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# Salado Village Voice

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## GLORY TO GOD in the highest

### All across the land, the story is 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.

Have a Blessed Christmas and Prosperous New Year

# FORUM

An Open Exchange of Ideas



## Amazing American job machine

The American economy is destroying jobs, and that's a good thing.

It is in destroying jobs that the economy improves and makes it possible for the standard of living of all Americans to increase. This constant churning means that even a "stagnant" American job market is extremely dynamic, and that the ranks of the unemployed are not necessarily the dispossessed of the earth, as Democrats tend to portray them.

Keep this in mind as Congress gears up for a debate on whether unemployment benefits should be extended beyond their normal six-month term for the fourth time in the past two years. Democrats will attack anyone opposing this extension as a heartless extremist attempting to trample on the poor. But an extension of benefits might, perversely, prolong unemployment, and it will serve to dampen the dynamism of the American economy, which is its greatest asset.

In any given year, roughly 10 percent of all jobs in the American economy are destroyed, while an equal number rises up to take their place, according to the latest Economic Report of the President. The trick, of course, is to create more jobs than are lost. Since 1980, according to Michael Cox of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, "Americans have filed 106 million initial claims for unemployment benefits, each representing a lost job." But during the past decade, the economy has still added a net 40 million new jobs.

Since 1970, the median duration of unemployment has been 6.6 weeks when the economy is growing, and 8.2 weeks immediately following a recession. In roughly 40 percent of cases, the period

## Rich Lowry

of unemployment is 5 weeks or less. So the unemployed aren't a single class of people, but a group constantly changing as people cycle in and out.

In many cases, job turnover -- although painful -- is a very good thing. It is by switching jobs that people learn new skills and find a better match for the skills they already have, thus earning higher wages. A typical young worker has seven jobs during his first 10 years in the job market. A third of that worker's wage growth will occur when leaving one job for another.

Public policy should be leery of anything that discourages this churning in the job market. (Otherwise, four out of 10 of all Americans would still be working on a farm, as we were a century ago.) Because unemployment benefits essentially subsidize unemployment, they can have this effect, encouraging people to stay unemployed instead of jumping back into the job market.

As the economy begins to purr and the unemployment rate dips, the last thing the government should do is give people a disincentive to join in the great roiling American job market. Opposing an extension of unemployment benefits isn't heartless, but an act of well-placed faith -- in the dynamism of the American economy and in the resourcefulness of its workers.

## County seeking second bond vote for smaller jail-district court complex; Cost: one cent tax hike

If all went according to schedule, the Bell County Jail and Courts Task Force will have presented their findings two days ago (Dec 22) to the Commissioner's Court, including the 32-4 vote taken Tuesday, December 16 recommending that the county fathers call a new bond election, this time to raise \$46 million for a scaled down jail and district courthouse to be built on FM 121 near the Expo Center.

If approved, property taxes throughout the county would increase one penny per \$100 valuation on property. Taxes on a one hundred thousand dollar home would be increased \$10.

The Task Force spent ten weeks of laborious fact finding work before committing to another bond issue, but the overwhelming vote was indicative of the group's belief that the new facility has an air of immediacy about it - which Commissioner's are expected to agree with and will set Saturday, May 15, 2004 for the second jail-courthouse bond election.

Shortly after the Task Force's final vote last week, the expected naysaying began - led by Task Force member John Galligan who quickly described (to the Temple Telegram) the work of the Task Force: "This has been political cover and one big rubber stamp." He also wanted to present a "minority report" to the Commissioner's Court, which would (no doubt) take the opposite tack from the citizen committee's emphatic position.

County Judge Jon Burrows, last Friday, indicated that following presentation of the Task Force recommendations he would open the December 22 meeting for "Public Comment" at which time anyone, including Galligan, would have a chance to present "personal opinions" on the final task force report.

### RUBBER STAMPED TASK FORCE

The term "rubber stamp" when applied to members of the Task Force, at least those this writer knows personally, is not only pejorative and untrue, but hilarious if given any currency at all. Two examples of folks not likely to ever be "Rubber Stamped" on this or any subject come immediately to mind.

First, Lloyd Parks of Salado, member of the Site Committee, who studied the problem; toured the current jail-courthouse facilities; and came away convinced that an additional jail and court building are needed now. This is a guy who is certainly not a "yes man," nor someone who enjoys paying taxes. However, he is convinced that the current jail-courthouse setup is: "Too small and in places - a disgrace. It needs to be expanded and moved to the site on FM 121." Also, "We should all be willing to pay the extra penny in taxes now - rather than wait and see building costs increase almost monthly - as they are presently doing."

Second is Kathy McCarley Peeples, co-owner of Belton Printing and also a member of the Site Committee. A professional person, with a business just a few doors from the current jail-courthouse, Mrs. Peeples - without hesitation voted for the new facility. At a recent meeting of her committee, she was able (and willing) to more than hold her own against the few who were wildly proclaiming questionable reasons for keeping the current jail and courthouse in downtown Belton.

These two Task Force members are as far from being toadies or "Rubber Stamped" of the County Judge or Commissioners, as Santa Claus is from Saddam Hussein.

## Off the Record

by Ken Clapp



Readers urged to just forget all the "Bah, Humbug" news and have a very Happy Christmas - from "Off The Record."

### SUGGESTION

It would be a good idea, we believe, to enlist members of the Task Force to speak to civic groups countywide, (particularly Temple) and refute the unfounded attacks against county officials who have, for years, been presenting (publicly) detailed information about the jail-courthouse needs. These Task Force committeemen and women know the facts and hopefully would be willing to present them - as private citizens to other private citizens. This, we feel, would be more effective than sending county officials out to promote the bond issue.

Additionally - we need to be certain that both sides are given ample opportunity to present their views. Insist they do so civilly and with facts and we'll see if reason, factual documentation and common sense will have a positive impact on the May 15 vote.

Doing at least some of these things will produce - we predict - voter approval of the needed jail-courthouse expansion on FM 121!

### SAME OLD NEWS ROUNDUP

School officials across the State should be less than hopeful about next year's special legislative session that is supposed to tackle the incredibly difficult task of straightening out the complicated and unfair system of financing our public education system.

The Governor continued his "No New Tax" fixation in a recent end-of-year press conference, using the same old "phony baloney" terms including "revenue neutral" taxation - which simply shifts taxes from property owners to other sources such as gambling or cigarettes - none of which will produce the required massive transfusion of new dollars.

The kicker in all this is Perry's so called "pledge" to solve the school problem provided (and here's the dodge) there is consensus among lawmakers to fix the mess without new taxes.

Otherwise he will leave the matter to the next regular session in 2005 - which is the "death knell" for any immediate help for schools, taxpayers and oh, yeah - the children of Texas!

### AND SO FORTH...

Plenty of head-shaking over a somewhat hazy federal affidavit indicating several former federal politicians and a couple of alleged terror groups had been funded (1990-2003) by the same source in Virginia - called the "Safa Group."

Don't know where these charge have been hiding or where they are going but some of our more hard-bitten political observers were supposedly overheard laughing in their "cups" at various area watering holes - with comments bordering on the coarse including: "What's the difference between a terrorist and a far right or left wing lawmaking zealot?" Answer: "Both dislike government in general; both need money; and both will sell their services!"

That's -30-

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# Thanks, Congress, but there's more

By JACK FARIS

As the calendar winds down on 2003, America's small-business owners can look back with pride on winning some hard-fought, grassroots political victories. But true to their heritage of hard work and determination, these steadfastly optimistic business-citizens will fix their focus on the tasks ahead, for much remains to be done in the political vineyards.

One key challenge not yet met is convincing Congress that a permanent solution must be found for the ailing, and often failing, system that is called health care-for lack of a better term.

On the one hand, those who keep the nation's small businesses running like well-oiled machines are bursting with optimism these days. The economy is gaining traction and their spirits are kicking into high gear. According to the latest NFIB Small Business Optimism Index, they are more upbeat now than at any time in the history of the survey.

Peering six months into 2004, more than half of these Main Street business owners view a better economy. This is the highest tally in 20 years. Sales trends are favorable, credit appears readily available and plans to restock their shelves are at historically strong levels.

But on the other hand, their spirits are dampened. Rising insurance costs, the survey notes, remains No. 1 on the small-business problem list. More than one-fourth - 28 percent-said the cost and availability of insurance was the single, most important challenge they face, even beating out taxes and poor sales.

Although the House of Representatives has passed legislation allowing small businesses to obtain much-needed help through Association Health Plans (AHPs), which would

allow small firms to band together to purchase affordable medical insurance, the Senate has yet to consider it. Some cause for relief, however, is the Health Savings Account (HSA) option that was tucked into the Medicare bill signed into law recently by President Bush.

While uncorking the bubbly on New Year's Day, the nation's small-business owners can also celebrate by opening HSAs. The new law takes effect January 1. These tax-preferred accounts are intended for routine medical expenses and allow any taxpayer with high-deductible insurance plans to contribute up to \$2,600 for individuals and \$5,150 for families.

The bright spot for both those who provide jobs and those who have them is that employers will be able to contribute to employee accounts and those funds won't be counted against an employee's taxable income.

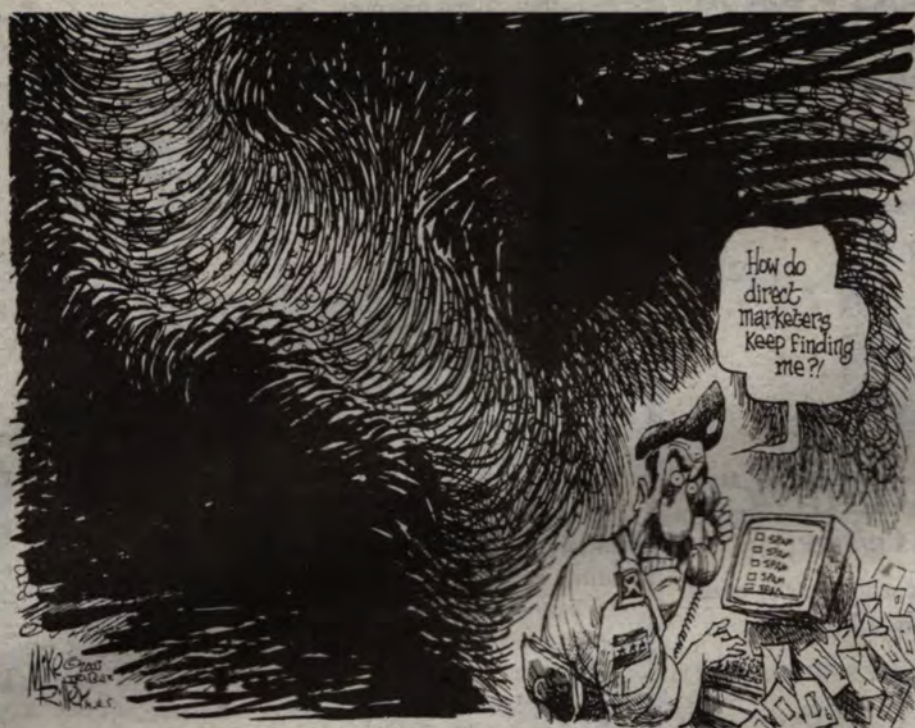
This option, which allows monies not spent to remain in the account and earn interest, also gives both entrepreneurs and employees incentives to live more healthy lifestyles so their HSAs can grow.

Health-policy researchers say HSAs could have a transforming effect on the nation's health-care system because those who use them are likely to seek out physicians who prefer cash payments instead of operating within costly and inefficient insurance-based systems.

Appreciative that Congress created HSAs, small businesses will nevertheless continue their fight for true health-care reform in 2004, which means nothing short of passing AHP legislation.

Jack Faris is president of NFIB (the National Federation of Independent Business), the nation's largest small-business advocacy group.

# FORUM



## When government predicts spending, hold on to your wallet

### Heritage Forum

Edwin Feulner

When the government starts making spending predictions, hold on to your wallet - you're about to get fleeced.

One doesn't have to dig very deep to find examples where spending far exceeded predictions. I can look across the street, where an underground Capitol visitor's center is under construction.

The project was first floated in the early 1990s, with a \$71 million price tag. About a year into construction, there's a giant hole in the ground - a hole the government's General Accounting Office now predicts will cost as much as \$500 million to fill. Expect that to rise before the center welcomes its first guest in 2005.

The visitor's center was never a good idea. Architect of the Capitol Alan M. Hantman recently told *The Washington Post*, "I can't think of a more difficult place to build a project." In addition, the GAO says the spending overrun happened because Congress has frequently ordered expansions to the project without considering their cost.

Something similar is still happening in Boston, where, 12 years ago, the government decided to put 7.5 miles of freeway underground. It was supposed to cost \$3 billion - that's \$400 million per mile.

To date, it has cost \$14.6 billion, much of that federal tax money. Authorities now say the project will be completed in two years. But if a taxpayer from, say, Kansas, wants to drive east in 2005 and see where his tax dollars

have gone, he'd be well advised to wait and make sure the completion of the "Big Dig" hasn't been delayed again.

Surely, though, the government must do better with non-construction budget predictions, right? Let's look at Medicare for an example.

When the program was launched in 1965, the federal government projected that Part A - the segment of Medicare that pays for hospitalization - would cost \$9 billion in 1990. The program's actual cost that year was \$66 billion, meaning that, after inflation, the cost of Medicare was 165 percent higher than the government had predicted it would be.

But 25 years is a long time. Were short-term predictions more accurate?

No. In 1968, the Tax Foundation did a study that revealed public spending on medical care had nearly doubled since Medicare started.

Doubled. In just three years.

Call it the law of unintended consequences. The government creates an entitlement, and tells people they can now have "free" health care. Almost immediately, people start taking advantage of that entitlement, using more health care than they ever have before. Costs soar, and spending predictions go out the window. And we all - well, those of us who pay

taxes - end up footing the bill.

This is all especially relevant today, in light of the recent congressional debate over how to reform Medicare. Lawmakers came up with a prescription drug benefit for all seniors, which they claim will cost "only" about \$400 billion over 10 years.

But under the measure they concocted, costs will skyrocket. Watch for companies to drop millions of retired workers into the government pool. And be ready for doctors to write more prescriptions than before, since Uncle Sam, not the patient, will now be picking up the tab.

It's similar to what happened in 1988, when Congress tried to ad catastrophic coverage to Medicare. The original cost estimate was \$5.7 billion over five years. Just one year after the bill passed, that tab had climbed to \$11.8 billion. Congress quickly scrapped the plan after a public outcry about its cost.

Lawmakers should start over and draft a real Medicare reform package. Otherwise, when the entitlement bill comes due, we'll all be paying it. And that's a prediction you can count on being accurate.

Feulner is president of The Heritage Foundation ([www.heritage.org](http://www.heritage.org)), a Washington-based public policy research institute.

## A boom? For whom?



Jim Hightower

Hallelujah and hosanna, shout the Little Rosy Scenarios in Washington and on Wall Street, pointing to a recent, tiny uptick in job creation. They proclaim that this is proof that Bush's economic policies are a phenomenal success. The Boom is back!

Uh-huh, say the people out here in the real world, asking wearily: A Boom for Whom? Little smiley-faced statistics can't cover up the harsh job reality faced by most folks these days - a reality of no work, payless work, or overwork.

Start with no work. Nearly 9 million Americans are officially unemployed. This doesn't include those who're so discouraged by the debilitating search for work that they've given up looking - they simply don't get counted. Neither do those who might get a one-day odd job during the month - they're actually treated as being fully "employed." Nor does it count those who bravely insist that they're now "self-employed," yet they have no paying work. It also doesn't count those who are working part-time, but need a full-time job, or those who've only been temporarily hired for, say, this holiday season and will be let go January 1st.

Then there's payless work. These are the millions who've been Wal-Marted - technically they have jobs, but the pay is so low that they live in poverty, with no health care, pension, or job security. More and more industries - from service to high-tech - are saying that this is America's work future. Get used to it, they say.

Which leaves us with overwork. This includes those of you that have to take two or three low-paying jobs, working days and nights just to cover your bills, as well as those working in downsized companies with too few employees to do the work, meaning you have to work longer hours and on weekends. Balk ... and you get the boot.

Forget what politicians and economists say - we'll know there's a real recovery when everyone has a good job at good wages with good benefits. Everything else is a lie.

Letters to the Editor are encouraged. A letter may be mailed to *The Salado Village Voice*, PO Box 587, Salado, TX 76571. Letters can also be e-mailed to [saladovillagevoice@earthlink.net](mailto:saladovillagevoice@earthlink.net) or faxed to 254/947-9479. All letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification. *The Salado Village Voice* does not publish unsigned letters.





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*Iris, Richard & Courtney*

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# Upcoming Special Session

## Supt's Corner

by Dr. Robin Battershell

Texas probably has one of the most equitable finance systems in the nation; however, with dwindling oil/gas revenues and a property tax revolt at hand, the system cannot sustain itself. Texas anticipates adding 140,000 students over the next biennium requiring an infusion of \$1.4 billion for the next biennium.

This past year, the 78th Legislature scraped together \$1.2 billion in new funds for public education. Thus Texas was unable to meet the \$1.4 billion per biennium required for growth, much less rising inflation, insurance costs, utility costs, etc.

Two lawsuits are contesting the constitutionality of the current school finance system thus legislators will be forced to address this divisive subject during a special session this spring. The lawsuits allege that with nearly three-quarters of Texas public schools levying property taxes at or near the statutory \$1.50 cap per \$100 of valuation, we have in essence an unconstitutional state property tax.

Public schools administrators have been told that increased funding will require increased accountability. Public schools currently spend an inordinate amount of time

being "accountable" either through District Effectiveness Compliance visits (DEC), the FIRST financial accountability system, AEIS reports and report cards, TAKS, State FIRST system, internal audits, TEA desk audits, Title program reports, or comptroller audits, etc.

Do not add to the accountability system, but make sure that an accountability system measures what you want it to measure.

Solely increasing State funding to decrease local property taxes is not the solution i.e. the decompression fiasco of 1999. A sound funding system has adequacy and equity. Adequate funding must be providing and districts must receive comparable dollars for each child. Thus parts of "Robin Hood" and weighted funding for special needs children will have to remain.

The goals of public schools need to be clearly delineated and funded accordingly. Un-funded mandates must end. Our only fully funded programs are career technology, special education, and compensatory education. All other programs are

subsidized through your tax dollars. We do not receive enough funding through Gifted and Talented and English as a Second Language to purchase part-time teachers. Bluntly put, schools can't be all things to all people.

Legislators must have the intestinal fortitude to determine what specifically schools are to be held accountable for. For the short term, alignment of the State educational goals with funding will exacerbate rather than eliminate tensions.

Any funding formula or mandate must provide adequate funding for the long-term repercussions of the law, such as the 22:1 ratio, a free and appropriate education (FAPE), and teacher insurance. While wonderful programs, these are not one time expenditures, they are escalating costs.

A State finance plan needs to reward districts for innovative thinking in budgeting. Consolidation and lowering of tax rates should be financially rewarded, not penalized. Consolidation is not popular, but there are some districts that have 10 or more

school districts with under 200 students within a 25 mile range. Currently districts are required to meet a State minimum tax rate in order to maximize State funding. There is very little incentive to lower tax rates.

In summary, I would suggest that legislators consider the following when determining a finance formula.

1. Look for long-term solutions tied to the State's educational goals.
  2. Limit the scope and number of the State's educational goals.
  3. Hold schools accountable for specific things. Fund these and hold their feet to the fire for these things.
  4. This means cutting some responsibilities from public education.
  5. Ensure that a finance plan looks at the long-term financial requirements of mandates, not just the short-term.
  6. Decrease the quantity of accountability and increase the quality. Make sure that accountability measures what it is intended to measure, the state goals for education.
- Questions may be addressed to Dr. Battershell at P.O. Box 98, Salado, TX 76571 or rbattershell@saladoisd.org, or 947-5479, Ext. 7000.

# Courts, critters and coaches

## Your Voice

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

On Dec. 11, the Cameron Junior Varsity girls basketball team played the Salado JV team. It was a fabulous game until the last three minutes.

In the third minute of the fourth quarter, one of our girls was injured. She was lying motionless on the court and then began to cry. She was obviously hurt. Our coach did her best to try to assess the injury. As the moments dragged on and we were all watching from the stands, it became obvious that our coach needed help for this player. Not one single Salado coach, trainer, scorekeeper or referee came over to check on the injured player or to inquire as to her status. Instead, the Salado coach huddled with her team, the scorekeepers stared out into the crowd and the girls from the Cameron team had to ask for ice and for a trainer to be sent to the gym.

Our injured player was carried from the court by her teammates and then the refs signaled they wanted to continue the

game. So, we visiting parents went down onto the court to aid the injured player and to stand in front of her while the game went on so no balls would hit her.

At no time did any Salado official check on this girl. Eventually, the trainer did come over from the high school, but he did not know where the ice was or how to properly assess the player. However, this was not as disturbing as the fact that the coach of the Salado JV team never checked on the injured player or offered any assistance. Bear in mind, we were playing the host team at home and being quite resoundingly beaten. This was a chance for the Salado coach to appear gracious and kind and do what was proper in the situation. In all my days of attending sports matches between even the most fierce rivals, I have never seen a home coach act in such an apathetic manner to a hurt player

from a visiting team.

I do know that Salado has a winning basketball tradition and it is always a great pleasure to play such fine teams, but your winning tradition has taught you little if you turn a blind eye to your hurt opponent.

By the way, the girl was admitted to Scott and White and is now on crutches.

Sincerely,  
 Ann A. Stanislaw  
 - Cameron

Dear Editor:

A number of "letters to the editor" have been written in the last few months challenging The Bell County Jail/Courts Task Force members integrity and independence. As a member of the Task Force, I would like to comment on a few of these issues now that the Task Force has concluded its work.

As for the assertion that the task force was composed of "hand-picked Yes Men", the Commissioners

could not have known my position. I never spoke with any commissioner about this prior to my involvement on the task force. In fact, I spoke to very few people about this issue at all. The only commissioner that I do know might have reasonably assumed I would be opposed to their plan because my business is located in downtown Belton. Truthfully, I tried my best to participate on this task force with an open mind, and I did not know in advance where the process would lead me. Most task force members worked diligently and were open to alternate ideas, although I am not confident this can be said for all task force members- especially the most vocal.

The task force was presented with data collected previously by the commissioners and was used in our study. Outside information was also gathered independently by committee members, contrary to assertions made. Serious alternative proposals were offered by various members and studied and

SEE LETTERS TO EDITOR PAGE 9A

# Texans talk Homeland Security

Since the terror attacks of 9/11, protecting and defending our homeland has been priority number one for our government. One could hardly escape the images of destruction in New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania as they replayed again and again for days on television sets worldwide. The media saturation forced many parents to talk to their children about terrorists and the evil that exists in the world. Since that time we have become a more vigilant society, aware of the potential for terrorism, even with chemical or biological weapons. We are aggressively working to protect against and respond to disasters with a renewed sense of urgency and purpose.

Your response to the following question provided interesting insight into Texans' state of preparedness. "The threat of biological, nuclear or chemical weapons is a concern Americans must consider. The Department of Homeland Security has issued guidelines and life-saving tips to deal with potential attacks, but many people remain uninformed of what to do in case of an attack. In what ways have you prepared for an incident?"

Thirty percent of respondents had discussed potential attacks with their family and prepared them to react to a threat. More

## Capitol Comment



**Kay Bailey Hutchison**  
U.S. Senator



than half of all surveyed acknowledged that they look for unusual behavior in public places, and 10 percent of your workplaces have established emergency evacuation procedures. Still there were a number of Texans who checked "yes" when asked if they were unprepared and did not know how to respond to a threat. Below are some of your thoughts:

- As a truck driver, I am constantly on the alert and ready to report or defend. Robert, Santa Fe

- Having lived abroad I don't have the normal American feeling of apathy on the subject of terrorism and feel that I am very aware of my surroundings. Carter, Irving

- Water treatment plants, malls, nuclear facilities and downtown areas are all areas of concern. Brandon, McKinney

- We have hurricane guidelines ... why not terrorism guidelines? Anonymous

- Our best defense is a good offense - bring the war to the terrorists in their land. D.H., Austin

- I'm constantly mindful of what is going on around me. Marcos, San Antonio

- I don't know anything

about the issued guidelines. Where are they posted? Tran, Houston

There were many who expressed concern that they were unaware of the guidelines or any plans their community had in place in the event of a chemical, biological or nuclear threat. In response to these questions, I've devoted the remainder of this column to helpful resources on how to prepare your workplace, your family and yourself for a potential terrorist attack or emergency situation.

### Ready.gov

Under the recently formed Department of Homeland Security, the federal government has created simple, easy-to-follow procedures for all Americans. At [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov), Texans can link to a variety of helpful state and local resources. They've posted the following basic guidelines:

1. Make a kit of emergency supplies
2. Make a plan for what you will do in an emergency
3. Be informed about what might happen

At the website, you can find descriptions of how best to follow these sug-

gestions and sit down with your loved ones to create a plan of action for your family.

### Citizen Corps

In addition to being prepared on an individual level, many Americans, like those of you who responded to this survey, have wondered what more they can do to protect their communities from terrorist attacks and to prepare for unforeseen emergency situations.

Citizen Corps, which was created in response to this desire to participate, brings homeland security efforts to the local level through public education and outreach, training, and volunteer service. Citizen Corps programs build on efforts of established community safety and emergency preparedness programs like Neighborhood Watch, which has worked successfully for more than 30 years, and enables ordinary people to play an active role in promoting the safety of their neighborhoods and towns.

More information about Citizen Corps is available at [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov). An active and involved citizenry has been the hallmark of America's democracy. Now more than ever it is important to exercise your freedoms and your voice, to safe-guard your community and the ones you love. Together, we can continue making our nation more secure.

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## Texas Runaway Hotline new campaign out to make a difference

During the month of December, the Texas Runaway Hotline launched a statewide public awareness campaign aimed at runaways and troubled youth. The hotline's toll-free number is 1-888-580-HELP (4357).

"The holidays can be a lonely and depressing time for youths away from home," said Jay Smith, Hotline director. "Unfortunately many of our callers run from homes where substance abuse, family violence and other untenable situations exist. Many young people are thrown out of their houses."

In order to raise public awareness about the problem, Governor Rick Perry has proclaimed the month of December "Runaway and Homeless Youth Awareness Month" in Texas.

"In Texas, an estimated 100,000 children ages seven to 17 run away annually," Smith said. "Whether they are in large cities or small towns, run-

away youths are vulnerable to a wide variety of crimes including assault and sexual exploitation."

The Runaway Hotline began operating in the autumn of 1973 after Texas

law enforcement discovered the bodies of 27 young men and boys in the Houston area.

For additional information, call the hotline's toll-free number at 1-888-

580-HELP (4357). The Governor's proclamation can be viewed by visiting [www.texasrunaway.org](http://www.texasrunaway.org).

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# CHURCH NEWS

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

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

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**Grace Baptist Church**  
John Warden Pastor  
2 mi. West of I-35 on 1670/2484

Worship Schedule

Sunday School • 9:45 a.m.  
Worship • 11 a.m.  
Bible Study • 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Praise & Prayer • 7:00 p.m.

**Presbyterian Church of Salado**

**THIS SUNDAY:**  
"The Earthly Life of Jesus Christ"  
Philippians 2:1-11

Greg Davidson  
Pastor

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

Thomas Arnold Road and Church St.  
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**The Salado Church of Christ**  
welcomes you to our services this week

**Sunday Morning Service • Dec. 28, 2003**



**Joe Keyes**  
Minister

As we think about our yearly "resolutions," what stands out as in most need of work? What things do we need to take out of our lives, and what things do we need to add that are missing? Join us as we take a "spiritual" inventory in light of the coming year.

**Sunday**  
Bible Class • 9 a.m.    Worship • 10 a.m.  
Evening Worship • 6 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
Bible Classes • 7 p.m.

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## Schedule of Christmas services in Salado

St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, Christmas Mass, 8 p.m. Dec. 24.

Salado United Methodist Church, Candlelight Services, 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 9 p.m. Dec. 24.

St. Stephen's Catholic Church will hold Children's/Family Mass 6 p.m. Dec. 24 and a midnight mass Dec. 24. Regular Christmas day services will be held 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (in Spanish), and 11 a.m. Dec. 25.

First Baptist Church of Salado, Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, 6 p.m. Dec. 24.

Presbyterian Church, Candlelight Communion, 6 p.m. Dec. 24.

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**Christmas Mass**  
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John "Jack" Tujague White was born Aug. 28, 2003, weighing 12 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 21 inches. He is pictured above with sister MaryElla Rose White. Parents are Bryan and Tara White, of Covington, LA. Grandparents are Paul and Jean White, of Salado, and Dennis and Linda LaRocca, of Abita Springs, LA. Great-grandmother is Lee Vinti, of Metairie, LA. The baby was baptized Nov. 29 at St. Peter's Catholic Church.



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Advent Worship Service Sundays at 10 a.m.

Children's Christmas Pageant Dec. 21

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at 6 p.m. Dec. 24

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## Free English classes offered

Registration for free English as a Second Language (ESL) classes will be held 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Jan. 5 at Cornerstone Christian Academy, located at 502 N. 38th Street in Killeen. ESL classes will be held Monday-Thursdays. Call 690-0450 for information.

Registration for free ESL and GED classes will be held 6-8 p.m. Jan. 5 and 9 a.m.-noon Jan. 6 at the YMCA, 415 N. 8th Street in Killeen. GED classes will be on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m. and ESL classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-9 p.m.

**St. Stephen Catholic Church**

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# Hyperbole abounds on jail/courts

## Commissioners to call for May 15 election, after Task Force report

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

Hyperbole ran amuck during a Dec. 22 public hearing before Bell County commissioners on the Courts/Jail Task Force recommendation to pursue a \$46 million bond election.

Following the hearing, in which terms such as "Trojan horse," "wolves in sheeps' clothing," "yes men," "rubber stamp," "hard pill to swallow," and the newly-coined "Burrows' Boys" were bandied about, the four commissioners voted unanimously to announce the court's intention to call for a May 15 bond election on the proposed \$46 million project on the Loop 121 property in South Belton.

### Task Force Report

The meeting turned to hyperbole after Dr. David Yielding presented the eight-page report and recommendation to the county commissioners.

The report recommends calling for the bond election, which is estimated to increase property taxes by one cent per \$100 valuation, for a scaled-back project of \$46 million.

On a vote of 32 in favor and four against, the Task Force recommends that the county have a Master Plan for providing adequate facilities to at least 2025.

It recommends the construction of a new district courthouse with five court rooms, expandable to six court rooms by 2025. "Task force analysis of data revealed that the current district courthouse is outmoded, lacks any remote resemblance to an adequate security system and currently operates well beyond its intended capacity for duration," Dr. Yielding stated. "Serious code issues abound and the building's elevators lose their certification on Sept. 1, 2005, lending urgency to address this building as the top pri-

ority."

The Task Force recommends that the Bell County jail be expanded by adding a new facility that we have an initial capacity of 438-480 prisoners, expandable with an additional 438-480 unit.

"The number of prisoners in Bell county has grown much faster than experts previously anticipated," Dr. Yielding stated, "and the task force fails to discover any reason to think that this trend will not continue in future years."

"Housing them (inmates) in newly constructed facilities is preferable to throwing millions of dollars down the drain each year to lease space from other counties," Dr. Yielding read. "Leasing jail space in another county is an infinitely more expensive option and one ill-suited for Bell county taxpayers."

The Task Force further recommends that the existing district courts building be remodeled to accommodate the administrative offices of the Bell County Sheriff and other related county functions. Other functions that may be housed in the downtown location include Child Protective Services and Child Support divisions.

The Task Force reported to commissioners that it recognizes "the

eventual necessity, at some future date, to co-locate the county Courts-at-Law, County Attorney, County Clerk and associated office to the proposed criminal justice complex."

Building facilities for those offices will not be a part of the May 15 bond issue. "This temporary courthouse facility is adequate for the short term and addressing this need may be deferred to a future date," Yielding told commissioners.

Dr. Yielding told commissioners that the task force recommends that the proposed facilities be constructed on the 76-acre site located on loop 121. "Determining that this location is the single best choice for achieving task force objectives required diligently searching and evaluating many other possible sites in and around Belton. Each suggested site had to pass scrutiny of probing issues such as accessibility for the public, congestion, physical restraints, expandability, environmental considerations, impact on Belton, and, of course, its costs (land, utilities, parking, etc.)"

"In the final analysis, the Loop 121 location represents the one piece of property most appropriate for solving the short-range and long-term needs

studied by the task force," Yielding stated.

### The bond issue

In February, commissioners will formally call the election in for May 15 to meet state law requirements. The unanimous vote Dec. 22 was on the intention of the court to call for the election.

Gary Kimble, of First Southwest, informed the county that the \$46 million bond will require a tax rate increase of one cent. The \$61.1 million bond election would have required a 2-1/2 cent tax increase.

Because the county will retire debt service for the current Bell County Jail and the Bell County Expo Center, that amount of the local tax rate will be rolled over into the new bond, if passed.

Approximately two cents of the county's current 5.35 cent debt service tax rate are tied to the current jail and expo bonds that will be paid off.

Kimble told *Salado Village Voice* Dec. 22 "I don't want taxpayers to assume that if they vote down the bond, they will be getting lower taxes by two cents."

Instead, Kimble said that local taxpayers would be paying more to house prisoners, if prisoners had to be housed in leased space.

If approved by voters in

SEE JAILS, PAGE 8A



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## Jails/Court

May, the impact of the bond on a homeowner with a \$100,000 home would be \$10 per year for the increase in taxes to pay for the bond. The total cost to retire the \$46 million debt is three cents, the other two cents coming from the rolled over amount.

Judge Jon Burrows thanked Dr. Yielding and the 44-member task force for their work and "independent methods" over the past 10 weeks researching the issue.

### Hyperbole abounds

Following Dr. Yielding's submission of the report and recommendations, Judge Burrows and county commissioners heard from 14 citizens from around the county concerning the project with eight speaking in favor of the bond and six speaking against.

Belton resident Debbie Berg, who said she lives near where the proposed project would be built, questioned the county on several aspects of the issue, including

- Will certificates of obligation be issued for any part of the project?
- How much has been spent on the project?
- How much has been paid to the architectural firm so far?
- How much is going to actually cost the taxpayer?
- Why has a PAC been formed to support the jail bond election and who is contributing to it?

Lonnie Glenn, who lives in a rural part of the county, said that the court should consider the impact of increasing taxes

on those who are on fixed and limited incomes. "This is not the only tax increase," he said. "If you chisel away at the mightiest piece of granite long enough, you can turn it to dust."

Having said that, Glenn told the court that he felt that even though the tax increase is "a hard pill to swallow, I can't see how we can do much better than that proposal."

Jimmy Towers, a Killeen resident and member of the Task Force, said that being termed "a rubber stamp" for the commissioners "is an offense to me." He added that after examining the data and weighing options, the Task Force came to much the same conclusion as county commissioners: the loop 121 site best suits the needs of the county. Towers told the court that proponents of the project would have to take a pro-active role to combat "the amount of misinformation out there."

Belton resident John Galligan thanked commissioners for "affording me four minutes to address an issue that will have an impact on us for the next 25 years." Galligan said that the opportunity to present a minority report was voted down by the Task Force. "This is a sad prologue" to the work of court task force committee, he said, adding that quashing minority opinion was also "a disturbing prelude to the court if it is built."

Galligan reminded commissioners of the value of rigorous debate. He recalled that in 1859 the county replaced the log

cabin courthouse with the first stone building. "All of those commissioners were voted out of office," Galligan warned.

He called the Task Force and bond a "Trojan horse," adding that the county is altering the down payment for the project by funding \$771,000 in land costs, \$400,000 in equipment costs and \$500,000 in architect fees out of the general fund balance. Bell County's fund balance is \$20 million for an annual operating budget of approximately \$43 million.

He questioned the Master Plan's call for eventually moving the county courts to the Loop 121 location. "At what cost?"

Belton resident Sam Michel said that he supports the Loop 121 site. "I've heard the Task Force called the 'Yes Men' and 'Burrows' Boys,' and 'rubber stamp.' I know two of them -- Clyde Jones and

O.L. Petty -- and I am here to tell you they are no one's rubber stamp."

"What are we gonna do with the prisoners? House them in our homes?" Michel asked before stating that he agreed that the location was the best for all of Bell County. "Some folks are crying that it's gonna kill downtown Belton. Downtown's been on life support since the 50s and 60s.

He said that taxpayers should be wary of "wolves in sheep's clothing" who oppose the bond. "If they're so smart, let them run for the job."

"When I was coaching, I got beat by a lot of other teams," he said, referring to the September defeat of a \$61.1 million proposal. "But we always got up and played them again."

It appears that -- hyperbole aside -- Bell County voters will be "playing it again, Sam."

## Co. budget shows deficit

Bell County commissioners Dec. 22 adopted the final amended budget for 2002-03 to reflect a \$519,355 deficit. The amended budget shows a \$128,975 shortfall in revenues and \$390,380 overage of expenses over budget for the year.

On the revenue portion of the budget, the county showed decreases of \$268,656 (property taxes), \$242,439 (inmate lodging), \$533,994 (fines), \$8,603 (intergovernmental), \$224,469 (interest income) and \$211,215 (other income). The county offset those decreases with

increases of \$271,452 in sales taxes and \$1,055,806 in fees of office.

The county amended the budget to show \$390,830 more in expenditures than originally budgeted. Those increases included \$115,000 (motor vehicle), \$203,427 (detention center), \$93,159 (county and district courts) \$48,500 (elections), \$195,100 (ambulance service), \$440,632 (Jail overtime, extradition and medical exams), \$806,921 (general administration).

Decreases of actual expenditures versus budget include these: \$122,888 (county and district attorneys), \$85,040 (sheriff's office), \$57,812 (county fire marshal), \$523,427 (administration offices), \$240,724 (buildings and grounds), \$363,315 (JPO), \$48,739 (JJAEP), \$35,560 (road and bridge administration) and \$34,864 (other departments).

# Garlyn Shelton

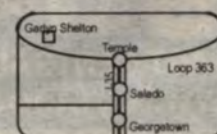
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# Putting "Service Above Self"

By SCHUYLER KUYKENDALL  
STAFF WRITER

Charles "Buzz" Buzard has been putting "Service Above Self" for more than 25 years, since joining a Rotary Club in Arizona.

"Buzz" and his wife have taught English in Kazakhstan for eight weeks out of the year since 1991, he told the Rotary Club of Salado, Dec 16. All of this work is voluntary and he pays his own expenses.

They teach at the Kazak-American Free University. This school cost about \$1,000 American dollars per year, so

only the top students are accepted.

Kazakhstan, the ninth largest land mass in the country, they have about 25 percent of the oil mineral wealth. It is located near the Russia-China border.

"But, also one-third of the country is polluted to the point that they have related health problems," says Buzz. There are places where people can only stay four to five hours at a time because of the heavy pollution.

Kazakhstan also has an oil reserve that surpasses that of Iran and Iraq. Because the country is landlocked it makes it difficult to get the oil off-

shore.

In 1992, all of the managers and supervisors were out of the country and started a government without any guidance or laws in place. "It was like having someone that could bake the bread, but didn't know how to get it to the stores," Buzz stated.

He and his wife lived in an apartment with a bedroom, living room, bathroom and kitchen. There is only one switch in the apartment building that controls everyone's water, electricity, all of the utilities. So, if one of the tenants doesn't pay the bill, it shuts off everyone's.

"They are required to

have an elevator in apartments building that is more than five stories," he says. "But it doesn't have to work."

"Ninety percent of the population live in apartments," says Buzz. "The population of Kazakhstan is about 350,000." Buzz says, that on a good there are only about 20 Americans there.

One other interesting fact about Kazakhstan, is that telephone poles do not touch the ground. They are mounted to the side of concrete poles. This is due to the change in temperature, which can rise to 110 in the summer and drop to 50 below during the winter.

# FSB acquires Fidelity Bank

First State Bank of Central Texas announced Dec. 19 that it has filed applications with bank regulatory authorities to acquire the Temple banking office of Fidelity Bank of Texas, located at 9502 West Adams, in Temple.

This west Temple loca-

tion, at the intersection of West Adams and Highway 317, will represent First State Bank's third Temple banking office and seventh Bell County banking office.

At the closing, scheduled for February, the existing bank customers of

Fidelity Bank of Texas will automatically become customers of First State Bank. The bank will continue to be staffed by the existing bank employees, who will become employees of First State Bank.

"We are excited about opening another bank in

our home office market and welcoming the new Fidelity Bank customers," commented Donald Grobowsky, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of First State Bank.

FROM PAGE 4A

# Letters

weighed, again contrary to opinions expressed. Much has been made of the fact that the Commissioners' proposal presented for vote in September was also evaluated. In the end, the Task Force's recommendation is similar to the Commissioner's proposal, but contrary to the cynics' opinion, it is not surprising that when presented with information for analysis, reasonably intelligent, open-minded people will often draw similar conclusions.

As to the notion that this issue should not be revisited because it has already been voted upon, these are

either the musings of the uninformed or assertions from those with an, as of yet, unrevealed agenda. Doing nothing is not an option. Renovating the current facilities is neither a long term solution nor fiscally responsible option. To understand the reasons behind these statements, some serious study of the information must be undertaken, as was done by the task force, and by the commissioners before us. The commissioners of the past and present have been good stewards for the citizens of Bell County - a fact that can be confirmed

by looking at the financial records.

When compared with other counties Bell County's record is stellar. The recommendations for the Bell County Jail and Courts are far-sighted and fiscally responsible. No one likes to pay more taxes, ever. But sometimes an investment in the future is necessary.

Finally, it seems destructive politics has worked its way down to our very small, local level. The accusations made against elected leaders and volunteers have been unfounded, mean and uncalled for.

We are all neighbors, not enemies. We work together, go to church together, our children grow up together.

We all have the same interests and concerns in the community. It is time that everyone takes a deep breath, and instead of acting like impetuous children-crying about what "I want!" the adult behavior of considering the business of what needs to be done in the best interest of all citizens, now and in the future, takes precedent.

Kathy Peeples,  
Belton



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**Yoga Master holding classes**

Yoga Master Paul Coates will begin another six-week session of yoga classes at the Halley House in Salado beginning 6:45 Jan. 6. He will also hold classes at Temple's Cultural Activities Center (CAC) 5:45-7 p.m. Jan. 6-Feb. 9, Mondays. The cost is \$35 per person. To register for either set of classes, contact Coates at 947-9992.

Studies continue to affirm yoga's multitude of health benefits. Most often the physical benefits are the motivation to practice yoga, which eventually leads to a deeper mind-body awareness and connection.

Coates began teaching Yoga in 1968 after recovering from a serious illness, and has studied at the California Institute of Asian Studies, the Integral Yoga Institute in San Francisco as well as with schools and ashrams in New York, London, New Dehli, Benares, India, Rangoon, Bangkok, Hong Kong and Singapore.

There is no special equipment required for students to enjoy the class, however loose clothing and a large beach towel or yoga mat to sit on are recommended.



Spreading happiness and good cheer to kids in Salado before his big night, Santa Claus dropped in to say hello at the Salado Public Library the morning of Dec. 22. Here, Santa shows a youngster a proper North Pole wave. (PHOTO BY CHRIS MCGREGOR)

**"Playing for the Cycle" Austin Salon shows in Jan.**

The Austin Salon Concerts continues its season "Playing for the Cycle" with a chamber music concert for duo, trio, and quartet with three performances, Jan. 18, 19 and 21.

The Jan. 18 and 19 shows will be held at a private residence, the former beginning at 4:30 p.m. and the latter at 7:30 p.m. These concerts are open to the public by advance reservation. Admission is priced at \$35, including a

post-concert reception. The program includes: Shostakovich: *Sonata for Cello and Piano in D minor, Op. 40*; Tchaikovsky: *"Pezzo elegaica" for Piano Trio, from Trio in A minor, Op. 50*; and Brahms: *Piano Quartet in G minor, Op. 25*.

The Jan. 21 performance will be a shortened one-hour program, beginning at 6 p.m., and will be held at the Armstrong Community Music School, located at 901 Barton

Springs Rd. Admission to this performance is free. A student quartet from Salon Concerts' education program CHAMPS (Chamber Music in Public Schools) will also perform briefly to open each concert.

For more information, reservations, or directions, call 512-342-2785 or e-mail [salonconcerts@aol.com](mailto:salonconcerts@aol.com). More information is also available at [www.salonconcerts.org](http://www.salonconcerts.org).

**Varsity boys fall to 12-3 after loss at Liberty Hill**

The Salado Varsity Eagles took a 12-2 record into their Dec. 19 showdown with Liberty Hill. In the Coach Smith Tournament, the Eagles had upset the favored Panthers in the championship game, the biggest win of the season thus far for Salado.

But, in what Coach Tom Long described as a "revenge game" for the humbled Panthers, Salado committed the mistakes they had managed to avoid the first time around, and Liberty Hill took advantage of them.

According to Long, too many turnovers and incon-

sistent offense were the key factors in Salado's 49-41 loss. "We turned the ball over a lot, and didn't play with much rhythm," Long said.

The game started well for Salado, however. The Eagles jumped out to an early 6-0 lead, but it was short-lived. Playing aggressively, the Panthers stormed back, forcing Salado to play catch-up for much of the game.

Over half way through the fourth period, the Eagles had cut the Panther lead to only three, but timely free throw shooting

and more turnovers sealed Salado's fate.

"I was proud of our effort, but we didn't play well," Long said.

Josh Wright had a strong game defensively, and contributed 11 points on offense. Devon Dunn was held to 10 points on the night.

Salado 58  
 Lago Vista 30

In previous action on Dec. 15 the Eagles throttled Lago Vista by 28, a game which every Salado player but two contributed points.

"Our goal was to try

and keep them from scoring under 30 points and our guys had a good game," Long explained.

Lago Vista's seemed to be keeping the ball out of Salado's hands. "They ran a delay game mostly," Long said. "But we pressed a bit and were able to work on our man coverages."

Dunn was the leading scorer for the Eagles.

Salado's record now stand at 12-3. They will travel to Sinton to compete in a tournament Dec. 29-30. District play begins at home, Jan. 2 versus Academy.

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# Cowboys back in the saddle

By CHRIS MCGREGOR  
STAFF WRITER

So the Dallas Cowboys have gone and done it. They've made the playoffs. It's such an unlikely reality that it almost sounds funny to say it.

Going into the season, no one, including the industry's top prognosticators, gave the team or first year coach Bill Parcell's a snowflake's chance. And who then would have had the guts to disagree?

After all, this is basically the same squad that went a humbling 5-11 for three straight seasons, and produced during that span some of the most excruciatingly ugly scenes of gridiron ineptitude the NFL has ever witnessed.

In the interest of fairness, footage from the better part of those three seasons should, by rights, be sealed away in a vault, buried miles beneath the earth and its key destroyed. Or shot into outer space, if you wanted to give NASA

something constructive to do.

Even dyed-in-the-wool, eternally-optimistic Cowboy fans, at best, whispered in hushed tones of an eight win season.

But my how things have changed. Win the last one over nothing-to-play-for New Orleans and the 'Boys will have notched their 11th victory, and--most importantly--truly earned their spot in the postseason.

In fact, they still have an outside shot of winning the division, albeit with a win Sunday and a Philadelphia loss in Washington in the season finale: an unlikely event.

All this has been a long-time coming for diehard fans, who are now experiencing a surreal, almost forgotten emotion. Something akin to what must have been felt by an ancient Hebrew peering into the Holiest of Holies.

And no, that's not religious blasphemy. It's football. In Texas, spirituality and the shotgun formation

are one in the same.

This has been an interesting season. Dallas dropped the opener in embarrassing fashion to the Michael Vick-less Atlanta Falcons, and many fans cringed with the dispiriting thought that 2003 was to hold more of the same. The same being another campaign of double-digit losses and disappointment. Whoo-pee, here we go again.

But Dallas rebounded. An overtime victory over the Giants in week two sparked a five game win streak. With the exception of some mid-season struggles against very strong clubs, the Cowboys have been surprisingly good, even the prognosticators have to admit that.

They've played what is arguably the most brutal schedule in the NFL, and after 15 weeks the defense is still ranked number one in the league.

In the pantheon of great Cowboy signal callers, Quincy Carter, admittedly,

is not quite ready to join the ranks. At this point, he's no Staubach or Aikman, or even Danny White, but he has improved dramatically from a year ago. He was efficient against the Giants on Sunday, and he had to be. He threw no interceptions, had no fumbles and committed, by all account, not a single bonehead move the entire afternoon.

His 240 yards on 17-25 passing also pushed him over 3,000 for the year, a feat not accomplished since Aikman did it in '97.

The Dallas Cowboys, as a team, aren't there yet. They've still got a ways to go, and Bill Parcells isn't the type of coach to let them forget it.

But what they are is a hard-hitting club that no one really wants to line up against in the post-season, which, if things go well, could leave Cowboys fans cheering well into January.

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## Cooler weather? Important tips for your child's car seat safety

When the weather turns cooler, we all get our jackets and coats out of the closet. Did you know that putting your infant or child in their coat or blanket before putting them in their car seat can greatly affect the way the car seat is designed to work?

The harness straps in car seats are designed to lie flat and snug against your child. When they are adjusted properly, there should be no slack in the harness system. If you wrap your baby in a blanket before placing him in the car seat, and loosen the harness straps to accommodate the extra cloth...you have put slack

into the system. The same thing happens if you put a coat on your toddler and loosen the straps before buckling him in his seat.

In a collision, this extra fabric and padding will compress and create slack in the harness system, which will allow your child to move further forward during a crash before being stopped by the harness straps--increasing the injuries they will suffer.

So what should you do? First, always keep your child in the clothes they will be wearing when they are indoors. Place the child in the infant seat or car seat, making sure the harness straps are snug

over the shoulders and that they lie straight and flat down to the buckle. Buckle the child in and then put the coat or blanket over them--on top of the harness system. You can even turn the coat around and put his arms through the sleeves after he is buckled into his car seat.

This will ensure your kids are kept snug in their seat, the harness system is able to do its job in the event of a crash, and that the kids stay warm.

Remember to check your safety seats often and look for stress marks or hairline cracks on the shell, frayed harness

straps, torn padding, etc. You can contact the manufacturer for replacement parts.

For more detailed information on car seats and car seat safety, please see the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's website at <http://www.nhtsa.gov/>.

## Wendy's 10th Annual Winter Warm Up coat drive begins

### Dec. 21 in Temple

Central Texas Wendy's restaurants will begin their 10th annual Winter Warm-Up coat drive on Dec. 21 in Temple.


According to the restaurants sources, this is the largest coat drive in Central Texas. The campaign runs from Dec. 21-Jan. 31, to help make the chilling winter months more bearable for those in need.

Guests are encouraged to donate coats at any Central Texas Wendy's location. For each coat that is donated, the donor will receive a coupon redeemable for one free Super Value Menu item worth \$.99. There will be a limit of 10 coupons per donor per day.

Coats will be picked up by volunteers and taken to professional dry cleaners partnering with Wendy's for the event. The cleaned coats will then be picked up and delivered to charities that will distribute them free of charge to those in need.

"Ten years ago we realized that there were many in need of jackets during the winter season, so we began the Wendy's Winter Warm-Up," says James Hays, Director of Operations for Central Texas Wendy's. "We have collected over 60,000 coats since its conception. We are happy to have such great partners helping to give back to the local communities."


Free coats will be available to those in need by contacting Richard Schaub at Martha's Kitchen and Shelter of Temple at 770-0556. Martha's Kitchen and Shelter is coordinating the transportation and distribution of the coats. "We are particularly grateful to Martha's Kitchen and Shelter and Mr. Best Cleaners," adds Hays. "Janet Pursche of Mr. Best Cleaners is providing her service of cleaning all the coats at no charge to help the less fortunate. The cleaners, volunteers and charities are extremely generous with their time and efforts to help make this coat drive a huge success."



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# 13th Corps CDC SISD Campus tours deployed Dec. 18 conducted in new year

The 13th Corps Support Command activated the Corps Distribution Command (CDC) and conducted a deployment and retreat ceremony Dec. 18 at Sadowski Field on Ft. Hood.

This provisional, first-of-its-kind unit is part of the Army's comprehensive plan to revolutionize Army logistics. The CDC concept integrates logistics operations, plans, and management into one center of gravity structure providing the commander improved situational awareness and enabling logisticians to meet continuing needs of combatant maneuver commanders.

The Corp Distribution Command has overwatch for 13th COSCOM's operational battalions, the 49th Movement Control Battalion, the 4th Corps Material Management Center and the Special Troops Battalion.

Following the activation, the 13th COSCOM

## Financial Aid Workshop held at Salado High

A Financial Aid Workshop, presented by a representative of the Texas Association of Financial Aid Administrators, will be held 6:30 p.m. Feb. 5 at Salado High School.

An overview of the financial aid process will be given, as well as handouts with additional information.

For more information, call Katy Whitis at the high school, 947-6973, or e-mail her at [kwhitis@saladoisd.org](mailto:kwhitis@saladoisd.org).

conducted a deployment ceremony, where the unit performed the ritual casing of the colors. The flags of the COSCOM's various units were "cased," or furled, signifying the shift of their mission from Fort Hood to Iraq.

In Iraq the colors will be uncased, signifying the start of the unit's mission in Iraq.

Salado ISD will be conducting tours of Salado school campuses for parents and community members during January and February.

"This is an opportunity for each and all of you to see our school district," says Dr. Robin Battershell, superintendent of schools.

The first of the three campus tours will take place 9 a.m.-noon Jan. 10, and will consist of a tour of the athletic and maintenance facilities, and the high school.

From 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 22, a tour of the SISD cafeterias will be given. Last in the series will be a 9 a.m.-noon Feb. 7 tour of the intermediate and elementary schools.

For more information call 947-5479.

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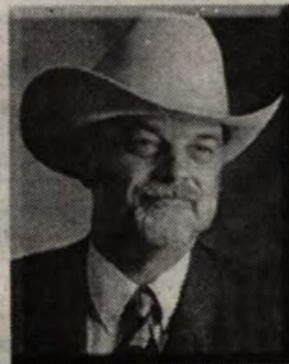
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by Dave T. Phipps



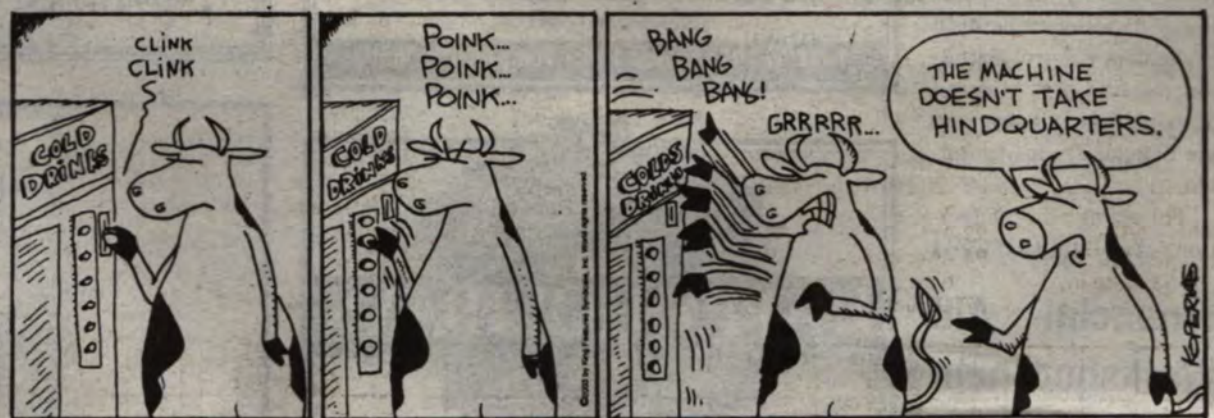
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**Out on a Limb**



**R.F.D.**

by Mike Marland

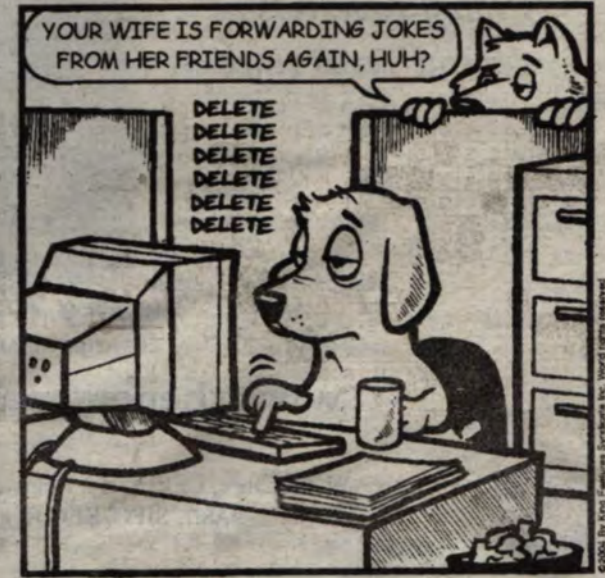


**The Spats**



**MISTER BREGER** By Dave Breger

**Just Like Cats & Dogs** by Dave T. Phipps



# CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Home —" ('90 film)
  - 6 Faithful
  - 11 Elated
  - 15 Tighten the tent
  - 18 Nigerian city
  - 19 Actress Verdugo
  - 20 Paddled
  - 22 Multi-purpose vehicle
  - 23 Photography event of 1900
  - 26 "Unforgettable" name
  - 27 Snicker sound
  - 28 Mexican Mrs.
  - 29 Have a mortgage
  - 30 Attack
  - 32 Sniggler's quarry
  - 34 Baseball's Piniella
  - 35 TV's "Green —"
  - 37 Young follower?
  - 41 Literary event of 1900
  - 48 Roberts or Tucker
  - 50 Only just
  - 51 Olympic VIP
  - 52 Med. test
  - 53 Take in, perhaps
  - 54 Big bang letters
  - 55 Distress
  - 56 Terror
  - 57 Exhibition event of 1900
  - 62 Solidarity city
  - 64 Weldon or Wray
  - 65 And others
  - 66 Utah city
  - 68 Way to go
  - 69 Donizetti's "L'elisir d'—"
  - 70 Queler or Arden
  - 71 Heavenly hunter
  - 73 Meir's successor
  - 75 Knight's wife
  - 77 Clasp
  - 78 Scale notes
  - 81 Ease a situation
  - 82 Musical event of 1900
  - 86 Huck's craft
  - 87 Service div.
  - 89 "— Doll" ('64 hit)
  - 90 Urania's sister
  - 91 Skater Midori
  - 92 Act catty?
  - 94 Anesthetic type
  - 97 Object
  - 98 Transportation event of 1900
  - 99 Across' instrument
  - 103 Moshe of Israel
  - 104 Shady character?
  - 105 High peak
  - 107 Multivoiced Mel
  - 109 Coach Parseghian
  - 110 Favorite
  - 113 — terrier
  - 117 Massage
  - 118 Culinary event of 1900
  - 124 Every last bit
  - 125 Humpback's home
  - 126 Luncheonette lure
  - 127 Gawk
  - 128 Payable
  - 129 Makes lace
  - 130 Actor Gary
  - 131 Detection device
  - 9 "Lonely Boy" singer
  - 10 Research site
  - 11 Become an adult
  - 12 Rob of "Wayne's World"
  - 13 Barley beard
  - 14 "Agnus —"
  - 15 Word in a Dostoyevsky title
  - 16 Coup d'—
  - 17 See 115 Down
  - 21 Rubble
  - 24 Boat bottom
  - 25 Commodious
  - 31 Guitarist Paul
  - 33 Tennis stroke
  - 34 "— Abner"
  - 35 Cain's victim
  - 36 Actor Gulager
  - 37 Rod
  - 38 Actress Shire
  - 39 Threshold
  - 40 Bread and booze
  - 42 Upset
  - 43 Bond foe
  - 44 New York team
  - 45 "Raid on Entebbe" weapon
  - 46 Rub out
  - 47 Bogarde or Benedict
  - 49 Apollo's sister
  - 55 Veneration
  - 56 Hawthorne's was marble
  - 58 Make amends
  - 59 Mideastern letters
  - 60 Fly a chopper
  - 61 Trams transport it
  - 62 Barbecue
  - 63 Drew while distracted
  - 67 Connecticut native
  - 69 Border on
  - 70 Aussie walker
  - 72 Hugo's "Le — s'amuse"
  - 73 Lasso
  - 74 Priced right
  - 76 Canine grp.
  - 78 Full of froth
  - 79 Pianist Schnabel
  - 80 A little night music?
  - 81 Wet blanket
  - 83 Junket
  - 84 Fade away
  - 85 Songwriter Jacques
  - 87 English architect
  - 88 — deco
  - 92 '60 Hitchcock classic
  - 93 Actress Thurman
  - 94 Like some
  - 95 Petite pooch
  - 96 Thompson or Salonga
  - 99 Rocker Whitcomb
  - 100 August shows
  - 101 554, to Tiberius
  - 106 Preserve a petunia
  - 107 Nail type
  - 108 Berg opera
  - 109 Blind as —
  - 110 Callao's country
  - 111 Desire deified
  - 112 Use a stopwatch
  - 114 Division word
  - 115 With 17 Down, famed saxophonist
  - 116 51 Across' missis (song)
  - 121 Yak
  - 122 Aye
  - 123 Augsburg article

**DOWN**

- 1 TV ET
- 2 Cafe au —
- 3 Fairy-tale fiend
- 4 Snack
- 5 Cosmetician Lauder
- 6 Papal name
- 7 Auto
- 8 Century

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**ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD**

A	L	O	N	E	L	O	A	L	G	L	A	D	P	E	G						
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Majestic trees threatened by Oak Wilt

## Oaks stand guard over history

By TIM FLEISCHER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Her arms spread out as an overprotective mother's, providing a canopy of shade, an escape from the Texas heat for picnickers, nappers and children.

Sprouting decades -- perhaps centuries -- ago from a small acorn, her life span often parallels that of our beloved state.

The majestic live oak tree from whose branch hangs an old tire that our children and perhaps now our grandchildren swing from is reminiscent of our homes, an anchor that reminds of our past.

But -- ironically perhaps -- the tree that has withstood the trials of time, has dug its roots deeply to cling to the ground through storms and twisters, has become a rugged symbol of a rugged state is now in danger, its enemy smaller than your thumb.

Oak wilt, a fungal disease that kills oaks indiscriminately, is inching its way east through Bell County. The Texas center of oak wilt is the Hill Country, where once heavily wooded areas now stand gray and dead.

Ask any arborist, rancher, farmer or tree lover and they will tell you the same thing:

**THERE IS NO CURE FOR OAK WILT.**

Period.

According to the U.S. Forestry Service, the speed of the disease depends upon the species of oak in question.

The live oak, with its rough bark and tiny green leaves, is hardier than the red oak.



While the intrinsic value of a beautiful old oak tree like this one in Mill Creek is immeasurable, its market value to the property owner is several thousand dollars. (PHOTO BY TIM FLEISCHER)

The Treehelp.com website says that "red oaks can die from oak wilt in as short a time as a month. Texas live oaks may survive as long as six months. White oaks may survive as long as several years after infection."

In fact, Treehelp.com says that in some rare instances, trees have survived a bout of oak wilt.

But don't count on it. Instead, count on the fact that if your beloved oaks get the disease, they will be lost to it.

What hope is there, then?

Simply put, the only hope is prevention, early detection and cooperation. Some communities in Texas, mostly large cities like Austin and Ft. Worth, but as small as Boerne, have been banding together to fight the disease through information and team work.

There is a lot of information out there. A yahoo search on "oak wilt" gave thousands of sources.

In out-dated sit-com language, "too much information."

I hope to give you and your neighbors the right amount of information and the right kind of information so that you can protect your trees from this creeping disease that moves an estimated 75 feet per year.

First and foremost is detection.

## Detection

Look up at your trees regularly, taking particular notice of their leaves and bark.

Leaf damage is the earliest indication of oak wilt, according to the Forestry Service. "Leaves of infected trees begin to lose their green color, dulling and then browning or yellowing from the outer edges inward. This pattern of outward in is important in noticing the discoloration of oak leaves.

In the live oak, look for the characteristic veinal necrosis on the leaves. The area of the veins will begin to turn red, brown or yellow while the areas between will be green. As the disease progresses, this becomes much easier to identify.

Leaves may begin to drop from the trees. This defoliation starts at the ends of branches and can begin while leaves are still green.

Finally, in red oaks you may notice the "fungal mat." These mats appear when masses of fungal tissue break the bark. These fungal mats are one method that the disease spreads from tree to tree.

## Spread of Oak Wilt

Oak wilt spreads primarily in two ways: insect transmission and root transmission.

The sap beetle (Nitidulid beetle in nerdy scientific circles) carries the spores of the fungus from spore mats on infected trees to wounds on healthy trees.

Insect transmission does not occur from live oak to live oak as the tree does not produce the fungal mat and spore. However, the fungus (Ceratocystis fagacearum) can be carried from other oak trees (red oak and Spanish oak) that do produce fungal mats.

In live oaks, the disease is also spread through the interconnected root systems of the trees.

A tree man will show you how far the root systems of the live oak extend by having you look at a stand of trees. If the branches of trees are mingled, so are their roots, he will say.

The disease can travel through these root networks by 75 feet per year, perhaps as much as 150 feet.

"The fungus simply

SEE LEARN SYMPTOMS, PAGE 13B

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## Uncommon Grounds

Cynthia (Mama) and I would like to thank all of those who have enlightened our day by coming into our restaurant and sharing your company with us.

BUT GUESS WHAT

We will be closed from December 15, 2003 until January 10, 2004 so we can relax and enjoy the holidays.

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

Happy Holidays  
David & Cynthia  
Apichino



Best wishes for the merriest Christmas and the happiest New Year from all of us to all of you. During this season of twinkling lights and glittering garland, remember it is the heart filled with love and laughter that puts the true sparkle in the season.

We thank you for your continued support this past year.

## Heirlooms

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# Regular Meetings

**Mondays**  
**Salado Community Chorus:** 5:30 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center.  
**Boy Scouts:** Each Monday, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Methodist Church.  
**Monday Club:** 1st Mon., 2 p.m., Salado United Methodist Church.  
**Salado Chamber of Commerce Board:** 2nd Mon., 6 p.m., at Civic Center.  
**Salado FFA Meeting:** First Monday of the month, 7 p.m. in the elementary school cafeteria.  
**Salado I.S.D. Board of Trustees:** 3rd Mon. at 6 p.m., at Salado Civic Center.  
**Salado Library District Board:** 4th Mon. at 5:30 p.m., at Salado Public Library Building.  
**Salado Masonic Lodge #296:** 8 p.m. on the Mon. on or before the full moon.  
**Salado Village Artist Quilters:** 1-4 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mon. in the Salado Village Artist Building.  
**Storytime:** 11-11:30 a.m. every Monday at the Salado Public Library (ages 3-5).  
**Salado 4-H Club:** 1st Mon. of every month, 7 p.m. at the Intermediate School.  
**Exercise Class:** Aug. 18-end of school year, 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. except first Monday of the month, which will begin at 10:30 a.m. Class includes stretching, strengthening and Pilates. Held at Salado Civic Center. Class is FREE to public.  
**Salado Democrats:** 6:45 p.m., first Monday of each month at the Village Steakhouse.  
**Salado Youth Fair Boosters:** Third Monday of each month, 7 p.m. at the elementary school library.  
**Tuesdays**  
**Salado Rotary Club:** 11:30 a.m., Stagecoach Inn.  
**Salado Band Boosters:** Second Tuesday at 3:45 p.m. in the Band Hall.  
**Yoga Classes:** 6:45 p.m., at the Halley House.  
**Salado Village Artists:** 10 a.m. at Salado Art Center.  
**Salado Family Relief Fund:** 2nd Tues. 1 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center.  
**Chisholm Trail Chapter ABWA:** 2nd Tues. 6:30 p.m. at Stagecoach Inn.

**Salado High School Band Boosters:** 2nd Tues. of every month 7 p.m. in the Band Hall.  
**Salado Area Republican Women:** 3rd Thursday of month. Times vary. Call 947-8422 or 947-3617 for information.  
**Wednesdays**  
**Yoga classes:** 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Salado Chiropractic and Massage. 947-2225.  
**Salado Creekside Cloggers:** 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
**Salado Youth Baseball Association:** meetings 7 p.m. at Civic Center.  
**Lions Club:** 2nd & 4th Wed. at 11:30 a.m., Creekside. Board meets 2nd Wed. 8 a.m.  
**Mill Creek Community Association Board:** 3rd Wed., 5 p.m., at Civic Center.  
**Scottish Country Dance Lessons:** 8-9:30 p.m. at the Scots Hall of the Clans. 947-0325 for info.  
**Thursdays**  
**Salado Area Republican Women:** 3rd Thursday of month. Times vary. Call 947-8422 or 947-3617 for information.  
**Village of Salado Board of Aldermen:** Regular meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of month, 6:30 p.m. at Salado Municipal Building unless otherwise posted.  
**Salado Ladies Auxiliary:** 2nd Thurs., 10 a.m., Salado Civic Center  
**Salado Water Corporation Board of Directors:** 3rd Thurs., 4 p.m. Corporation office.  
**Salado Historical Society:** board of directors, 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m. Salado Civic Center.  
**PTC:** (SIS Parent Teacher Co-op) meets the 2nd Thursday 3:45 p.m. in Room 101 at SIS.  
**Salado Education Foundation:** Regular Board meetings, 9 a.m. 2nd Thurs. at Salado Civic Center.  
**Salado Business Association:** General meetings, 3rd Thursday 8:45 a.m. upstairs at the Civic Center.  
**Salado Neighborhood Group of the American Sewing Guild:** 3rd Thurs. of each month 5:30 p.m. at The Sewing Basket.  
**Salado Moms,** playgroup, contact Amanda at 947-5507.  
**Saturdays**  
**Food Pantry:** 2nd and 4th Sat. at First Baptist Church. 9 a.m.-10 a.m.

**DECEMBER 24-26**  
**Salado Village Voice office closes noon Dec. 24.** Will remain closed through Dec. 26. Advertising deadline for Dec. 31 issue: **3 p.m. Dec. 23.**

## 2004

**JANUARY 2-4,**  
**Lariat Bowl at Wildfire Ranch.** Info: 947-9988.  
**JANUARY 5**  
**Monday Club meeting,** 2 p.m. at the Methodist Church. Program: The Gift of Encouragement. All ladies invited to attend.  
**JANUARY 5**  
**Salado Democrats meeting,** 6:30 p.m. at the Civic Center.  
**JANUARY 15**  
**Community Meeting about School facilities needs 6:30 p.m.** at the Salado Civic Center  
**JANUARY 22**  
**Candidates Forum sponsored by Salado Area Republican Women,** 6 p.m. buffet dinner at Mill Creek Country Club. Info: 947-3617  
**JANUARY 27**  
**Salado Chamber of Commerce Banquet** (Details to be announced)  
**FEBRUARY 5**  
**Financial Aid Workshop** for students and parents, 6:30 p.m. at Salado High School. Info: 947-6973 or e-mail kwhitis@saladoisd.org.  
**FEBRUARY 14**  
**Valentine's Day**  
**FEBRUARY 23**  
**7 p.m. Taste of Salado** sponsored by Public Arts League of Salado. For more information call 947-3771 or 947-5308  
**FEBRUARY 24-28**  
**9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Salado Artist Workshops Studio Tour** - Various locations for more information Call 937-8300 scc@vvm.com.  
**MARCH 6**  
**Mill Creek Community Association**

**Spring Fling** at Mill Creek Restaurant. 6-7 p.m. happy hour, 7 p.m. dinner. Info: 947-3901.  
**MARCH 18**  
**7 p.m. Salado Historical Society General Public Meeting** at the Salado Civic Center  
**APRIL 3**  
**9-5 p.m. Salado Wildflower Art Show** at the Salado Civic Center grounds. For more information call 947-5040  
**APRIL 3**  
**11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tablerock's 9th Annual Gospel Festival** at Tablerock Amphitheater. For more information call 254-947-5100  
**APRIL 24**  
**Salado Yard & Garden Tour** Tickets \$10 each available at the Salado Civic Center. for more information call 254-947-8300 Sponsored by the Public Arts League of Salado (PALS) for the beautification of Salado.  
**MAY 15**  
**Mill Creek Community Association Neighborhood Cleanup Day,** 8:30-11:30 a.m. Free donuts and coffee before, hot dogs and chips after. Info: 947-3901.  
**MAY 23**  
**Salado High School baccalaureate service,** at FBC of Salado.  
**MAY 25**  
**Salado High School commencement ceremony** at Bell County Expo Center. Info: 947-5429.  
**JUNE 3-5**  
**Judy & A.C. Green Literary Festival** for more information call 947-3104  
**JUNE 4-6**  
**Writers League of Texas Retreat** in conjunction with AC Greene Festival for more information call 947-3104  
**JULY 3**  
**6 p.m. Salado Historical Society Annual Fourth of**

**July Picnic** at Pace Park Pot Luck  
**JULY 24**  
**Salado Legends 12th Annual Performance** dinner 7:15 p.m., Theater 8:15 p.m. at Tablerock Amphitheater For more information call 254-947-9205 or www.allcentex.com/tablerock Tickets adult \$15, child 12 and under \$5  
**JULY 26-31**  
**Public Arts Lecture Series** sponsored by Public Arts League of Salado for more information call 947-3104  
**JULY 31**  
**Salado Legends 12th Annual Performance** dinner 7:15 p.m., Theater 8:15 p.m. at Tablerock Amphitheater For more information call 254-947-9205 or www.allcentex.com/tablerock Tickets adult \$15, child 12 and under \$5  
**AUGUST 7-8**  
**8th Annual Salado Art Fair** in Pace Park For more information call the Salado Chamber of Commerce 947-5040  
**SEPTEMBER 4-5-6**  
**Salado Businesses Salute Educators** More information TBA  
**SEPTEMBER 10**  
**Mill Creek Community Association Fall Social** at Mill Creek Restaurant. 6-7 p.m. happy hour, 7 p.m. dinner. Info: 947-3901.  
**SEPTEMBER 18-19**  
**10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Tablerock's Fantasy Faire & Shakespeare Play** 8: 15 p.m. at Tablerock Amphitheater for more information call 254-947-1339 Faire Tickets adults \$5, children \$3 Shakespeare tickets \$10 adult, \$5 child. For more information on play call 254-947-8933  
**SEPTEMBER 20**  
**Wine & Wildflower Festival** sponsored by Pulic Arts League of Salado. For more information call

9473429  
**SEPTEMBER 25 -26**  
**8:15 p.m. Shakespeare Play** at Tablerock Amphitheater For more information call 254-947-893  
**OCTOBER 8-9**  
**Christmas In October** at the Salado Civic Center Free. Sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary.  
**OCTOBER 23**  
**6 p.m.- 11:30 p.m. 3rd Annual Chisholm Trail Cattleman's Ball** at Tenroc Ranch For more information call 254-947-0827  
**OCTOBER 30-31**  
**7 p.m.- 11 p.m. Fright Nights Family Halloween Fun** at Tablerock's Trail . Adults \$5 Children \$3  
**NOVEMBER 5-6-7**  
**10 a.m.- 10 p.m. Chisholm Trail Days** Shops, Shoot Outs, eat at a campfire, cowboy poets and songs. Admission adults \$10 children \$5 For more information call 254-913-0366  
**NOVEMBER 12-14**  
**Gathering of the Clans** at Robertson Plantation & College Hill.  
**NOVEMBER 18**  
**7 p.m. Salado Historical Society Annual Chili Supper** at the Salado Civic Center  
**DECEMBER 3-4**  
**A Christmas Carol** 7 p.m at Tablerock Amphitheater Tickets Adults \$5 children \$3 6:30 p.m. Sandwiches and drinks available For more information call 254-947-9205  
**DECEMBER 3-4-5**  
**Salado Christmas Stroll**  
**Salado Historical Society Annual Christmas Homes Tour** TBA  
**DECEMBER 10-11-12**  
**Salado Christmas Stroll**  
**DECEMBER 10-11**  
**A Christmas Carol** 7 p.m at Tablerock Amphitheater Tickets Adults \$5 children \$3 6:30 p.m. Sandwiches and drinks available For more information call 254-947-9205

**ATTENTION: Churches, Civic Organizations Secretaries**  
**List your Salado activity each week in this calendar of events. Fax information to 947-9479, email to saladovillagevoice@earthlink.net. Mail info to Salado Village Voice P O Box 587, Salado, TX 76571.**

# CAC presents Singin' in the Rain Jan. 20

As part of its Performing Arts Season, the Cultural Activities Center (CAC) in Temple will state the movie musical *Singin' in the Rain* 7 p.m. Jan. 20. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for students and can be purchased at the CAC Box Office or by calling (254) 773-9926. Attendees are advised to purchase tickets prior to the performance to ensure availability.

*Singin' in the Rain*, which starred Gene Kelly as Don Lockwood, Debbie Reynolds as Cathy Selden, Donald O'Conner as Cosmo Brown, and Jean Hagen as Lina Lamont, has been internationally acclaimed as one of the 10 best films ever made.

Broadway director and choreographer Twyla Tharp gave new life to the American classic by bringing *Singin' in the Rain* to stage. She recognized the

film's Broadway potential and did not let its larger than life reputation hamper her vision, which was to create an unforgettable onstage musical extravaganza.

She successfully accomplished her goal and the performance has received rave reviews. *The New York Times* calls this performance, "perfectly irresistible—in a league of its own. An enthusiastic, glitzy revival." *Time Magazine* says it's, "exuberant and entertaining."

Tharp's Broadway performance includes most of the movie's original choreography. Kelly's famous "rain dance" number was kept in its entirety and is recreated onstage with the help of a rain machine. The performance is carried by spontaneous performers who have mastered the dance steps, and entertaining dialogue that has



Cultural Activities Center presents *Singin' in the Rain*

thrilled audiences for on this event, contact the decades. CAC at (254) 773-9926 or

For more information visit [www.cacARTS.org](http://www.cacARTS.org).

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# SBA works to set guidelines

By CHRIS MCGREGOR  
STAFF WRITER

In the wake of the recent Christmas Stroll, the Salado Business Association Dec. 18 discussed in length a letter to the SBA from David and Gale Barnard, owner of Barnard's Antiques and Whimsical Treasures, on Main Street.

The letter, dated Dec. 15, focused on the number and type of vendors plying their wares on Main Street during the Christmas Stroll, and whether the presence of some of those vendors conflicted with the inherent atmosphere of the event.

"This just concluded Stroll was indicative of sit-

uations that must be controlled by an enforceable ordinance," the letter read. "Non-owner yard vendors on Main Street, mostly junky setups, some dangerous traffic problems, and these vendors all leaving Salado with profits that belonged to local businesses."

After those present had time to review the letter, Mayor Charlotte Douglass said she understood the Barnard's feelings. "This is something we've wrestled with for a couple of years," she said. "We're concerned with the question of what to do with the Stroll and the people setting up."

In a previous meeting, SBA members had decided to disallow out-of-town, for-profit vendors during the Christmas Stroll; a stance taken to benefit local charities and businesses. However, this dictate was enforceable to a very limited extent. The SBA has no legal right to apply the code, and it was reported that non-SBA members and SBA members alike allowed for-profit vendors to set-up shop on their grounds, a move which disappointed others in the SBA. But, said SBA president Ronnie Tynes, "the SBA doesn't have any authority, today, to say 'Hey, don't do that.'"

The real issue, outside

of the competitive aspect, seemed to be whether the presence of outside vendors would result in any monetary benefit to the village. As with similar cases, such as the Art Fair or the Wildflower Art Show, vendors are expected to apply local sales tax to all transactions, which then, if the letter of the law is observed, are reported to the state Comptroller's office. In turn, the revenues from those taxes find their way back in the village coffers in the form of the Comptroller's monthly rebate allocations.

Some of those gathered

SEE SBA...PAGE 5B

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**SBA**

had misgivings about the practices of some vendors. "Most of these people probably didn't collect local tax, and if they did they might not forward it," said Douglass.

Alderman Suzi Epps stated that, in her estimation, the city has a responsibility to keep an eye on such things, if for no other reason than to collect sales tax. She followed that by suggesting a committee, which she volunteered to serve on, be established to draw up guidelines for such scenarios, and that those guidelines then be used to aid the city in developing an enforceable ordinance.

"We don't have a problem writing a permit ordinance," Douglass, speaking for the village government, stated to the group. "We will work within our parameters and do what we can legally do."

In other business, the treasurer's report, compiled by Joe Czaus, reflected a current balance of \$9,570.75, some \$1,800 less than the beginning November bal-

**FROM 4B**

ance. The decline in the balance is a result of Christmas Stroll-related expenditures and co-op advertising.

Additionally, the group elected officers for 2004. Board members include the following: President, Ronnie Tynes; Vice President, Joe Czaus; Secretary, Jean Hall; Treasurer, Charlie Lowe. Co-chairmen for the advertising/website committee will be Cindy Watson and Anthony Land. Heading the membership committee will be Titia Arledge; April Allen will be chairman of the tourism committee and Suzi Epps and Charlotte Douglass will serve as city liaisons. The Christmas Stroll committee chair is currently vacant.

No report was given on the outcome of the Christmas Stroll.

The SBA holds its general meeting the third Thursday of each month, 8:45 a.m. at the Salado Civic Center.

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**Lott completes basic training**

Army Reserve Pvt. Robert F. Lott has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, GA.

He is the son of Mike and Stephanie Lott, of Salado.

During the eight weeks of training, Lott received training in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, core values and traditions.

Additional training included development of basic combat skills and battlefield operations and tactics, and experiencing use of various weapons and weapons defenses available to the infantry crewman.

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# Winter solstice started this week

Winter solstice began Dec. 22, which marked the official start of winter for the Northern Hemisphere. The word, "solstice,"

literally means "sun-standing-still," owing to the fact that the sun's apparent southward motion has stopped. At this

time, the Northern Hemisphere of earth is tilted twenty three and one half degrees away from the sun. The noontime sun is therefore at its lowest

point in our daytime sky. This causes sunlight to spread out along the surface, resulting in longer shadows and reduced heating of the ground.

Longer nights also provide more chance for stored surface heat to radiate back out into space. These chilling effects are reversed in the Southern Hemisphere, where summer has just begun.

Contrary to popular belief, planet earth is not farther from the sun during winter. In fact, the earth is several million miles closer to the sun in January than it is in July.

To learn more about astronomy and the night sky, visit the Mayborn Planetarium and Space Theater, located on the campus of Central Texas College in Killeen. Now playing is "tis The Season," a look at the reasons for seasons on earth and many of our seasonal celebrations that take place around the winter holidays.

For current show times and ticket information, call the Planetarium's 24-hour recorded information line at (254) 526-1800 or visit online at [www.starsatnight.org](http://www.starsatnight.org).

## String classes offered at Central Texas College

Central Texas College's Continuing Education department is offering Suzuki Strings Texas Style. The class will meet 1-3 p.m. Thursdays and 10-11 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 15-March 6.

Suzuki Strings Texas Style includes beginner instruction in violin, viola, cello and string bass for school age students. This program includes weekly 30-minute classes on Thursday afternoons con-

sisting of like instruments and age groups. In addition, students will participate in a weekly hour-long session combining all instruments. Two performances will take place, one after three weeks and the other at the end of the class. Students must provide their own instrument and purchase Suzuki Book I, along with the CD for their chosen instrument.

Instructor Leonidis Ritters has taught orchestra in public schools and col-

leges for over 20 years and holds a Master of Music degree in violin performance.

Students are highly encouraged to register for follow-on sessions. Cost is \$131. Register at least three business days in advance to avoid a \$5 late registration fee.

For information about classes, or for a brochure, contact the Continuing Education office at (254) 526-1586 or visit [www.ctcd.edu](http://www.ctcd.edu).

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## Journey through music and film performed by Quartet

Can't decide whether to see a movie or go to a concert? The Cultural Activities Center (CAC) in Temple is giving people the chance to do both with its 8 p.m. Jan. 18 staging of the New Hollywood String Quartet's "From Haydn to Hitchcock: a Journey through Music and Film."

The performance is part of the Central Texas Orchestral Society's (CTOS) 2003-04 Concert Series. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for students and can be purchased at the CAC Box Office or by calling (254) 773-9926.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive by 7 p.m. to participate in the group's pre-show informance, which is designed to provide insight into their innovative Hollywood project that melds two distinct art forms, music and film.

The New Hollywood String Quartet's inception was inspired by the original Hollywood String Quartet (1947-61), a landmark ensemble in Southern California musical

history comprised of Hollywood studio players that came to represent high instrumental achievement and lofty artistic ideals.

Devotees of the traditional string quartet repertoire, the quartet will open the performance with classics by Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) and Claude Debussy (1862-1918). These works will evoke images of life in 18th century Europe while celebrating the richness and beauty of the world in which we live.

After intermission, audience members will participate in the quartet's pioneering film project.

"This is a unique and fascinating performance produced by a talented group of renowned musicians in the Hollywood recording industry," says Alison Hovanec-Luevano, CAC Communications Director. "The audience will watch as movie clips, shown on a screen, are integrated into the program and synchronized onstage to music played by the quartet. With great precision and accuracy the



musicians will bring the classic American films to life."

The program will begin with "Fantasy on Themes from Psycho (2002)" created by Tania Gabriella French. This score explores the extremes of human emotions, from fear to love. Today, the music from these films is as recognizable as

the images on the screen.

The second piece, "Quartet on Themes from North by Northwest (2002)," was written by composer-pianist Randy Kerber.

For more information on this performance, contact the CAC at (254) 773-9926 or visit www.cacARTS.org.

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HAPPY

# Holidays

Our favorite time of the year just happens to be the busiest, too. So, we're taking this time out of the hustle and bustle to thank you for your loyal support during the past year.

During this most special season, we are truly grateful to have this opportunity to thank you for your support, and wish you and yours the very Merriest Christmas ever, and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Season's Greetings from your friends at

## Salado Village Voice

We will be closing at noon on Dec. 24 and will re-open Dec. 29.  
We will also close at noon on Dec. 31 and will re-open Jan. 2.

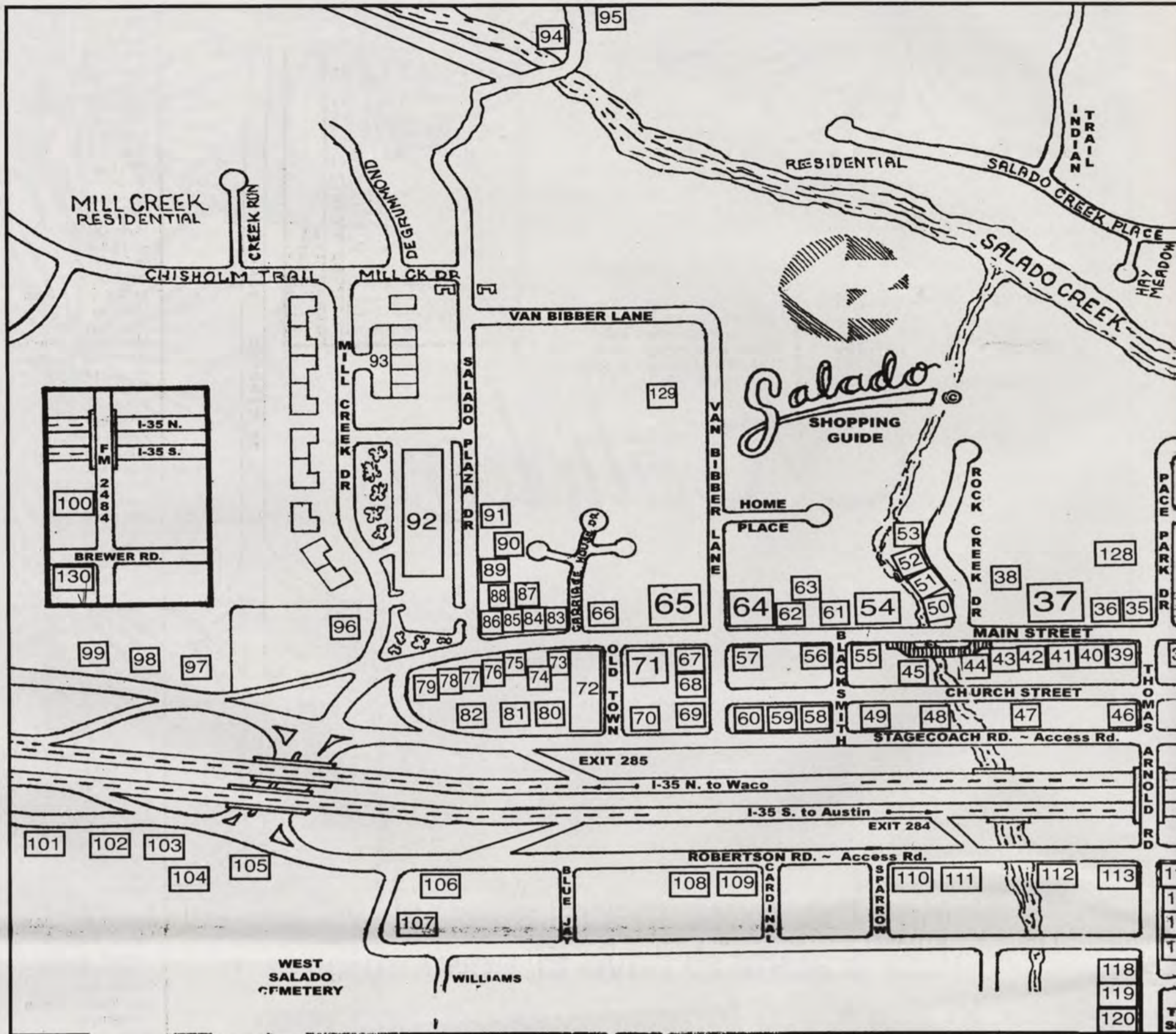
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Schuyler

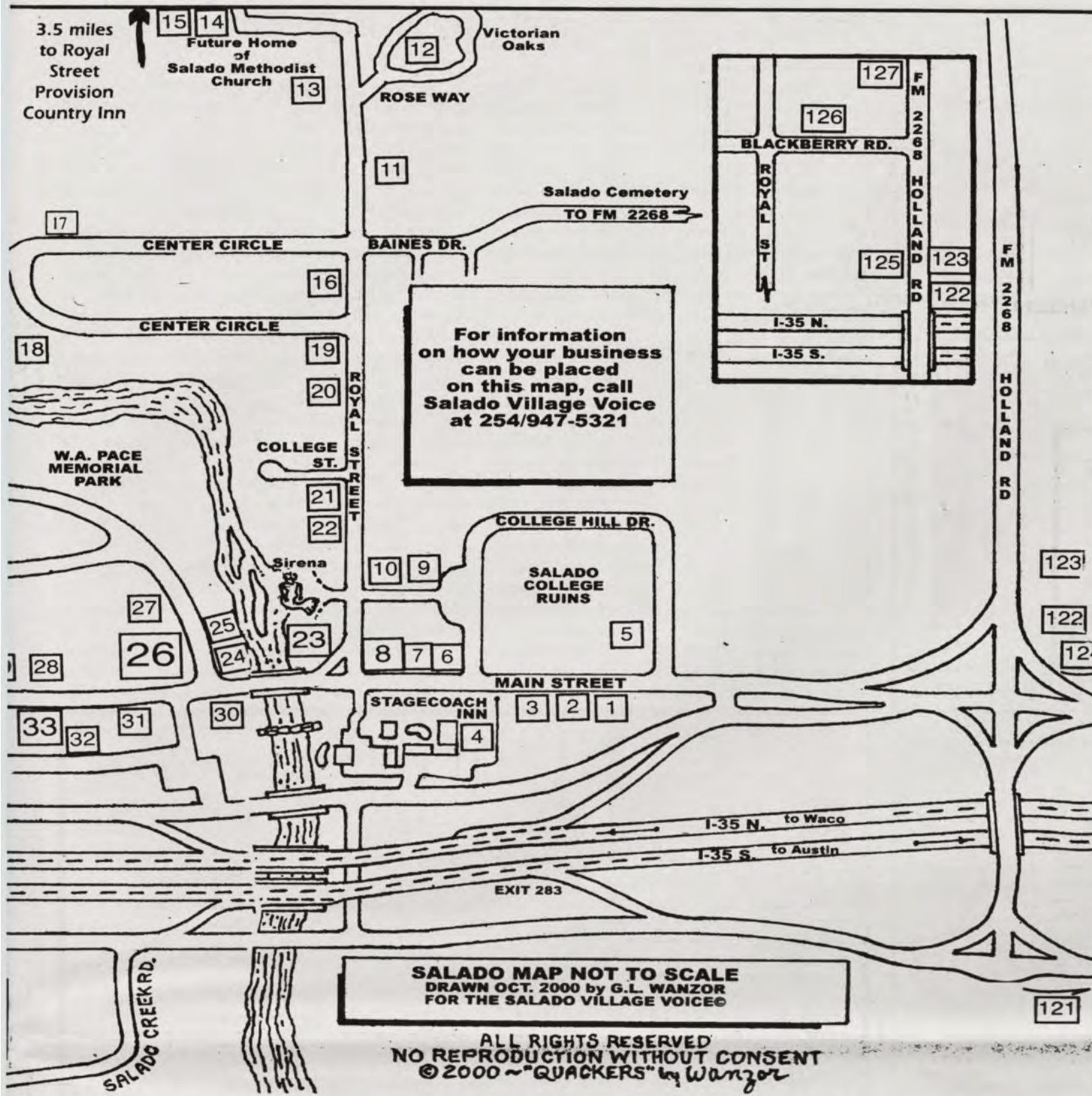
Manly

Judy

Ken



- |   |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| 1. Wells Gallery<br>Truly Texan Metal Art<br>Sweet Dreams<br>RMK Gallery  | 254/947-0311<br>254/947-8986<br>254/947-9200<br>254/947-4400                                 | 26. <b>CREEKSIDE CENTER</b><br>Prellop Fine Art Gallery<br>Scarlett's<br>Susan Marie's  | 254/947-3930<br>254/947-3600<br>254/947-5239   | 48. Salado Volunteer Fire Department<br>254/947-8961  |
| 4. Stagecoach Inn<br>5. StoneCreek Settlement<br>6. Central Texas Area Museum   | 254/947-5111<br>254/947-9683<br>254/947-5232   | 30. First Baptist Church<br>31. Salado Mansion<br>32. Salado Masonic Lodge #296   | 254/947-5465<br>254/947-5157   | 49. Salado Church of Christ<br>50. The Glass House<br>51. Splendors of Salado<br>52. Charlotte's of Salado<br>53. Uniquely Europe   |
| 7. Salado Galleries<br>8. <b>SHADY VILLA</b><br>Gregory's<br>Sweet Nut Things   | 254/947-5110<br>254/947-5703<br>254/947-8088   | 33. <b>THE VERANDA</b><br>First Texas Brokerage<br>First State Bank<br>Christy's of Salado<br>Inn at Salado   | 254/947-5577<br>254/947-5852<br>254/947-0561<br>254/947-0027   | 54. <b>THE COLONY</b><br>The Amish Store<br>Heirlooms<br>Village Steakhouse<br>Seasons of Salado<br>59. Salado Floors and Walls<br>60. The Village of Salado<br>62. Thomas Kinkade at<br>RMK Gallery  |
| 9. Peddler's Alley<br>10. The Dusty Rose<br>11. Tablerock Amphitheatre<br>12. The Rose Mansion B&B<br>14. Serenity Spa Service<br>15. Royal Street Provision<br>Country Inn | 254/947-9722<br>254/947-9215<br>254/947-9205<br>254/947-8200<br>254/947-8833<br>254/947-3350 | 37. <b>SALADO SQUARE</b><br>Browning's Courtyard Cafe<br>Carden's<br>Classics on Main<br>Linda Pritchard, RMT<br>Main Street Place<br>Magnolia's on the Square  | 254/947-8666<br>254/947-0300<br>254/947-3277<br>254/947-HAND<br>254/947-9908<br>254/947-0323             | 55. Heirlooms<br>56. Village Steakhouse<br>57. Seasons of Salado<br>59. Salado Floors and Walls<br>60. The Village of Salado<br>62. Thomas Kinkade at<br>RMK Gallery<br>64. <b>SALADO CIVIC SQUARE</b><br>Innkeeping with the Times<br>800/439-3828<br>Properties of Larry Sands<br>Uncommon Grounds Cafe |
| 16. The Baines House<br>17. Le Beffroy B&B<br>18. Inn on the Creek B&B<br>19. <b>ROYAL STREET COURTYARD</b><br>Botangles Salon<br>Salado Springs Celebration Center         | 254/947-5260<br>254/947-7177<br>254/947-5554<br>254/947-4747<br>254/947-0027                 | 38. The Range at the Barton House<br>39. Family Dentistry<br>Dr. Douglas B. Willingham<br>41. Mud Pies Pottery<br>42. Southern Comforts<br>43. Salado Haus<br>44. Willowby's<br>45. Wigglesworth Place<br>Lodging | 254/947-3828<br>254/947-5242<br>254/947-0281<br>254/947-0595<br>254/947-1868<br>947-WILO<br>254/947-8846 | 65. <b>SALADO CIVIC CENTER</b><br>Salado Civic Center<br>Chamber of Commerce<br>SISD Administration<br>66. Halley House B&B<br>68. Little Kountry Kabin<br>70. The Sewing Basket  |
| 20. The Lodgings<br>21. Springhouse Antiques<br>23. <b>ONE ROYAL</b><br>FSG Fine Jewelry<br>Jan's<br>Institute for the Humanities at Salado                                 | 254/947-0027<br>254/947-0747<br>254/947-9447<br>866/947-4303<br>254/947-5729                 | 46. Salado United Methodist Church<br>47. Salado Printing   | 254/947-5482<br>254/947-3590   | 72. <b>OLD TOWN SALADO</b><br>Alice's<br>Angelic Herbs  |



Shopping		#
Alice's		72
Angelic Herbs		72
ArchAngel		87
Carden's		37
Charlotte's of Salado		52
Christy's		35
Classics on Main		37
Fairway Golf Carts		104
FSG Fine Jewelry		23
Gregory's		8
Heirlooms		55
Horsefeathers		73
Horsewhispers		83
jjs'TIQUES		81
Jan's		23
Janelle's		130
Little Kountry Kabin		68
Magnolia's		37
Main Street Place		37
Margrit's Shoe Chateau		37
MJ's Country Corner		72
Mud Pies Pottery		41
Peddler's Alley		9
Prellop Fine Art		26
Remember This		74
Robertson's Hams		102
Salado Antique Roses		85
Salado Galleries		7
Salado Haus		43
Scarlett's		26
Seasons of Salado		57
Southern Comforts		42
Splendors of Salado		51
Springhouse Antiques		21
Sweet Dreams		3
Sweet Nut Things		8
Texan By Design		72
The Amish Store		54
The Dusty Rose		10
The Glass House		50
The Sewing Basket		70
Thomas Kinkadee at RMK Gallery		62
Three Dogs or a Quilt		90
Truly Texan		1
Uniquely Europe		53
Wells Gallery		1
Wildfire Saddlery		122
Willowby's		44
Dining & Lodging		
Browning's Cafe		37
Cathy's Cafe		72
Country Place B&B		127
Cowboys		103
Inn at Salado B&B		36
Inn on the Creek B&B		18
Johnny's Steak & Bar-B-Q		115
Le Beffroy B&B		17
Old Mill Pizza Co.		
Royal Street Provision Country Inn		15
Salado Springs Celebration Center		19
Salado Mansion		31
Stagecoach Inn		4
StoneCreek Settlement		5
The Baines House		16
The Levi Tenney House		128
The Lodgings		20
The Halley House		66
The Range		38
The Rose Mansion B&B		12
The Texas House		129
Uncommon Grounds		64
Village Steakhouse		56
Wigglesworth Place		45
Services		
A Lasting Look		98
Before & After Fitness		83
Bo Tangles		19
Century 21 Bill Bartlett Real Estate		76
Farmers Insurance		64
First State Bank		34
First Texas Brokerage		33
Innkeeping with Times		64
Johnnie's Cleaners		92
My Hiding Place		72
Pretty Nails		83
Properties of Larry Sand		64
Salado Cleaners		97
Salado Floors & Walls		59
Salado Printing		47
Salado Village Voice		92
Salado Volunteer Fire Department		48
Village Pharmacy		92
Professional		
Family Dentistry		39
Jeffrey W. McClure		78
Linda Pritchard, RMT		37
Salado Chiropractic		92
Salado Eyecare		92
Entertainment Education & Civic		
Central Texas Area Museum		6
Institute for the Humanities at Salado		23

- Bluffs at  
do Creek
- Cathy's Boardwalk Cafe 254/947-8162
  - My Hiding Place 254/947-0430
  - MJ's Country Corner 254/947-8885
  - Texan by Design 254/947-4479
  - 73. Horsefeathers 254/947-3203
  - 74. Remember This Antiques 254/947-0858
  - 75. Salado Post Office 254/947-5322
  - 76. Century 21 Bill Bartlett 254/947-5050
  - 78. Jeffrey W. McClure 254/947-1111
  - The Personal Wealth Coach
  - 81. jjs'TIQUES 254/947-1010
  - 83. **CARRIAGE PLACE SQUARE**  
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254/947-5814
  - Pretty Nails 254/947-8850
  - Horsewhispers 254/947-7105
  - 85. Salado Antique Roses 254/947-3406
  - 87. ArchAngel 254/947-5933
  - 88. St. Luke's Episcopal
  - 89. Presbyterian Church 254/947-8106
  - 90. Three Dogs or a Quilt 254/947-9070
  - 92. **SALADO PLAZA**  
Salado Village Voice  
Newspaper 254/947-5321  
Salado Chiropractic 254/947-BACK  
Salado Eye Care 254/947-LENS  
Village Pharmacy 254/947-3185  
(drop off for Johnnie's Cleaners)  
Old Mill Pizza Co. 254/947-0700
  - 96. Public Library 254/947-9191
  - 97. Salado Cleaners 254/947-7299
  - 98. A Lasting Look 254/721-0905
  - 100. Grace Baptist Church of Salado  
254/947-5917

- 102. Robertson's Hams 254/947-5562
- 103. Cowboys 254/947-5700
- 104. Fairway Golf Carts 254/947-4065
- 115. Johnny's Steaks & Bar-B-Q  
254/947-4663
- 118. Thomas Arnold 254/947-5191
- 119. Salado Intermediate 254/947-1700
- 120. Salado High 254/947-5429
- 121. Cedar Valley Baptist Church  
254/947-0148
- 122. Wildfire Saddlery  
and Western Wear 254/947-8080
- 123. St. Stephen Catholic Church  
254/947-8037
- 124. Eagle Rock Ranch 254/947-5369
- 127. Country Place B&B 254/947-5238
- 128. The Levi Tenney House 254/947-9638
- 129. The Texas House 254/947-9193
- 130. Janelle's 254/947-3584

- Salado Chamber  
of Commerce 65
- Salado Civic Center 65
- Salado Intermediate 119
- Salado High School 120
- Salado Historical Society 65
- Salado Masonic Lodge 32
- Salado Post Office 75
- Salado Public Library 65
- Salado Springs  
Celebration Center 19
- Tablerock Amphitheatre 11
- Thomas Arnold  
Elementary School 118
- Village of Salado Municipal  
and Police Building 60
- Churches**
- Cedar Valley Baptist 121
- Church of Christ 49
- First Baptist Church 30
- Grace Baptist 100
- Presbyterian Church 89
- St. Joseph's Episcopal 88
- St. Stephen Catholic 123
- Salado United Methodist 46

## Salado Village Voice

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# Poster art from the golden age of Mexican cinema

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**TUMBLEWEED SMITH**  
 Rogelio Agrasanchez of Harlingen collects Mexican movie memorabilia. He was a history professor before he decided to start doing historical research into Mexican films.

"My father owns one of the largest private Mexican film libraries. Fifty years ago he was transferring to videotape the old nitrate films, thought to be lost. Many of them were classics of Mexican cinema. I was the first one to receive the tapes and when I started watching them on the television screen I was really hooked by these black and white images from the 1930's. Many of the stars died a long time ago. I wanted to know more about those films, so I started gathering material, buying photographs, going to old movie houses and getting all the old posters I could

find." He says the posters were better than the movies they advertised. "Back in the forties and fifties producers wanted to attract people to the movie houses, so they did great posters. They would hire the best artists, who used shocking colors, bright reds and greens and yellows."

Rogelio realized there was a lack of literature on the golden age of Mexican cinema, which he says lasted from 1936 to 1956. So he wrote three books on the subject. His first one was an elaborate picture book containing copies of 200 Mexican movie posters. The second one was on Mexican horror movies. The third is about Mexican movie stars.

"Pedro Enfante was a singer and very charismatic star of Mexican

cinema. He did about fifty films. Every year, people go to his gravesite to have a celebration. His movies are very popular and when they're shown on TV they get good ratings. They're all in Spanish.

"Another star is Maria Felix who died recently. She did a lot of films not only in Mexico but in Europe as well. She was the most beautiful actress in Mexican cinema. Well, I better say she was on a par with Dolores Del Rio, who came from Hollywood, where she did silent movies.

Then in 1943 she returned to Mexico and started doing Mexican films. She had a different personality. She was more cultivated but wore simple peasant dresses and no makeup.

"Other well known stars during the golden age of Mexican cinema were Jorge

Negrete and Cantinflas." Rogelio, who has degrees in history and philosophy, has been collecting Mexican movie items for fifteen years. When I went to his home in Harlingen I was highly impressed with the quality of the posters and the films. I couldn't believe how many he has. He keeps a few at his house, but most of them are kept in air conditioned storage in buildings all over Harlingen. The posters are kept flat in large cabinets with drawers similar to the type found in contractors or architect's offices.

The popularity of his items is evidenced by the fact that his book on Mexican Movie Posters is in its third printing. Rogelio sells copies of his films and posters to collectors. He travels to Mexican movie festivals in the US and Mexico.



Salado  
 Antique Roses  
 & Gardens

Thanks to all of you who came to the rose garden for your business and your friendship.

The roses have been moved to the greenhouse which is open by appointment.

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# Learn symptoms to spot oak wilt early

FROM PAGE 1B

migrates from oak to oak by travelling through the vascular system of the roots in the same way that it spreads in the tree itself," the Forestry Service states in informational pamphlets.

Knowing that the disease can spread through the air and through the root systems of trees, what steps can a property owner take to thwart this spread?



The fungus that causes oak wilt is carried on the bodies of beetles from tree to tree.

## Thwarting the Spread

Fact is, the disease cannot be cured and there are no guaranteed ways of stopping the disease.

But you can take definite steps to protect your trees and the value of your property.

#1. Destroy Infected Trees!!

Look around your property and at the property of your neighbor. If the trees show the signs of oak wilt, have a tree expert confirm the disease for you and then cut down the trees.

It is a terrible thing to take down a tree, but doing so may save the rest on your property.

I've done it. When we bought our home in Salado about eight years ago, I noticed that a small stand of trees in the backyard looked grey and defoliated.

As soon as we realized that the trees were infected with oak wilt, we had them cut down. They were young trees, their trunks less than two feet in cir-

cumference. But we were not fast enough and the disease got one of the giant old oaks that we loved in our backyard.

Watching those leaves of that live oak that we knew to be more than 100 years old begin to turn brown at the edges and then fall off was disheartening. Moreso was cutting it off at the ground, the vacancy of that tree in our backyard palpable.

We hope to have saved the other trees that speckle our property, that grace the hill and shield our home from the view of invaders (you know, the UPS guy, mailman, teenagers, etc.... the invaders of every quiet neighborhoods).

But cutting down a diseased tree is not enough, according to the experts.

The Texas Forest Service says that the cut wood of a diseased tree itself may spread the disease.

To stop it spreading,

*You've done what you can, but you are still going to lose your oak. What trees or shrubs can replace it?*

Large Trees (40 feet in height at maturity): American Elm, Baldcypress, Bur Oak, Chinese Elm, Chinkapin Oak, Montezuma Baldcypress, Pecan, Cedar Elm, Monterey Oak.

Medium trees (25-40 feet in height at maturity): Afghan Pine, Bigtooth Maple, Chinese Pistache, Western Soapberry, Carolin buckthorn, Crape Myrtle, Deciduous Holly, Desert Willow, Flameleaf Sumac, Goldenrain tree, Japanese Black Pine, Mexican Buckeye, Mountain Laurel, Rough leaf Dogwood, Texas Persimmon, Texas Redbud, Yaupon Holly, Chitalpa, American smoketree.

Descriptions of these trees is available on the City of Boerne Website.

you should either burn the wood of a tree cut down, chip it or cover it in plastic.

The forestry Service recommends that diseased wood should be covered in plastic that is buried at least six inches in the ground. Furthermore, the plastic should be clear, not solid.

The crafty beetle that carries the disease on its body will find ways out of the dark plastic through shafts of light. It can't find its way in or out of the clear heavy plastic, especially when the edges of it are buried in the ground.

After the plastic is removed, the wood should then be dried.

The Forestry service recommends buying only aged firewood. "Well-seasoned wood is cut before the summer, dried and often has loose bark and cracked ends," the state forestry service informs consumers.

"Avoid oak wood that has tight bark and freshly cut ends that show no cracks or signs of aging," the Forestry service further states. "The extreme heat and drying of a full Texas summer effectively destroys the oak wilt fungus in cut firewood."

In some cities, removal of diseased trees especially the red oak with its fungal mat is required by local ordinance. Boerne is one small town that has such an ordinance to combat the spread of the disease.

#2. Sever Root Networks.

The Forestry Service recommends severing the root connection between diseased and health trees.

"It is important to do this prior to the removal of diseased trees as the potential for spore transmission through roots is

SEE PREVENTION, PAGE 14B

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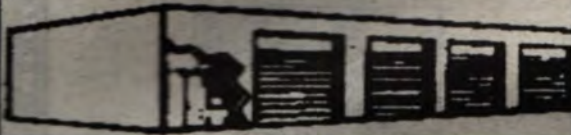
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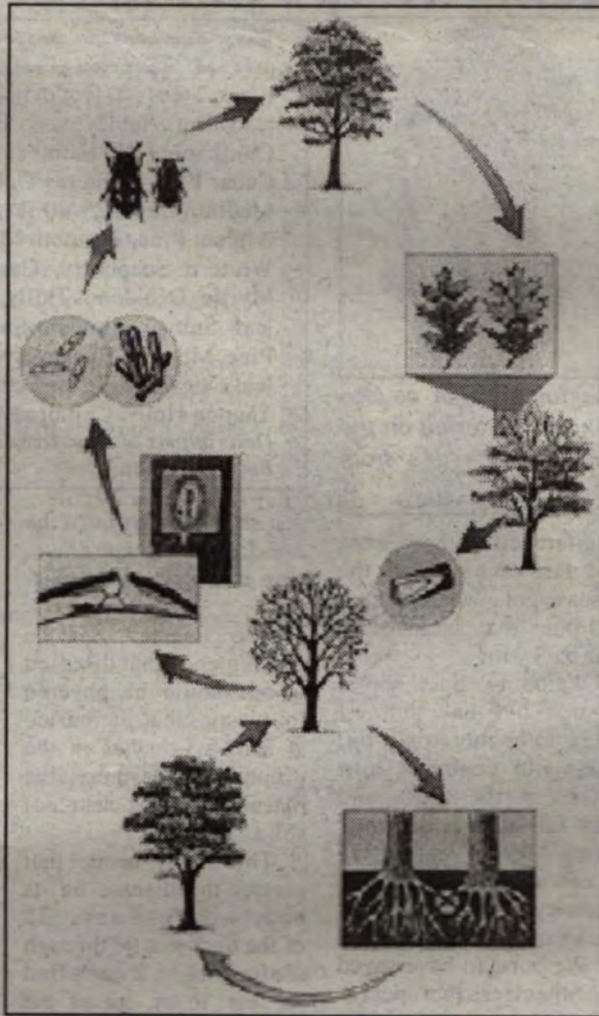
# Prevention only way to combat oak wilt

FROM PAGE 13B  
 higher just after a diseased tree is removed," the experts at treehelp.com announce on their web-site.

A wider application of this approach is "trenching," which involves digging barrier lines between areas of healthy trees and stands of infected trees that will be taken out. "The construction of barrier lines involves the severing of roots on a broad scale to separate areas of infection-free," Treehelp.com recommends. "Once the barrier liens are established, consideration should be given to the removal of all oaks within an infected zone, even those trees which appear healthy."

Trenching is an approach that appears to be more applicable on large pieces of property, but has been done successfully in neighborhoods. Of course, you will have to take underground utilities and sprinkler systems pipes to consider if you should do this at your home.

Treemaster.com recommends contacting a professional arborist to do this



Cycles of oak wilt disease.

kind of work.

The Texas A&M Plan Pathology website says that trenching is "disruptive,

expensive and difficult in an urban neighborhood. Everybody must cooperate and tolerate the removal of

fences, shrubs, outbuildings, etc."

#3. Properly Trim Trees.

It is obvious that few of us can afford to hire a tree trimmer every time the wind blows, but we should have our trees trimmed professionally at least every two to three years. Tree men would love it if you had them come every year.

The best time of year to have your trees trimmed is December and January and the heat of summer. The sap beetle is not as active during these months.

The City of Boerne advises property owners to "avoid pruning your oak trees from February 1 to June 1.... The spore-carrying beetles are most active and oak wilt spore production is at its peak. However, when you do prune your oaks, use proper pruning techniques and paint wounds immediately, no matter what the size with a tree wound paint. This will help prevent the beetles from transferring the fungal spores to the wound."

The Texas A&M Plan  
 SEE TRIM PROPERLY, PAGE 15B

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# Trim properly to combat oak wilt disease

## FROM PAGE 14B

pathology site says that even in the cold or hot months, tree wounds should be painted immediately whether caused by man or nature.

"We no longer say there are windows of safety because of cold weather or hot weather," Texas A&M site proclaims. "Central Texas weather is too unpredictable and changeable -- paint every wound all year long."

The first two days are the most critical after a tree has suffered a wound due to nature or man, the Aggies state. "Every minute you wait after the wound occurs increases the chance of infection.... Keep a spray can of pruning paint in your garage. Pruning, weed-eater or machinery cuts on the trunk and exposed roots are especially susceptible to infection."

When hiring a tree trimmer ask questions before giving the work. Such as:

- Do you clean your blades between cuts?
- Do you paint the wounds after you cut?
- Do you prune the branches at their junctions?

If you hear the words, "tree topping," shut the door. Those two words are indication of someone with cutting tools and no expertise. An arborist will inform you ahead of time that he does not "top trees." Tree topping is a practice similar to going to the barbershop... "a little off the top and the sides, please."

It is also dangerous to trees. Every cut made is a wound that gives the disease the potential to spread.

An arborist will help determine the limbs that need to be trimmed to better protect your trees.

In the interim between major prunings of your trees, you should take care of any branches that break or any wounds to your trees.

Following storms, check your trees for broken branches. Cut those branches at the intersection beneath the break and paint the wound immediately. Clean your blade

## Top Ten Things You Can Do to Combat Spread of Oak Wilt

1. **Have your oak trees trimmed** in the winter or summer. Avoid trimming if at all possible from Feb. 1-June 1.
2. **Paint wounds to oak trees**, no matter the size or the cause or the time of year.
3. **If you have an infected tree, cut it down** and dispose of the wood properly: burn it, chip it, store it under clear plastic with edges buried in the ground to dry.
4. **Know where your firewood comes from.** Make sure it is properly aged so that the fungus is not present.
5. **Talk with your neighbors** about how you can prevent the disease from spreading to your block and your home.
6. **Consider trenching** to isolate the disease and protect healthy trees.
7. **Consider innoculating with Alamo.** Have a licensed professional apply the product. Expect to spend \$30 per inch of diameter of tree trunk.
8. **Learn more about the disease** and its symptoms by visiting websites:  
www.bell-tx.tamu.edu  
(Texas Cooperative Extension website with links and information about all extension programs, including links to Texas A&M University links)  
http://cygnus.tamu.edu/Texlab/oakwilt.html  
http://cygnus.tamu.edu/Texlab/trees/tree4.htm  
www.ci.boerne.tx.us/oakwiltq&a.htm  
www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/ht\_oakwilt/how.htm  
www.treehelp.com  
www.treemasters.com  
www.treehelp.com/trees/oak/diseases-oak-wilt.asp  
www.treehelp.com/howto/howto-prune-a-tree.asp
9. **Call Texas Forestry Service Hotline:** 512/473-3517
10. **Lay flat on your back** underneath an oak tree and relish its beauty. Check out its leaves and barks for any signs of disease.

with Lysol spray or a 70 percent rubbing alcohol solution between cutting branches, especially if your cuttings are among more than one tree.

## Inoculate your trees

There is not a treatment for oak wilt, but injecting the chemical Alamo to the trunks of healthy trees appears to stave off the disease.

The Texas A&M website states "Individual trees can be protected with the chemical Alamo injected by a trained applicator, but it is also expensive. It protects the tree from infection, but does not stop the spread of the disease or cure the infected tree."

The City of Boerne advises healthy "live oaks and red oaks should be treated when the oak wilt is within 75 to 100 feet. Close monitoring of nearby oak trees is essential in identifying the oak wilt's presence and spread."

"There has been some success treating trees once they are infected," the Boerne website continues. "However, success diminishes rapidly the longer the treatment is withheld. The best candidates for injection are those which are immediately threatened, but are not yet showing symptoms. All live oak trees within a trenched area should be injected unless they have lost more than 20 percent of their leaves."

Taking these precautions, keeping an eye on your trees and working with your neighbors may help to keep those beautiful oak trees alive for the next generation of Texans.



**SANTA! STOP THE SLEIGH!** Why freeze at the North Pole when you can warm up by the fireplace in this lovely 3 BR, 2 BA home in Salado. Large kitchen with island. Huge corner lot, covered patio, side entry garage and circle drive. **\$149,900.**

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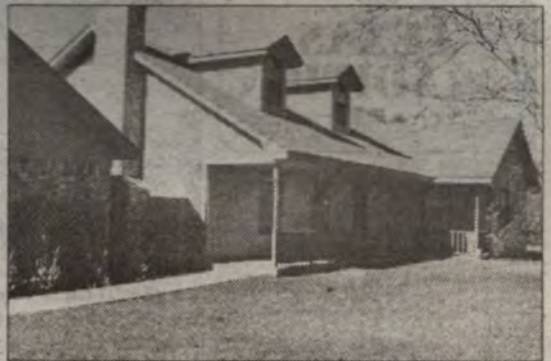
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For Sale - Salado charming 3 BR, 2 BA Country Cottage on heavily wooded lot across from Salado Schools. Large open country kitchen and dining. Carport. **\$83,500.**



For Sale - Country style living in a restricted neighborhood. Over one acre with a peaceful country view. Large vaulted ceiling living room with fireplace. New flooring in most of the house. A large detached garage adds extra storage and parking. Fenced back yard with covered patio. Nice long covered porch on the front of the house with accenting dormer windows. 3 BR/2 BA. **\$122,000.**

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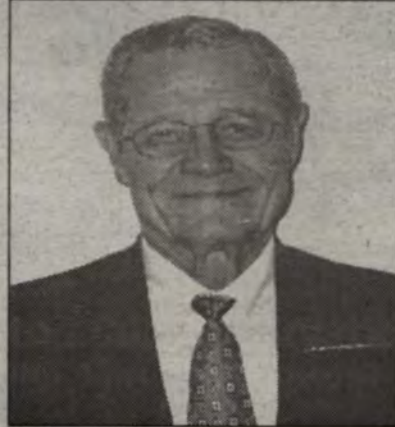
## Be Home for the Holidays!



Lovely 2 story in Mill Creek. 3 BR/2-1/2 BA, 2 living areas, formal and informal dining. Huge oaks. **\$176,000.**  
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**License plates raise funds for Safe Routes to School Projects**

In 2001, the State of Texas enacted legislation to increase safety in school zones by directing TxDOT to implement the Safe Routes to School program. TxDOT now has two new specialty license plates that will create funds for this initiative.

By purchasing a God Bless America or God Bless Texas license plate, drivers can display pride for their state and country while contributing dollars for construction projects that will increase the chances of their children getting to school safely.

"The responsibility to provide safe walkways and bicycle crossings for our school children is every bit as important as a quality

education," said John W. Johnson, chair of the Texas Transportation Commission.

The God Bless America specialty plate features a patriotic illustration of the American flag with an eagle positioned over the flag. The words "God Bless America" run along the bottom of the plate. The God Bless Texas specialty plate design includes the state flag on the left side of the plate and the phrase "God Bless Texas" on the bottom of the plate.

The God Bless America and God Bless Texas license plates are now available for a \$40 annual fee, plus \$40 if personalized, in addition to regular registration fees. Of

the \$40 annual fee, \$32 is deposited in the state highway fund to improve safety in and around school areas such as sidewalks and pedestrian or bicycle crossings.

Applications for the God Bless America and God Bless Texas specialty plates are available at county tax offices, on TxDOT's web site ([www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us)), or by calling the TxDOT Help Desk at (512) 465-7611 or TxDOT's Fax-On-Demand forms line at (888) 232-7033. Customers requesting orders for specialty license plates through the fax service should enter the code 0999 to receive the form for

the license plate they are ordering.

TxDOT started its specialty license plate program in 1965. Today, there are more than 100 different plate designs, many of them benefiting a particular group, organization, college or university.

**Art classes for children begin in January**

The Art Department at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor will offer art classes for children age seven and older beginning January 27.

The first of two sessions, beginning Jan. 27-March 2 will be held for children ages seven through nine, each Tuesday from 3:30-5 p.m. The second session begins March 23-April 27, also on Tuesdays from 3:30-5 p.m.

Ages nine and older will meet beginning on Jan. 28-March 3, and a second session on March 24-April 28. Each class will be on Wednesday from 3:30-5 p.m.

For more information and fees, contact Helen Kwiatkowski in the Art department at (254) 295-4676 or email [hkwiatkowski@umhb.edu](mailto:hkwiatkowski@umhb.edu).

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**For Sale in Salado:** double wide manufactured home approx. 1,800 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, 2 living room areas on 1/2 acre. Payments on home and land approx. \$600 per month for buyer with good credit. Will require approx. \$1,000 up front 913-7437 7/16p

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**Homes For Sale**



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**New Listing - 502 Mill Creek 3/2/2** all birch, large living area with fireplace, fenced, backyard, new carpet. Walk to shopping center. \$149,700 Ronnie Tynes at Tynes Realty, 947-0044. TFNB


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**Homes For Sale**



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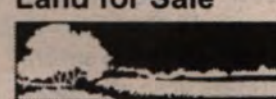


**This beautiful home** features a lg. family room w/ fireplace, covered porch, sprinkler system, fenced yard, and too many extras to mention. The owner provides professional lawn maintenance and outside water. It is located close to the golf course and shopping. No pets accepted. Call John Reider Properties at 254-699-8300 or 254-681-6622 after hours tfnf

**Charming, spacious 2/2/1 townhome** for rent. \$825. 6 closets, vaulted ceilings, w/d closet inside. Walk to shopping center. Lawn care provided. (254) 338-5083. TFNB

**Great location on #3 Fairway!!** This 2BD, 2.5BA patio home is ready for occupancy! Big 2-car garage and room for golf cart. \$1,250/month. Call Larry Sands (254) 947-5580. **Duplex for lease,** 2BD/2BA, 1,100 sq. ft. \$700 per mo., yard maintenance and watered.

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**\$117,900** - Large covered deck makes this home perfect for the backyard barbecue. Located in the country on 3/4 of an acre, this 2 BR, 2 BA, 2 living room home is ideally located for easy access to I-35 or Killeen. Open living, dining and kitchen gives the home a warm atmosphere for entertaining or spending time with the family. Built in 1996.



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**\$297,000** - Sip coffee from the back porch & watch Salado Creek flow by. This home sits on 3/4 acre on cul-de-sac in Salado Creek Place. Magnificent views from the living, kitchen & master BR. Open kitchen, living, & breakfast area. Heavily wooded lot provides privacy while close to downtown.



**\$267,900** - This lovely new 4 BR home overlooks the golf course. Two living areas are complemented with 10' and 12' ceilings. The family room has a fireplace. The spacious kitchen has granite cabinet tops, ceramic tile back splash & walk-in pantry. Breakfast nook, crown molding, two tone paint, ceiling fans, covered patio porch, generous master BA & BR.



**\$251,800** - You are invited to view this outstanding new home with formal area, separate office, family room open to breakfast and kitchen. Come see the unique granite table. Master suite has a sitting area. Room for your golf cart!



**\$259,900** - Beautifully landscaped backyard creates an inviting atmosphere to welcome you into a pool with waterfall. View the pool from the family room, breakfast/kitchen area, and formal living room. Kitchen and family room are open for easy entertaining. Master bedroom/bath is down the hall from a 4th BR/study, other two bedrooms are across from the living areas. Built in bookshelves and fireplace located in the formal living. Located on 1/2 acre lot.



**\$309,900** - Gorgeous one-year old home overlooking Mill Creek Golf Course #3 Fairway and Green. Many custom features throughout this elegant home. Lovely granite kitchen counter tops with large island. Fully landscaped with sprinkler system.



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- \$83,500 - Nice manufactured home on 5 acres - UC.
- \$106,800 - Clean, light & bright! Well maintained 6 yrs old.
- \$117,900 - Large deck on 2 BR home in country.
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- \$209,800 - 2 story country style home & shop. 3.5 acres.
- \$214,800 - 4 BR/2-1/2 BA on 1 wooded acre in Mill Creek.
- \$224,900 - Home overlooking Mill Creek Golf Course.
- \$241,800 - Synergy Builders 3BR home has kitchen skylight.
- \$251,800 - New home in Mill Creek. Granite table.
- \$259,500 - 3 BR overlooking Salado Creek & #13 Green.
- \$259,900 - 4 BR home w/ pool & waterfall, landscaped.
- \$267,900 - New 4 BR, 2-1/2 BA overlooking golf course.
- \$269,000 - 4 BR home w/open floor plan. 1.93 acres - UC.
- \$297,000 - 3 BR, 2-1/2 BA on Salado Creek Place cul-de-sac.
- \$309,900 - 1 year old home on #3 Fairway. Landscaped.

- \$324,900 - 4 BR, 3-1/2 BA home overlooking golf course.
- \$324,900 - New 4 BR home with hillside lake view.
- \$349,800 - 15 acres, 3 BR, 2 BA, gameroom and loft room.
- \$459,000 - Home on 20.22 acres near Temple - SOLD.
- \$1,249,000 - Executive 4 BR home on Salado Creek.

## Acreage Available

- 140 acres 7 miles SE of Belton. Secluded, mostly wooded, great view, river frontage, owner finance. \$2,500 per acre.
- 140 acres on Hwy 36 at Temple Airport, all or part.
- 38.78 acres FM 2843, 8 mile west, beautiful trees. \$174,500.
- 20 to 363 acres 6 mile S. Salado, Lovely view, owner finance.
- 15.796 acres fronting FM 2268 with young trees. \$99,500.
- 7 acres Elm Grove Road - \$59,000 - UC.

## Lots

- Mill Creek Lots**
- 700 Indian Trail - \$30,000
  - Mill Creek Springs - \$30 - \$75,000
  - Fletcher Ct. - \$68,000

- O.W. Lowrey - \$70,000

## Woods of Salado Lots

- Mountain Dr. - Lot 6A - \$52,000
- Mountain Dr. - Lots 5A & 5B - \$98,000
- Hodge Canyon Dr. - \$52,000

## Other Lots

- Salado Heights - 2 acre tracts - \$29,000 each.
- Windy Hill Ranch - 2 acre lots - \$55,000 to \$90,000
- Jeremiah's Well - 10 acre tracts \$60,000 to \$95,000
- Heritage - 1 to 3 acre wooded homesites, near Salado. Well restricted.
- The Overlook - 1+ acre prime lots \$125,000 - \$165,000.

## Commercial Property

- \$224,500 - Retail space on Main St. 2090 SF.
- \$429,000 - 5.66 acres commercial property off Main Street.
- \$499,500 - 7.0 acres between Belton - Salado with offices, metal buildings & min. storage.

# FIRST TEXAS

RESIDENTIAL ★ FARM & RANCH ★ COMMERCIAL

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254-947-5577



**Easy access to golf course.** This 3/2/2 is located on large professionally landscaped corner lot between the old and the new courses. Large kitchen with cabinets galore and oversized serving bar. **\$159,900.**



**New Listing:** 3/2/2 on more than one acre in beautiful Salado Oaks. Nice open floorplan, split bedrooms. Pretty trees. **\$164,900.**



**Many upgrades** enhance this 3/2/2 with golf cart storage. Plantation shutters, butlers pantry, tile flooring, decorator colors, large master suite. **\$259,900.**



**Beautiful Texas Ranch Home** on appx. 5 acres. The huge covered front porch is a great place to rest and relax. Features include master suite, alarm system, stained concrete floors (echoed with one Texas Star), custom kitchen & intercom system. **\$350,000.**



**Pamper your self in this custom brick Contemporary.** Built in china cabinet, high ceilings, hardwood flooring, designer upgrades. Fine master suite with jacuzzi and separate shower. Near golf course. **\$177,000.**



**Lots of room to roam** on this appx. four tree covered acres. Large 3/2/2 with many updated features. New carpets and flooring. Large fireplace enhances the family room and house also includes game room and office. 30x40 barn. **\$217,900.**



**Under Contract**

**Great tree covered lot with house in Belton for only \$77,000.**



**Completely remodeled home** on approximately 1 acre. Lots of privacy! Priced at **\$159,900.**



**Beautiful lot in Southlake Harbor** subdivision near Lake Belton. Gated community close to Belton schools **\$65,000.**



**Country Home on one acre.** The large front porch and screened back porch make country living a pleasure. Breeze way connects the two car carport to the house. 3/2/2 two story stone. **\$114,900.**



**On golf course.** This like new 3/2/2 hosts a beautiful stone patio facing Hole 5 Creek 2. Features include hardwood flooring and formal dining. **\$214,000.**



**Picture perfect traditional-style** near schools in quiet neighborhood. Great floorplan for entertaining. Built-ins in home office. High ceilings with crown molding, huge master suite and covered patio. 2+ acres. **\$279,000.**

## Acreage

**Lots w/ sewage & water on Shady Lane. \$10,000/lot.**  
**Approx. 2 acres** near golf course in Mill Creek. Beautiful trees. **\$38,995.**  
**2 acre lot** sw of Salado. Beautiful trees. Excellent homesite. **\$28,900.**  
**2 acre lot** sw of Salado. Beautiful trees. Excellent homesite. **\$27,900.**  
**2 acre wooded lot** with a great view. Walking distance to tennis court & the park on Salado Creek. Excellent Homesite. **\$32,900.**  
**2.7 acres** fronting FM 2843. **\$29,900** or 1.35 acres for **\$20,000.**  
**3.018 acres** on FM 2843. Large Pecan trees & live water. **\$39,900.**  
**3 BR/2 BA mobile home** on 3.5 acres w/view overlooking lake. - UC  
**3.5 acres** with septic & water. **Under Contract.**  
**4 acres** SW of Salado. Beautiful trees. Excellent homesite. **\$56,800.**  
**5.13 acres** sw of Salado. Beautiful trees. **Reduced to \$44,900.** - U/C  
**10+ acres** in Bell Meadows off FM 1123. Unbelievable views. **\$89,000.**

**20 acres** sw of Salado on Buttermilk Creek. Heavily wooded. **\$125,000.**  
**51 acres** Buttermilk Creek, great views, tree coverage, sw of Salado.  
**51 acres** with hill country view \$3,500 per acre.  
**130 acres** Rolling hills with great views. **\$4,500/acre.**  
**245 acres** Beautiful rolling hills with large live oak trees and a 3 acre lake. Outstanding development opportunity.

## Commercial

**3 acres** commercial property fronting I-35, Phase 3. **\$89,900.**  
**Excellent Commercial:** Corner of West Village Rd. & IH-35 at exit 285. Charming B&B Inn. One of the oldest bldgs in the Village of Salado and is listed in the Nat'l Register of Historic Places. It is a Greek Revival.  
**1742 sq. ft.** Close to Main St. Commercial Property. **\$700/mth.**

## Salado Lots

**Indian Trail** at Blaylock, lg corner lot, 90x188 - **\$36,000.**  
**Indian Trail** - 90x188 - **\$34,000.**  
**Mill Creek Lot** - **\$39,900.**

## Belton

**Nice 2 BR/2BA** doublewide with large living and formal dining. Fenced yard - **\$39,000.**  
**Large lot** in Belton near Lake. Gated community, many trees. **\$65,000.**