful for this purpose.

In the refrigerator, the pots should be covered with dark, plastic bags that have a few breathing holes punched in them. The medium should be kept moist through this period so you do have to check them. Longer cooling periods will result in taller flowers, while shorter than 13 weeks storage time will result in smaller plants and aborted flowers. A good rule to follow is when you see the shoots two to three inches above the soil and fine white roots emerging from the drainage holes, it's time to bring the pots out of cold storage.

At this stage of development, move the pots to a cool location, such as an unheated entryway or closed off bedroom, where the temperatures are in the 50's. Place them in indirect lighting and don't let them dry out. Feed weekly with a half-strength solution of houseplant fertilizer and turn every day or so to keep the plants balanced and straight. When the foliage and buds are well

developed, move the pots to a bright, sunny window where temperatures are 65 or so. Once the flowers begin to bloom take plants out of direct sunlight to prolong the bloom.

After flowering, cut the flower stems and place the pots in direct sunlight, keeping the foliage growing until it begins to die back. As it withers, don't pull the leaves off, store bulbs in the pots in a cool, dry place until late summer or early fall, at which time they can be planted in the garden. Don't try to force the same bulbs indoors again. This process weakens the bulb, but they will successfully regenerate and return to a natural cycle of bloom outdoors in the garden bed.

Here are a few varieties that are good for "forcing." Tulips, Apricot beauty, Bing Crosby, Jingle Bells, and White Dream; Crocus, Pickwick, Remembrance, Peter Pan and Purpea Grandiflora; Hyacinths, Amethyst, Blue Jacket, Pink Pearl, and Gypsy Queen; Muscari, Blue Spike and Early Giant; Daffodils, Barrett Browning, Ice Follies, Spell Binder and Unsurpassable; others include snowdrops, Dutch irises, Blue Squill, and Glory-of-the-snow.

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Cold weather could leave many Texas homeowners uncovered

Texas homeowners now have a variety of homeowners insurance policies from which to choose and not all of them provide coverage for water dam-

age caused when frozen water pipes burst or leak.

Robert Ramsower, the president of the Association of Fire And Casualty Companies in Texas

(AFACT), advises that homeowners review their policy before a bitter cold spell ends up costing them dearly.

"More than 100,000

Texas homeowners have homeowners insurance policies issued through the Texas FAIR plan and they need to know now that they have no water

damage coverage," said Ramsower. "Even with full coverage every homeowner should know the amount of their deductible and whether or not they have an actual cash value or replacement policy. To be on the safe side, it's always a good idea to review your coverage with an agent or company representative."

Texasians will wrap themselves up as winter weather arrives and most will protect their homes. Unprotected, outdoor water faucets can quickly freeze following a cold front resulting in frozen water pipes, which may burst inside the house. Oftentimes, floors, walls and furniture are ruined long before the leaks have been detected.

A prolonged freeze can cause hundreds of millions of dollars to Texas homes and commercial buildings. Freezing temperatures in 1983 and 1989 were two of the coldest years on record and homeowners from the Red River to the coast suffered damage.

When temperatures are expected to be in the 20s, homeowners should insulate pipes, especially those close to outside walls, in attics or crawl spaces where the chance of freez-

ing is greatest. If you have an outside electrical water pump, don't forget to insulate it as well. The more insulation you use, the better protected your pipes will be.

Wrap outdoor pipes and faucets with newspaper, foam, rags, or any other insulating material. Cover them with plastic and secure with string, wire or tape. Hardware stores sell products designed to fit over an outside faucet providing insulation.

If your pipes burst, shut off the water immediately to prevent additional damage and call your plumber. Take an inventory of any damaged property or possessions. Do not dispose of any items without the prior approval of your insurance adjuster.

If you don't know whether your homeowners insurance policy provides you with coverage for water damage, contact your insurance agent or company.


For additional information on protecting your home, go to the Insurance Council of Texas Web site at www.insurancecouncil.org and look under Consumers/Media and Consumer Tips for the brochure, Freeze Protection.

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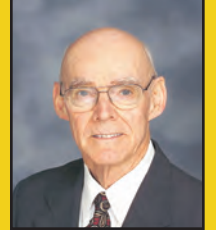
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Safe drivers at top of wish list of DPS troopers this holiday



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The Department of Public Safety has composed a wish list for the holiday season. DPS is asking travelers for the following gifts:

- Slow down—speed is the number one killer on Texas roads.
- Don't drink and drive; get a designated driver.
- Buckle up everyone in the vehicle.
- Keep cell phone chatter to a minimum.

• Drive with courtesy; it's contagious.

• Slow down in bad weather, construction areas and heavy traffic.

"Following these tips will keep your family and everyone on Texas roads safer," said DPS Director Thomas A. Davis Jr. "The sad truth is that most fatal traffic crashes don't have to happen."

DPS will have all available troopers patrolling Texas roadways from Friday, December 24 through midnight on Sunday, December 26. DPS is once again participating in Operation CARE (Combined Accident Reduction Effort)—a nationwide effort maximizing enforcement on major interstate highways to reduce fatalities commonly associated with holiday weekends.

Alcohol is always a concern during the holidays, and DPS is supporting the statewide anti-drunk driving campaign.

"If you choose to drive without regard for the safety of others, increased enforcement means you are nearly twice as likely to get a traffic citation or be arrested for DWI during the Christmas weekend," Col. Davis said.

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UMHB Spring registration set Jan. 10-11

Registration for spring classes at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor is scheduled for Jan. 10-11

Day classes at the UMHB campus begin Jan. 12. Night classes begin on Jan. 18. The university will be closed on Monday,

Jan. 17 for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Registration is based on the student's last name. Students with last names beginning with S through Z and A to B only will register on Jan. 10. Students with last names beginning

C through R will register on Jan. 11. Registration will close between 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and between 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Night registration will be from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. on the same dates.

UMHB campus registration will be held in the Sanderford Administrative Complex. Fort Hood personnel and dependents may register at the Fort Hood UMHB office, room G256, Building 33009. The UMHB office number at Fort Hood is 287-0615.

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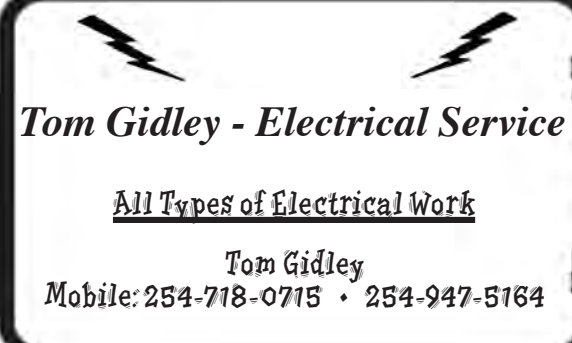


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The UMHB Bookstore will be open during registration allowing students to purchase textbooks and supplies.

For more information, contact the UMHB Admissions Office at 295-4520.

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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**

1607 Old Mill Road
Beautifully renovated home. Better than new on one of the most gorgeous lots in Salado. This home has 3 BR's, 2.5 Baths, formals and den w/WBFP. Hardwoods in entry, living room, dining room, hall and kitchen. Great kitchen with unique backsplash. There is a 23X20 bonus room with screens and sliding glass doors that open for perfect outdoor living. Well established landscaping and large trees. Must See! **\$287,500**

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**.

Lots
Premier lot in Rosematt Oaks over 1/2 acre in restricted Mill Creek Golf course subdivision. Underground utilities, ready for custom homes with only 2,000 sq. ft minimum. 1801 Kevlin Trail, 1901 Kevlin Trail, 1900 Kevlin Trail, 1808 Kevlin Trail.

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What exactly is "greenhouse effect"

Dear EarthTalk: What exactly is the "greenhouse effect" and how is it a bad thing? Suanne Gladstone, Queensland, Australia

The "greenhouse effect" occurs naturally when heat from the sun enters our atmosphere but cannot escape because it is blocked by water vapor, carbon dioxide and other airborne elements, thereby causing a warming of the Earth. Without a natural greenhouse effect, the average temperature of the Earth would be about zero degrees Fahrenheit instead of its present 57 degrees Fahrenheit.

But increasing amounts of pollutants from manufacturing and power plants, agricultural activities, automobiles and other sources that burn fossil fuels have led to an excessive build-up in the Earth's atmosphere of "greenhouse gases" such as carbon dioxide, nitrous oxides and methane. Scientists believe that this build-up is exaggerating the naturally occurring greenhouse effect and is to blame for the average temperature on Earth rising by more than one degree over the last century.

The International Panel on Climate Change, an international group of climatologists, predicts that Earth's temperature will continue to rise from two to 10 degrees Fahrenheit during this century as a result of human industrial activity. According to the Sierra Club, the likely effects of this global warming include the melting of massive icebergs and glaciers, sea level rise, accelerated coastal erosion, more (and more severe) hurricanes, the spread of infectious diseases and widespread species extinctions, among other problems.

To address this crisis, 127 countries have agreed on mandatory curbs on greenhouse gas emissions via an international treaty set to go into effect in 2005 called the "Kyoto Protocol." The treaty is so-named because it was the outcome of a meeting held in Kyoto, Japan in 1997. Under the Protocol, the United States is supposed to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by seven percent by the period between 2008 and 2012. With four percent of the world's population, the U.S. currently accounts for about 25 percent of the Earth's greenhouse gas emissions. The U.S., however, has refused to sign this United Nations-backed agreement, arguing that U.S. compliance with the terms of the treaty would harm the



American economy.

But, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), some of the U.S. government's own studies should quell such fears: "While industry trade associations have published many misleading claims of economic harm," says NRDC, "two comprehensive government analyses have shown that it is possible to reduce greenhouse pollution to levels called for in the Kyoto agreement without harming the U.S. economy."

Instead, the U.S. is pushing for technological approaches that would remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it below ground or under water. But environmentalists fear that loading massive amounts of carbon dioxide into the Earth and oceans could wreak ecological havoc in other ways, and doubt that human-induced global warming can be solved by American ingenuity alone.

CONTACT: Kyoto Protocol, www.unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.html; International Panel on Climate Change, www.ipcc.ch; Sierra Club Global Warming and Energy Program, (415) 977-5500, www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/; Natural Resources Defense Council, (212) 727-2700, www.nrdc.org.

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Dear EarthTalk: What is the impact of the skiing industry on our environment? -- Elizabeth Marley, San Bernardino, CA

While skiing affords millions of enthusiasts the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors during the winter, its impact on the environment is fairly substantial. The creation and ongoing expansion of ski resorts leads to the development of otherwise unspoiled alpine ecosystems and often destroys vital wildlife habitat. Ski resorts also use substantial amounts of water for snowmaking and other activities, and generate significant carbon diox-

ide pollution from energy used to run lifts and visitor facilities.

For instance, Colorado's famed Aspen Mountain ski resort churns through 45 million gallons of water each year to make snow in the winter, irrigate the landscape in the summer, and to provide for the personal needs of staff and visitors year round. Sprawling guest accommodations, not to mention the construction of new trails and runs, have kept the endangered Canada lynx--as well as myriad other alpine fish and wildlife species -- on the run and teetering on the brink of extinction. Meanwhile, the resort's mechanical facilities and related services emit 76 pounds of carbon dioxide per skier each year. Despite these statistics, Aspen is still considered to be among the more environmentally responsible ski resorts.

In light of such problems as well as increased pressure from environmental advocates, many ski resorts in recent years have started to focus on lightening the impact of their operations. More than 170 ski resorts -- representing about 60 percent of U.S. skier destinations -- have signed onto the National Ski Areas Association's environmental charter, which calls for responsible management of resources, decreased energy use and limits on development. While adherence to the charter's tenets is voluntary, its adoption by a majority of the country's leading ski resorts is a step in the right direction.

Meanwhile, the non-profit Ski Area Citizens, Coalition (SACC) publishes an annual Ski Area

Environmental Scorecard which rates hundreds of U.S. ski resorts on the basis of environmentally sound management practices, especially individual resorts, efforts to maintain ski terrain and service facilities within existing boundaries so as to maximize the preservation of undisturbed lands. SACC's criteria also include the protection of wetlands, old growth forest, unique geological formations and roadless areas. SACC also takes into account energy and water consumption habits. Some Colorado ski resorts that received high marks in that regard include Aspen, Buttermilk and Wolf Creek

Meanwhile, a handful of forward-thinking operations -- including Mt. Hood Meadows, Cooper Spur and Mount Bachelor in Oregon, Deer Valley and Park City in Utah, and Lake Tahoe's Northstar in California -- allow skiers to add a few extra dollars onto their lift ticket prices to purchase wind energy which then increases the amount of clean energy that goes into the grid that powers the operations.

CONTACTS: Aspen Skiing Company, (800) 525-6200, www.aspensnowmass.com; National Ski Areas Association, (303) 987-1111, www.nsaa.org; Ski Area Citizens, Coalition, www.skiareacitizens.com GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; or submit your question at: www.emagazine.com, or e-mail us at: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

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Hurry as the Salado Village Voice elves are
always busy!

Gift Subscription

Name: _____

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City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

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Complete form and deliver with payment in full to Salado Village Voice, 213 Mill Creek Dr., Suite #125 (Salado Plaza Shopping Center) or by mail to Salado Village Voice, PO Box 587, Salado, TX 76571. Or you can call 254.947.5321 and mention this Christmas special and we will send you an invoice for payment. Offer ends Dec. 24, 2004.

Here's to getting
everything on your
list. I hope your
Christmas is filled
with happiness
and light.

Sarah Lee

RESIDENTIAL ★ FARM & RANCH ★ COMMERCIAL

FIRST



TEXAS

WWW.SALADO.NET ★ 254-947-5577 ★ VERANDA 80 S. MAIN

Glenn Hodge
254-718-2000

Ryan Hodge
254-541-2255

Jerry Roberts
254-760-6576

Katherine Garrett
254-541-3502

Mill Creek custom



Incredible attention to detail shown throughout the house. Pecan flooring, raised ceilings, and granite countertops are just a few of the upgrades. 4 Bedrooms and 3-1/2 Baths in Mill Creek. **\$322,500.**



Large scattered oaks cover 20 acre tract 2.5 miles west of Salado. Small barn, well, electricity on property **\$180,000.**



338 acres east of Temple, with Big Elm Creek and huge barn. **\$1,750 per acre!**



Absolutely beautiful house on over 17 acres with small creek. Lots of Pecan Trees and Live Oak Trees. It is a must-see! ~~\$359,900.~~ Reduced to **\$349,900.** House and 6 acres, just **\$269,900**



Take a step out of the city and enjoy the peaceful 2 acre setting! Granite countertops. Huge family room and bonus room with great location. Convenient to Georgetown, Temple or Killeen. Under Construction to be completed in March 2005. **\$299,000.**



Almost 5 Tree Covered Acres with Manufactured Home and Barn! Fenced and ready to go for 4H or FFA Animals. Priced at **\$110,000.**



Great Country Setting: 4/2.5/2 Austin Stone home on approximately 2 tree-covered acres. Granite countertops and ceramic tile flooring are just a few of the amenities. Within walking distance to the park on Salado Creek in Hidden Springs. **\$255,000.**



Victorian Style Home in a very prestigious neighborhood. Very private tree covered backyard. 2 BR/2 BA, additional 3rd Bedroom with Bath above garage. Just simply a must see! **\$230,000.**



Quality & Detail Shown throughout Home-3/2/2 on 3.7 Tree Covered Acres. Gibraltar Counter Tops, Raised Ceilings, Open Floor Plan, Master Suite, Etc..... **\$239,900.**



House on large tree-covered lot in Mill Creek. 4/2/2, 14 ft. ceilings, formal living, crown mouldings and formal dining. Huge master suite with private porch. **\$196,000.**



House on Approx. 1.8 Tree Covered Acres with Pool. 3/2.5/2 in the Woods of Salado all for just **\$149,900**



Spacious Home on Quiet Street: 6/6/1, the possibilities are endless with over 3,500 sq. ft. on approximately 1.4 acres. Home, business, or both. **\$269,900.**

Acreage

- Lots w/ sewage & water on Shady Lane.
- Lot in Hidden Springs. Excellent location. **\$33,900**
- Appx. 1 acre residential lot, septic. **\$20,000.**
- 145 acres located northwest of Salado. Backs up to Corps of Engineers property. **\$3,500 per acre.**
- 2 acres with great trees in Hidden Springs. **\$33,900.**
- 2.7 acres fronting FM 2843. **\$29,900.**
- 3,018 acres on FM 2843. Large pecans & live water. **\$39,900.**
- 5 acres located west of Salado in Hidden Springs. Enjoy the country and your private park. **\$54,900.**
- 10+ acres Bell Meadows off FM 1123. **\$89,000.**

- 20 acres south of Salado, off Mill Creek. Heavily wooded. **\$125,000.**
- 44 acres off of Firefly Road between Salado and Florence. Great Trees with typical hill country topography. Will divide.
- 20 acres off of I-35.
- Great 2 acre lot in Hidden Springs! Ready to build! \$33,900
- Aerials of our acreage listings can be seen at www.salado.net

Salado Lots

- Indian Trail at Blaylock, lg corner lot, 90x188 - **\$40,000.**
- Indian Trail - 90x188 - **\$38,000.**

Commercial

- .87 acres off N. Stagecoach Rd. **\$147,408.**
- 3 acres commercial property fronting I-35, Phase 3. **\$120,000.**
- Bed & Breakfast - Great chance to live in Salado and run your own Bed & Breakfast.

Belton

- Large lot with trees in gated Southlake Subdivision. **\$55,000.**
- 5+ acres fronting SH 190 and Boxer Road. Great commercial location. City water available. **\$299,000.**
- Grand 3/2.5 home in Regatta Oaks. Huge master bathroom & bedroom. This home has so many special features you have to see to believe! Call Katherine at 541-3502. **\$339,000**