

Salado Village Voice

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2003

Village marked by national, state, local events

By CHRIS MCGREGOR
STAFF WRITER

The year 2003 has come and almost gone. Days to months to a year, piling up as quickly as those before them.

But, when glancing back at the big things that happened in this past year, even in little Salado, one must first remember what began on the wee hours of March 20, when coalition forces initiated Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Saddam is now captured, his sons are dead, the oft-referenced "regime" is toppled and our fighting men and women are still there, trying to impart the concept of democracy and freedom to a people weened on brutality, corruption and repression. And we still haven't got Osama.

Saladoans were no different than their counterparts across the nation. Outpourings of patriotism were seen everywhere. Shortly after the war began, a yellow ribbon was stretched for a quarter mile down the I-35 service road, manned by several dozen community members, and a little later a parade was held down Main Street, with the Egbert family serving as grand marshals. Christy Egbert's husband, George, and oldest son, G.W., were both deployed to Iraq during the war. Thankfully, both father and son escaped the conflict unharmed.

Earlier in the year, way back on January 28, around two dozen old soldiers from the second World War were brought together at the annual Salado Chamber of Commerce banquet. The group of local men were recognized for their contribution and service to America, and their stories were read to the crowd by Dr. Raymond Carver.

Also at the banquet, for the first time ever the Chamber presented three new awards. Grace Jones was honored with a lifetime achievement award, Mayor Charlotte Douglass was named citizen of the

year and *Salado Village Voice* was presented with the business of the year award.

All this talk of fighting isn't to say that the war wasn't the only big story in 2003. Locally, after much to-do, over a year of work and a public hearing, the Village of Salado board of aldermen formally and unanimously adopted the Zoning Ordinance Sept. 18. The ordinance, part of the overall Comprehensive Plan, regulates, as stated by Tim Fleischer in his Sept. 24 article, "construction, site plans and use within the boundaries of the Village of Salado. It is supported by the Subdivision Ordinance, which extends to the extra territorial jurisdiction of the Village..."

The ordinance's adoption brought to a temporary close a running dispute between the Hanks family and the village government over a proposed development the Hanks' claim has been in the works for several years.

Their aim was to develop 51 acres of their land, which sits next to FM 2268, close to the interstate, into a high-end complex featuring housing, retail, a hotel/health spa and a retirement center. Fifteen of the acres lie within village boundaries and are thus bound to zoning regulations. The zoning map called for a designation on the Hanks property of single-family residential. The Hanks' sought a designation allowing for multi-family housing, thus forming the crux of the argument.

Originally, the plan had also included a restaurant, but residents of the neighboring Linda Ventura subdivision protested over the amount of traffic it would draw, and the Hanks' scrapped the idea as a compromise.

The zoning ordinance debate also ruffled some feathers in regards to the 113 year old Methodist Church. Members of the

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Above, the Wilkinson family lost its home on Center Circle to a fire caused by a barbecue pit left smoldering in September. If not for the fast actions of their daughter Nancy Wilkins, the family may have lost much more than just property.

At left, Saladoans lined I-35 with yellow ribbons and U.S. flags in a show of support for soldiers deployed to Iraq.

Below, Sheriff's Deputy Marco Villarreal is shown with other law officers after he captured a bank robbery suspect who wore a George W. Bush mask on Halloween to rob the Salado Compass Bank. The suspect tried to hide by covering himself with leaves.



FORUM

An Open Exchange of Ideas



Dean's Folly, Continued

Howard Dean and the boys have just lost one of their favorite anti-Bush lines on the stump -- "He can't even find Saddam Hussein." But Dean still has another biting criticism of Bush national-security policy, echoed by other Democratic candidates as well: that President Bush has supposedly slashed veteran benefits and cut combat pay. As it happens, these charges have as much merit as the can't-find-Saddam taunt.

Dean has said of Bush routinely on the campaign trail: "One night, Friday night -- he hoped the media wouldn't notice -- he announced that combat pay was being cut because 'mission accomplished.' One day last January he went to a Veterans Administration hospital and said that veterans deserve the best pay, the best health care that money could buy. That was the day after he cut 164,000 veterans off their health-care benefits. This president doesn't get that the defense of the United States depends on the men and women he sent to Iraq and depends on the veterans who came home."

In today's free-spending Washington, the charge that anyone is being cut off from anything or that any spending is being reduced has an inherent implausibility. Indeed, no one is being cut off from their veterans benefits.

Here's the background: For 80 years, the rule was that the VA would take care of veterans with medical problems related to their military service or veterans without the means to purchase their own health care. In the mid-1990s, Congress decided to open the VA health care to all veterans, prompting a flood of new entrants into the system. Today, the VA treats a million more patients than it did three years ago, for a total of about 5 million. This sure doesn't sound like cutting veterans off benefits.

Rich Lowry

Dean's charge does have a wisp of a connection to reality. Because the VA system was overwhelmed by a flood of new patients -- many of them relatively well-off -- it established a new rule saying that veterans with no medical problems relating to their service and an income above a certain threshold are not eligible for VA care. The rule affects an estimated 164,000 people. These are Dean's 164,000 veterans "cut off" from benefits. But they can't be cut off from benefits, because they never received them. The VA grandfathered in everyone already receiving care to make sure no one would be cut off.

Dean's combat-pay charge is just as deceptive. The Pentagon earlier this year opposed extending recent Bush-instituted increases in "imminent-danger pay" and "family-separation allowances." It wanted to maintain the current pay of troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, but through different means. This was all rendered moot when Bush signed into law in November a bill preserving the imminent-danger and family-separation pay increases. So no cut in combat pay had been proposed or took place, but Dean goes his merry way, charging otherwise.

There's a lesson here about the recklessness of Dean and the other Democratic candidates who ape his anti-Bush rhetoric. But that these charges are presented by Dean as a telling critique of Bush national-security policy also demonstrates a certain lack of seriousness about foreign policy.

Predictions galore mark end of year column including who will lead Demos against Bush and other surprises

Today's New Year's Eve edition of the *Salado Village Voice* is the perfect time for our annual spate of political predictions for the coming year - and as is our wont, we will again bemuse our readers with several "far-out" prognostications we believe will come to pass despite a record over the past 15 years that leaves much to be desired.

Regardless, we remain "bloody but unbowed" as we fearlessly peek at the next 366 days (2004 being a "leap year") and resolutely begin dredging up as many ancient druid incantations as are readily available while stirring in the traditional witches brew of newt eyes, bat wings, chicken bones and other disgusting items so necessary to produce what any soothsayer worthy of his calling must prepare in advance of making some cogent predictions, divinations and forebodings.

We would remind readers that top political pros get paid big bucks for doing this same sort of work - and half of them are wrong, half the time.

PRESIDENTIAL RACE

President George Bush will, of course, win his party's nomination leaving us only with the big question - who will be the Democrat's standard bearer? And here we jump quickly into some sticky political quicksand.

From out here on the "speculation-limb" (armed only with a political saw) it appears likely that Democratic delegates will select either John Edwards or General Wesley Clark following a bruising convention deadlock between moderates and liberals.

The trickiest part of this is how these worthies will convince the party brass to swing away from Howard Dean and his liberal attitudes (which cannot prevail) and move to one of the centrist candidates - which even the dumbest Demo knows is the only chance they have.

Both Edwards and Clark appeal to moderates, but what about the minorities? **OK - ready for the mother of all predictions this year?** We believe that at the last minute, Senator Hillary Clinton will be drafted to take the Veep slot which would keep the Demo's power base energized through the November election - as well as encroaching on the moderate-independent vote which is where the real 2004 battle will be waged.

Defeating President Bush is a long shot at best but holding the liberal faction and nibbling away at the independents - is the only road open to the disparate Demos, while they pray secretly for a major screwup by the Bush administration.

Alright, alright - I know what you're thinking - this writer needs immediate help from someone with a shrink license!

REDISTRICTING

It was hardly a surprise last week when the Justice Department put their imprimatur of official approval on the miserable remap of the Texas' congressional districts that was created last summer with all the finesse of a steam roller, led by the arrogant Tom (Bugsy) Delay and his toady Governor Rick Perry.

Not even the most hopeful Democrat expected Attorney General John Ashcroft to tell Bush or DeLay or the rest of the faithful that what happened during the long hot summer of 2003 was a joke and needed to be tossed. He should have - but he didn't.

We predict the three judge federal panel sitting in Austin will also agree that the new districts are just what the doctor ordered - as they find in favor of the

Off the Record

by Ken Clapp



Also redistricting decision; jail-court bond issue; Burrow's 2006 race; Chet Edwards; and the special session.

State and order the new redistricting plan to be implemented.

That decision will be appealed to the Supreme Court but - don't expect a reversal. You recall this is the same bunch that elected George Bush, president by one vote back in 2000.

Related forecast: The revised redistricting scheme will produce the expected results - a Republican majority in the Texas Delegation - but not to the extent GOPers are hoping for!

Oh yes, we also predict that Chet Edwards will return to Congress from his new 17th district!

COUNTY BOND ISSUE

On May 15, 2004 Bell Countians will vote in record numbers and approve the \$46 million dollar bond issue that will pay for a new jail and district courthouse to be built near the Expo Center.

The debate over this proposal will be long and loud but we believe facts and common sense will prevail. A penny will be added to our tax bill and life will go on. John Galligan - the leading opponent of moving anything away from downtown Belton - will continue to be a thorn in the Court's backside but hopefully will decide it's not in his best interest to run against Judge Jon Burrows in 2006 - a race we predict Burrows would win in a walk.

SPECIAL SESSION - 2004

Governor Perry will not keep his promise about calling a special session in the Spring to straighten out the public school finance quagmire. Reason is obvious - the problem needs new taxes and Perry won't allow anything other than shifting levies from one group to another.

The above prediction will turn out wrong - if, public pressure forces the Gov to call lawmakers back to Austin (remember, it's an election year) but even at that, it will still end up being a "do nothing" session, that only exacerbates the problem and ends up shifting the many faceted problem to the 2005 session where lawmakers will continue to ignore the obvious need for new education tax dollars.

Some day the public will tire of GOPers trying to run a growing State without additional taxes and heads will finally roll as Perry's will in 2006.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

OK - so there you have them - a handful of prognostications that should titillate political junkies from both parties while reinforcing the firmly held belief that those who make these forecasts - are either cuckoo or headed in that direction.

And finally, we wish each of you loyal readers and your families the very best during the next 12 months. Good health, prosperity, happiness and fun are the ingredients we hope will be integral parts of your lives. Good luck and be happy!

That's -30-

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Upholding the law Heritage Forum

Edwin Feulner

By Ed Feulner

Are you safer today than you were two years ago? Even with the terrorist threat, the answer is a resounding "Yes" for Americans - all around the country, regardless of income, race, ethnicity or gender.

Good news abounds. New data from the Justice Department show the crime rate today is at a 30-year low. Sexual assaults are down 25 percent from two years ago. Attempted theft is down 22 percent. Robberies are down 27 percent.

What's behind this nationwide outbreak of safety? Well, the crime rate is dropping because the government is using effective tools to track and catch lawbreakers, then enforcing tough penalties against them.

One key program is "Project Safe Neighborhoods," introduced shortly after President Bush took office. It aims to unite local, state and federal law enforcement officials in the battle against illegal guns. The numbers prove it's working.

In just two years, federal gun prosecutions are up 36 percent, and 93 percent of those convicted criminals have been sentenced to prison. This explains why gun crimes are down an amazing 32 percent: The criminals who would be using illegal guns are being caught, locked up and sent away. And all this is being done without infringing on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens.

Another important factor is the much-maligned Patriot Act.

The Sept. 11 attacks exposed serious weaknesses in our approach to fighting terrorism. Fortunately, Congress acted quickly and overwhelmingly to correct some of the problems by passing the Patriot Act. For example, law enforcement officials now have the same authority - under strict judicial oversight - to conduct covert surveillance of suspected terrorists that they have long been able to use with suspected gangsters.

With help from the Patriot Act, federal officials have broken up terror-

ist cells in five states and brought criminal charges against 284 suspected terrorists. More than half of those have already pled guilty - including "shoe bomber" Richard Reid and American Taliban member John Walker Lindh.

But while the Patriot Act has allowed us to crack down on terrorists, it has proven to be no threat to the civil liberties the rest of us enjoy. Last month, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., told a congressional hearing: "I have never had a single abuse of the Patriot Act reported to me." Feinstein also contacted the American Civil Liberties Union - a frequent critic of the act - to see if it had any examples of violations. "They had none," she reported.

Finally, crime is down because the federal government is working with local officials to get citizens involved. In just one year, the number of national Neighborhood Watch programs has almost doubled. More Americans are reporting suspected crimes instead of ignoring them, enabling police to arrest wrongdoers before a single incident turns into a crime spree.

Despite the pervasive good news on the crime front, the attorney general must feel like a man under siege. Most of the Democratic presidential candidates have taken shots at him. For example, Howard Dean declared, "John Ashcroft is not a patriot. John Ashcroft is a descendant of Joe McCarthy."

Listening to that, primary voters could be forgiven if they've started to think Ashcroft is Public Enemy No. 1. But the fact is, there are fewer public enemies on the streets today because the initiatives championed and used by Ashcroft are working so well.

Many lawbreakers have already been caught and incarcerated. The rest live in fear they'll be next. And that's good news for law-abiding citizens everywhere.

Feulner is the president of The Heritage Foundation, www.heritage.org, a Washington-based public policy research institute.

FORUM



Good news for the New Year

Happy New Year! That statement has some real meaning in Texas these days. Housing starts are up, unemployment is down and sales tax rebates are on the rise. Those of us here in Central Texas have great expectations for an improved economy resulting from various initiatives of the past legislative session.

Throughout the 78th Legislative session, members of the House and Senate worked tirelessly to create and pass initiatives that would positively impact our budget and economy. One of those initiatives is the Texas Enterprise Fund. Legislators created this \$295 million fund to attract new jobs and employers to Texas. Its positive impact is already being felt by the Texas economy: more than 44,000 net jobs have been added in Texas despite the national economic slowdown.

While Michigan, California, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York lost more than 300,000 net jobs in the past year, our tax and business climate has brought about modest but encouraging job growth. Texas has recently welcomed new business expansions by Toyota, Texas Instruments and Samsung.

With these business expansions come new jobs and new dollars invested into our economy. South Texas will soon gain over 4,000 customer service jobs due to investments made by T-Mobile, InfoNXX, Merkafon and Echo-Star Communications. Tassu's Corporation, an automotive supply business, recently announced it would build a new facility in Central Texas, expanding its business and adding 100 jobs. West Texas will soon welcome a new Family Dollar distribution center and 500 new positions. Agricultural producers will be able to directly sell their commodities to global markets thanks in

Capitol Update

by State Representative Dianne WhiteDelisi



part to a new trade terminal in the Coastal Bend.

Our welcoming business environment also encouraged Hewlett-Packard to bring 475 new jobs to Houston - - jobs that migrated from California.

In addition to our expanding business sector, Texas ships out \$100 billion in goods to foreign markets, making it the nation's top exporting state. We also have our own power grid and excess capacity as we have been able to construct power plants while other states find themselves bogged down in a quagmire of red tape and regulations.

Texas can also brag that it has the second largest civilian workforce in the nation with 10.8 million workers, the nation's third largest pool of graduate scientists and second largest pool of graduate engineers. We also rank fourth in the nation in venture capital investments and boast 1.6 million small businesses. Along with the Texas Enterprise Fund, Texas attracts business with local property tax abatements, Enterprise Zone incentives, targeted research and development tax credits and job training funds.

Another key factor in Texas' business environment is tort reform. In 2003, legislators made Texas the model for comprehensive tort reforms with House Bill 4. This historical legislation protects businesses and consumers from frivolous lawsuits that increase the costs of doing business in Texas.

House Bill 4 includes: new constitutional authority to limit non-economic damages in civil cases, encourages settlements outside the courtroom, new product liability protec-

tions, punitive damage reforms and class action certification reforms.

As Texas legislators worked to ensure reform and initiatives to bolster the economy, they also faced a \$9.9 billion budget shortfall. Despite this formidable challenge, House Bill 1, the state's appropriations bill, meets the needs of essential services without raising taxes. In the past year, 20 other states raised taxes by a combined \$13.8 billion; however, the Governor stood firm on his promise to refrain from increasing taxes and ensured Texas was steadfast in its fiscal discipline.

While each of these economic incentives will help to strengthen the business climate and economy in Texas, there is another positive: a stronger economy means less government. When businesses move to Texas and expand operations, there are more jobs. When there are more jobs, there is less unemployment and more families with healthcare.

As employment and healthcare improves, Texans are more apt to put their dollars back into the economy. Each of these improvements result in less need for governmental services. A streamlined and lean government allows taxpayers and hardworking Texans to keep more of their income. In Central Texas we have much going for us: water, transportation, higher education and a diverse work force. As we look forward to continued increases in both local and state economic development, Central Texans can look forward to a continued happy and hopeful new year.

Drugs are our fault, not Bolivia's



Jim Hightower

Time for another Gooberhead Award, presented periodically to those in the news who have their tongues running a hundred miles an hour ... but who forgot to put their brains in gear.

Today's award is shared by the U.S. ambassador to Bolivia and his higher-ups who are in charge of America's screwy drug policy. What's screwy in this case is Washington's insistence that our home-grown cocaine problem can be solved if only impoverished farmers in Bolivia and elsewhere can be forced to stop growing coca. But these farmers point out that - Hello! - coca is not cocaine. It's just a leaf crop that they've been growing and consuming for centuries, since before there was a USofA, with the leaves themselves simply chewed by the native people as a safe and mild stimulant - much as coffee is used by us Americans every day.

Chemicals manufactured in the United States are what's used to turn this natural leaf into a horribly addictive and destructive powder. But rather than focus on the Latin and U.S. kingpins who make, distribute, finance, and profit so enormously from this processed drug, the Gooberheads in charge of drug policy and Latin American diplomacy have been pounding on the poor coca farmers.

They've sprayed poisons on hundreds of thousands of acres, destroying not only the coca crops, but also the livelihoods of peasant families. Then, when Evo Morales, the foremost advocate of these families in Bolivia, ran for president, our diplomats imperiously tried to have him expelled from the Bolivian Congress and declared that his election would be considered "a hostile act" against the United States by the Bolivian people!

Unsurprisingly, this further fueled the people's explosive anger at our government - yet David Greenlee, the U.S. ambassador there, blithely declared that, "We think on balance that our policies ... have been positive things for Bolivia."

We don't think it is a problem.
Hey, Mr. Gooberhead, I don't think you have a clue!

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



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Salado School Menus

 Dec. 31 - Jan. 7

Breakfast Menu

Dec. 31: No School
Jan. 1: No School
Jan. 2: No School

Jan. 5: Breakfast on a Stick, Cereal, Toast, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Jan. 6: French Toast, Cereal, Toast, Fruit, Juice, Milk

 **Lunch Menu**

Dec. 31: No School
Jan. 1: No School
Jan. 2: No School

Jan. 5: Steak Fingers, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Green Beans, Pears, Chef Salad, Hoagie, Milk

Jan. 6: Corn Dogs, Pinto Beans, Carrot Sticks, Pineapple, Chef Salad, Hoagie, Milk

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Texas Public Policy Foundation: "Standard is Set: No New Taxes"

By MICHAEL QUINN SULLIVAN
Rarely do the words of a politician offer solace, let alone encouragement, to beleaguered taxpayers. But Texas' governor did just that at his year-end press conference.

Across the nation, governor after governor has caved to the shrill calls of big-government apologists by proposing tax hike after tax hike to shore up deficits brought on by years of over-the-top spending. Fiscal responsibility is singularly unpopular in all too many state capitols, even when demanded by those who pay the bills.

Alabama's governor tried to tie a massive tax increase to heavenly rewards. Alabamans suggested he go back to Sunday school. California's Gray Davis implemented so many tax hikes and spending boondoggles that a voter backlash removed him from office.

But Texas overcame a \$10 billion, two-year budget shortfall (modest, compared to other states, such as California's \$35 billion one-year problem) without a tax increase. But it wasn't by accident. It was a series of conscious decisions to promote the health of Texas' economy over the bloat of big-government.

That no city, state or nation has ever taxed its way into prosperity is without question. One trips over the mounds of

evidence: a thousand people a day moved from high tax states to low tax states in the 1990s. High taxes reduce employment opportunities and stifle entrepreneurial endeavors.

Undeterred by reality, advocates for increasingly intrusive government have set their sights on the spring of 2004 as an opportunity to bring more money into the state coffers.

Texas' system of school finance has been under attack for several years as unwieldy and inequitable--for taxpayers and students. Any strides made in reforming Texas schools have been dwarfed by outrage over the "Robin Hood" scheme that unjustly redistributes local property taxes around the state. Sky-rocketing tax bills, legal challenges and political denunciations have brought us to the eve of a special session to address the way Texas funds education. And what is being funded in the first place. In the coming months Texans will be subjected to words like "adequacy" in describing ways to "reform" the state's system of school finance. After all, who can be against giving every child an adequate education? Be wary: "adequacy" and similar buzzwords are very often double-speak used by those looking to increase funding for a

bloated system that has yet to demonstrate it can wisely or appropriately spend the money it is already being given.

Texas' voters were polled this summer and almost 60 percent said public school bureaucrats waste money. When combining local, state and federal monies, somewhere close to (or beyond) \$10,000 per child per year is spent on public education in Texas--far exceeding the cost of nearly any private school. Sadly, though, barely half of those dollars reach the classroom. Money thrown at educational problems rarely solves them, and very often makes them worse. At his recent press conference, Governor Rick Perry told reporters that when a special session is called, legislators must organize a new system of school finance without increasing the tax burden on Texans. Perhaps the method of taxation will change, he said, but the tax burden will not go up. The spending system must be fixed, not propped up.

That's a head-on assault against the creative bait-and-switch proposals under consideration in Austin. Most would give property owners a massive reduction in ad valorem taxes--only to levy an even greater burden on them through various taxes on business activity and personal income.

The governor explicitly ruled out an income tax as an option. And with good reason: states with income taxes all have higher total tax burdens than Texas, and less economic growth. As one economist likes to say, Texans should sell the Alamo before destroying our economy with an income tax. But does the state's tax system need to be reformed? Very likely, but it must be done in ways that enhance Texas, economic advantages. We must remember that our current tax system has been an integral part of what has given our state one of the most robust economies in the nation--tinkering with it is done only at great peril. Does the system of education need to be fixed? Without a doubt. The legislature must ensure education dollars are spent on education. Kids should receive an excellent--not simply adequate--education. But that excellence is bought not with a blank check, but with greater levels of accountability, efficiency, effectiveness and even--as in the marketplace--competition.

By clearly drawing a line in the sand against the advocates of government bloat, Governor Perry has sided with taxpayers.

Finally one politician gets it: economically sound policies benefit everyone, especially our children. Now it is up to the legislature to do it.

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Grant helps recipients off welfare

By TIM FLEISCHER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Bell County commissioners at their Dec. 29 meeting approved a \$20,000 grant agreement with the City of Killeen to provide child care services through the Texas Workforce Commissioner.

Rita Kelley, director of the Killeen HELP Center, told commissioners that the \$20,000 in local funds would be used to draw down an additional \$60,000 in federal funds for the program, which would be managed by the Texas Workforce Commission.

The program helps

move people from the welfare roles into gainful employment by assisting them in acquiring child care services. According to Kelley, many times assistance recipients cannot take jobs because "the cost of getting child care is more than they would make by taking the job."

Through the program, though, qualifying individuals would be subsidized in paying for child care services so that they can work or go to school to attain employment skills.

Kelley said that the program would help many of those who come to the Killeen HELP Center for assistance paying their util-

ity bills. For many of them, getting out of the hole requires "more than just help paying their light bills." The childcare program is "an additional resource to help them get out of the hole and on the way toward self-sufficiency," she said.

After approving the grant, commissioners approved increases in district clerk fees:

- \$5 increase in all filings paid to the district clerk for records preservation. The additional money generated is earmarked to the records management and preservation fund.

- Additional filing fee of \$15 for the Family Pro-

tection Fee. Money goes to the county treasury Family Protection Account. The fee applies to dissolution of marriage suits brought before the court.

- \$50 for Bell County Sheriff's and Constables fees for serving papers on behalf of the Attorney General's office for Title IV-D Cases. The increase is \$5 from the previous \$45 amount.

The court also acknowledged an increase in the basic filing fee at the clerk's office from \$45 to \$50 for suits of 10 plaintiffs or less. The filing fees increase to \$200 for cases involving 1,001 or more plaintiffs.

Soldier speaks of life in Iraq

By SCHUYLER KUYKENDALL
STAFF WRITER

Richard Van Winkle, freshly back from Iraq, related some of his duties while deployed to the Rotary Club of Salado Dec. 23.

Van Winkle has served four years in the Navy and 15 in the Army. "I think he only has a year and a half to retirement," said Rip Van Winkle, father of Richard and fellow Rotarian, as he introduced his son.

"I have my dad beat by five or six countries," he says of his military-related travels. "I think between the two of us we have served in about 60 countries."

Van Winkle is with the Special Forces. His unit is stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY.

He deployed on Jan. 2 of this year and returned on Nov. 18. He has addressed high schools and other organizations since returning, and says, "If I had the chance to go back I would be on the first bird smokin'. It isn't that bad

Youth Association seeking donations from community

The Salado Youth Association has announced that it is need of donations. Due to lack of revenue, the association has expressed that it is meeting with problems in making its loan payments and is requesting help from the community.

All donations to the organization are tax deductible. "Salado Youth Association is a non-profit organization that makes possible the baseball and soccer fields," stated Grady Brittain.

Donations may be made to David Matthews at First State Bank of Salado.

over there if you know what you are doing."

He says that he didn't carry a weapon the whole time he was over there, except when they were leaving the base.

While deployed, his duties included working as a carpenter while setting up a headquarters, as well as plumbing and electrical work. He also helped in securing a bridge aiding the Marines in their push to Baghdad.

"We basically became family with the Iraqis," he told the group of the relationship between soldier and civilian. "We have

earned the trust of a lot of people." He explained they had to be able to blend in with the people and to that end were trained on how to associate with the locals.

According to Van Winkle, the Iraqis are starving for information and technology. The country is wealthy enough and smart enough that they could become a first or second rate country, he said.

Van Winkle concluded by thanking the Rotary Club for collecting and sending school supplies earmarked for distribution



Richard Van Winkle speaks to the Rotary Club on his recent deployment to Iraq. (PHOTO BY SCHUYLER KUYKENDALL)

to an Iraqi school right outside where he was stationed.

DPS: Drink and drive on New Year's, go to the pokey

Let the confetti fly, wear your funny hats and welcome the New Year with good cheer, but resolve to drive responsibly this New Year's holiday. Anyone planning to consume alcoholic beverages should have someone else--who hasn't been drinking--drive them home.

Starting midnight on New Year's Day, Operation Holiday will go into effect. Extra troopers will be on the lookout for speeders, seat belt violators, reckless drivers and drunk drivers from Jan. 1-4 to reduce the number of traffic accidents and traffic fatalities.

"If you choose to celebrate the new year, please

Eagle basketball T-shirt night January 2 at gym

The Salado Eagles basketball teams will kick off the new year with a T-Shirt Night, 5 p.m. Jan. 2 at the Coach Smith Gym.

Come wearing either a red shirt or the new 2003-04 black basketball t-shirt and get in for half

price. Here are some good habits to employ:

- Make sure everyone is buckled up.
- Drive sober.
- Use your turn signals.
- Do not tailgate.
- Obey the speed limit.
- Do not speed up, block lanes, slam or tap on

brakes.

• Report extreme cases of reckless driving to the appropriate authorities.

• Do not retaliate, gesture or make eye contact.

price. The Eagles will be taking on the Academy Bumblebees.

For more information contact Ruth Caskey at (254) 289-5097 or Curtis Donaldson at (512) 789-8527.

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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 Halltime	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 Halltime	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:
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Greg Davidson
Pastor

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

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

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Minister

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Evening Worship • 6 p.m.

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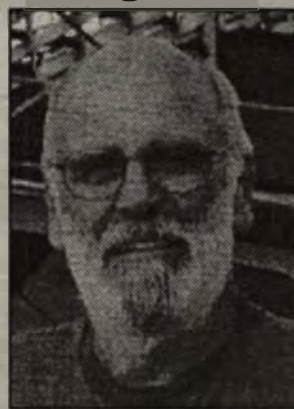
Hall, 62, passes away December 26 in Georgetown

Thomas A. Hall of Salado, formerly of Portland, Maine died Friday, December 26 in Georgetown following illness.

Tom was born March 1, 1941 in Sanford, Maine to Preston and Dorothy Hall. He is survived by his wife Jean Hall of Salado and his brother Albert Hall of Limington Maine.

Tom Hall proudly served in the Naval Submarine Service from 1958 through 1964.

Most recently Tom and his wife Jean, owned and operated The Amish Store in Scarsborough, Maine



and Salado.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to Good Shepherd Food Bank, 3121 Hotel Road, Auburn, Maine 04210.

Catholic church selling BBQ

Knights of Columbus is taking orders for Bar-B-Que Tri-Tips for Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 1.

They will be distributed 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Feb. 1 at St. Stephen's Catholic

Church in Salado.

Tips will be sold at \$5 per pound.

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Lack of rain could cause big problems

Lack of rain and high winds have dried out much of the state, making dormant winter grasslands as volatile as a box of matches. Over 45 counties have issued burn bans and 10 counties have firework restrictions. Before lighting an outdoor fire or using aerial fireworks, check with the local fire marshal, sheriff's office, fire departments or county commissioner to identify county bans and restrictions.

Violators of these restrictions may face Class C Misdemeanor charges and fines up to \$500.

Even if your county is not under a burn ban, some types of trash, especially natural Christmas trees and wrapping paper, are too dangerous to burn.

"Having been in the house for a week or two, Christmas trees are so dry, they just explode

when lit," said Mary Kay Hicks, wildfire prevention coordinator for the Texas Forest Service. "They go up like gasoline."

While cold fronts may bring rain to some parts of the state, they also bring high winds. Rainfall followed by high winds does not reduce drought conditions, and may actually increase the fire risk.

"Rains give people a false sense of security that they can burn outdoors without concern for escaped fires," said Mahlon Hammetter, wildfire prevention specialist for the Texas Forest Service.

Dormant vegetation, particularly grasses, can quickly become fire-prone when fair, windy weather follows a rain event.

For information on burn bans and firework restrictions, visit www.tamu.edu/ticc.

New Testament seminars scheduled at Pres. church

The Presbyterian Church of Salado will sponsor a Brown Bag seminar series beginning Jan. 8.

Dr. Robert L. Volle will speak on people of the New Testament including:

- Jan. 8 - The Virgin Mary
- Jan. 15 - Mary Magdalene

• Jan. 22 - John the Baptist

Each seminar will be held noon-1 p.m. at the Church. Those attending will need to bring their own lunch. Coffee will be provided.

For more information contact the church office at (254) 947-8106.

Sailors help in cleanup

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Sean P. Baldwin, a 1986 graduate of Salado High School and fellow sailors recently helped make improvements to a Bahraini school during a recent port visit to Bahrain while assigned to the guided missile cruiser USS Gettysburg.

Sailors chipped, sanded and painted a weathered carport located on the grounds of the 750-student Ibn Al-Hytham Islamic School as part of a com-

munity relations project organized by Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander, 5th Fleet Chaplain's Office.

Baldwin's ship serves as a multi-mission platform capable of supporting carrier strike groups and amphibious forces. The cruiser can also operate independently and as a flagship of a surface action group.

ABWA meet January 8

The Central Texas Area American Business Women's Association Council will meet 6 p.m. Jan. 8 at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Killeen.

Dinner, a program and business meeting will be in at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$16 per person.

Reservations must be made by Jan. 2. 76547.

For more information contact Shirley Carey at (254) 681-3167.

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church, citing a large congregation size, made plans to sell .664 acres where the church now rests and use the funds to construct a new and larger sanctuary on property the church owns on Royal Street. The historic Carpenter Gothic church would also be relocated to the new site, thereby stripping itself of its historic designations.

The Salado Historical Society, a group who was instrumental in gaining historic recognition for the church, came out publicly against the move. Regardless, church members urged village aldermen to not pass any ordinances that would prohibit their selling church property to a group that might put in gas pumps or a fast food restaurant.

In a Nov. 19 release, the Methodist Church announced they had a buyer for the property, Pisces Food, Inc., the parent company of, among other businesses, Wendy's.

"Members of the church cherish their heritage and wish to take the sanctuary with them to the new site," pastor Grady Brittain stated in the release. "Selling the church sanctuary for an antique shop or restaurant is not an option...Selling our property was a necessity in these difficult economic times. Our options were limited."

In what was another addition to the "Thank God I Live in Texas" file, in 2003 California voters recalled governor Gray Davis and elected in his place an Austrian-born body builder turned cinematic barbarian with suspect pronunciation skills to that state's highest office. In Salado, voters May 3 in school board elections returned Miriam Ervi for a second term on the board, and elected dark horse Jeff Kelley to his first term.

Jackie Mills, Rick Ashe and Vic Means, running uncontested, were all returned to their aldermen positions.

Also voted on in 2003



Jake Loganbill, a 7th generation descendent of W.A. and Sara Jane Pace, helped to break in the new Pace Kids Playground in Pace Memorial Park.

was the \$61.1 million jail bond issue in September, which was narrowly defeated in a county-wide vote. Bell commissioners put the matter to a vote following citizen pressure and complaints that the cost was too high and the need not pressing enough at this time. A petition headed by Belton attorney John Galigan failed to meet the required number of signatures needed to force a referendum against the bond, but commissioners put it to a vote regardless. Salado's Precinct 203 voted 316-251 in favor of the jail.

Currently, a slimmed down version of the original jail bond, this time totalling \$46 million, has been accepted by commissioners and will go before the public May 15.

Staying in the realm of politics, on Oct. 13 Gov. Perry signed into law the congressional redistricting map. Despite Texas Democrats' best state-jumping efforts, the map was passed and Bell County will lose Chet Edwards as representative. In the new map, Bell County is now grouped with Williamson County in the 31st District. William-

son County is currently represented by first-term congressman John Carter, of Georgetown.

This was also a year of acquisitions. Stagecoach Inn, owned by Salado native Morris Foster, purchased Mill Creek Inn and Golf Club Sept. 2.

"This is a natural marriage of two great institutions," Mill Creek managing partner Curtis Logan remarked at the time.

Salado schools had a particularly strong showing again in 2003. For the fourth straight year, the academic UIL team won the state meet. Devon Rex won state in number sense, the Number Sense team won state for the fifth consecutive year, and the One Act Play team advanced to regionals. Sara Culver and Chelsea Norman were named valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively. Culver scored a perfect 1600 on her SAT and now attends Harvard University.

The Lady Eagles basketball team was upset in the first round of the playoffs by Weimar, but did win their ninth straight district crown under coach

Larry Salisbury.

Lauren Mewhinney, who is now running track for the Aggies at Texas A&M, won gold in the 3200m and 1600m runs at the state meet. Her victories in Austin gave her four gold medals and three silver medals for her high school career. Mewhinney's teammate, Brinn Newman, now a senior, won bronze at state in pole vault for the second straight year. Newman will make her third try for gold this coming spring.

Coach Melvin Bates' baseball team also made the playoffs again, bowing out to pesky Weimar, the eventual state champs. Lane Wolff was named second team all-state and Scott Bates was elected to the third team.

Not to be outdone, the Lady Eagles golf team of Meagan Joiner, Emily Lilly, Kaci Fritsch, Paige Cameron and Lacey Bartlett repeated as state champs, coming from 11 strokes behind on the final day to defeat Lago Vista.

More recently, senior Nick Evérett won gold at the state cross-country meet, and the girls team advanced to state.

SEE YEAR END, PAGE 8A

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Year End

A man who embodies what is good about educators, Rod Stockstill announced his retirement as principal of Thomas Arnold Elementary in May, bringing an end to a 12-year career in Salado. "We've educated a lot of kiddos, and I've been here long enough to see a whole class go from kindergarten to graduation...But now I think it's time to let someone else take over," he told *Salado Village Voice* in May. Temple native Lisa Nix was hired as principal shortly thereafter and has capably filled the shoes of Stockstill in her time at TAE.

Addressing future growth needs, the school district continued to explore possibilities for campus expansion. A facility development committee of 60 school staff, community members and parents was formed in the fall. According to superintendent Dr. Robin Battershell, the district is also entertaining offers of land donation for possible school expansions. Architect Mike Marrs informed the district in September that each school campus fell short of the recommended acreage for that particular type of school use.

The normal seemed to make its way back into everyday life in Salado, as well. The Art Fair was held in August, the Christmas Stroll in December, and Christmas in October was a success. Dr. Doug Willingham organized the Titanic Texas Weekend in mid-October, showcasing first-rate Titanic exhibits at



Paige Cameron, Emily Lilly, Coach Kurt Salisbury, Kaci Fritsch, Meagan Joiner and Laci Bartlett are shown with the first place trophy they won at the 2A Girls Golf Tournament in May.



For the fourth year in a row, the Salado UIL Academic Squad won the State Academic Meet.

the Civic Center, and the A.C. and Judy Greene Literary Festival was again held this summer.

Tablerock continued its productions of *Salado Legends* and *A Christmas Carol* as they have been for the past decade. The first annual Salado Salutes Texas Educators was held

before the school year with great results.

An ad hoc committee of Saladoans also spent time this year meeting and discussing the possibility of a performing arts center in Salado. With the cost of such a project being in seven figures, the goal of a



Lauren Mewhinney won two gold medals at the State Track meet.

Garlyn Shelton

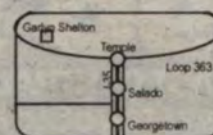
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performing arts center remains a long range one, but work continues nonetheless.

Halloween turned out to be rather unforgettable in 2003. On that morning of witches, costumes and candy, Bell County Sheriff's Deputy Marco Villarreal thwarted a robbery attempt of the Compass Bank, chasing down and apprehending a masked man after the suspect had fled the bank with a bag of cash and carrying what appeared to be a gun. "I was in the right place at the right time...I was only doing my job," Villarreal said.

In the month of September, the Salado Volunteer Fire Department, along with a five year old kindergartner, played hero. Young Nancy Wilkins, alerted by the smell of smoke wafting through her bedroom in the middle of the night, awoke her parents, Michael and Marina just as their home on Center Circle was going up in flames. Within minutes, Salado firemen were on the scene and the flames were extinguished. The Wilkins' lost all their earthly possessions, but thanks to the quick-response firemen and a quick-witted youngster, they emerged with their lives.

Another addition to the landscape of Salado was unveiled Nov. 15, when Elizabeth Mosely cut the ribbon dedicating the Pace Kids Playground in Pace Park. Mosely is a descendant of the Pace family who donated the land to Salado many years ago.

The Salado Historical Society was busy, as well. They held their annual Tour of Homes, and announced in October that they were taking over maintenance of the oldest portion of the



2003 Homecoming Queen Laramie Jackson and Homecoming King Scott Bates.

historic, Civil War era West Salado Cemetery, one of the few active black burial grounds in the area.

Salado lost another of her prominent citizens in 2003. Lifelong resident and cattleman C.B. Hodge passed away Aug. 18 at age 77. Over his lifetime, Hodge donated portions of his land for the good of the community, and served as president of the Chamber of Commerce and was a former school board trustee. He was also a trustee of the Salado United Methodist Church.

If you've made it this far, then you've become reacquainted with the highs and lows of a year descending quickly into memory.

Fast approaching, though, is 2004 and along with it a whole new set of hopes and optimism and trepidations. There's still time to reflect on what's gone by, however. For, as Albert Einstein said, "I never think of the future--it comes soon enough."



2003 Miss Flame Stella Butts was crowned during halftime ceremonies of the Salado Eagles game.



At left, long-time Thomas Arnold Elementary School Principal Rod Stockstill announced his retirement from education.



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Newspaper introduces staff to community for new year

As we begin the year, *Salado Village Voice* staffers would like to introduce themselves to the community they serve.

Salado Village Voice has a staff of six, including publishers Tim and Marilyn Fleischer. Other staffers are Ken Clapp, political columnist; Judy Shumate, composition and layout; Chris McGregor, features and sports writer; and Schuyler Kuykendall, office assistant and classified advertising.

In addition to individual awards by staff members, *Salado Village Voice* has been honored by the community and state. The newspaper was the first-ever Business of the Year, awarded in January 2003 by the Salado Chamber of Commerce. The newspaper has also been named multiple times to the Texas Association of School Board's Honor Roll for news coverage of the Salado school district.

TIM FLEISCHER

Tim Fleischer has been a newspaperman since he was 16, working for both weeklies and daily newspapers. "I got the Devil's Ink at an early age and haven't been able to get rid of it," he said of his 20 years in the newspaper industry.

For almost 16 years of it, he has been the editor of the *Salado Village Voice*.

But his love for Salado has been for more than two decades. "I came to Salado for the Art Fair and Gathering of the Clans with my parents when I was growing up in Coryell County," he said. "I drove through it every day on my way to run a small newspaper in Florence."

Tim and Marilyn Fleischer have published the newspaper since 1988. During that time, the newspaper has grown from an eight-page tabloid to a 36- to 40-page paper of two sections.

"We have grown with the community and are a reflection of it," he said.

In those years, the news-

paper has won several awards from the Texas Community Newspaper Association, where *Salado Village Voice* competed against newspapers from San Antonio, Dallas, Houston, Austin and around the state.

Tim has won several TCNA awards: advertising design (third in state for large ad format and third in state for advertising series); editorial work (first in state for editorial writing, third in state for column writing) and second in state for community service (for articles during the incorporation election).

He has also served the community in a variety of capacities, including four years on the board of directors of the Salado Chamber of Commerce and six years on the board of directors of the Institute for Humanities at Salado. He was president of the Salado Chamber of Commerce and treasurer for two years of the Institute for Humanities.

He and wife Marilyn share responsibilities at the newspaper. "She runs the office and I make editorial decisions," he said.

MARILYN FLEISCHER

Marilyn got the Devil's Ink in her blood after meeting Tim 17 years ago.

She worked for TU Electric prior to the purchase of the *Salado Village Voice* in March 1988.

She also owned and operated a plant business in the Killeen/Copperas Cove area for several years while raising her three children.

During their years in Salado, Marilyn has served the community in many ways. "I think I have been most satisfied with my work with the Salado Family Relief Fund," she said. In addition to her work to establish the Family Relief Fund, Marilyn has also been Art Fair chairperson for two years, and worked with the Ladies Auxiliary to publicize its annual event, Christmas in October.

She has also won awards from the TCNA. She has twice been honored. She won second place for Best Feature Photo and second place for Community Service for her work with the Family Relief Fund.

The Fleischers' children -- Royce Wiggin, a ninth grader at Salado High School and first-year member of the Salado High School marching



Tim Fleischer



Marilyn Fleischer

band who received the band award for Most Improved Marcher, and Jenny Wiggin, a seventh-grader at Salado Intermediate School district, cheerleader and band member -- have grown up in the eye of the community. "We have dragged them to so many events with us as they were growing up," Marilyn said, "and now they are participating in many of the events that we are covering for the newspaper."

KENYON FORD CLAPP

Ken Clapp began his career in the newspaper business in 1938, at the age of ten, when he was hired to home-deliver the *Cleveland News*, one of that city's two afternoon papers.

He studied Journalism in high school and after three years' service with the Air Force followed later by a year's recall to active duty during the Korean conflict, Ken

returned to Southwestern University in Georgetown with his wife Melba and their children.

Graduating with honors, Ken began teaching government, history and journalism at Uvalde High School. He later received his Master's Degree in Education from the University of Texas in Austin and was promoted to assistant high school principal.

After 10 years as teacher-administrator, Ken accepted the position of managing editor of the *Uvalde Leader-News*. Two years later he moved to Killeen as that school district's Director of Personnel, Research and Public Relations.

In 1972, Ken took a leave of absence to work with Uvaldean Dolph Briscoe in the rancher-banker's successful run for Governor. Governor Briscoe convinced Clapp to remain in state government thus

SEE STAFFERS, PAGE 11A

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ending his 18-year career as teacher and administrator. Clapp became the Governor's executive assistant and chief of staff in 1974.

Before leaving office, Governor Briscoe appointed Clapp to the Texas Employment Commission in late 1978 to represent Texas employers. Commissioner Clapp was approved unanimously by the Texas Senate in January 1979 and served a full six year term before retiring in December 1984.

Returning to their Bell County home, Ken and his wife Melba, founded the Salado Post-Dispatch, located in the historic Vickrey-Berry house. The recession of '85-'86 took its toll including the Post-Dispatch, however never straying far from journalism, Ken continued writing a political column for a number of Texas newspapers and in 1988 created his "Off The Record" column for the Salado Village Voice under the new publisher-editors Tim and



Ken Clapp

Marilyn Fleischer.

He has made his column's "-30-" deadline 815 times during his years with the Salado weekly, which means he is nearing the million word mark as an observer of state and national politics.

Ken is Chairman of the Salado Civic Center Foundation and is one of the original members of the

group that renovated the old school building in 1992-3.

JUDY SHUMATE

Judy Shumate has worked for the *Salado Vil-*

lage Voice since August 1998. She works in ad composition, designing a wide variety of ads for the newspaper's customers.

Judy was born in Germany to the late Marshall H. Fultzs and Sigrid Fultzs of Killeen. They lived there while her father was in the Army. He fought in the Korean War and World War II. After leaving Germany, Judy's family moved to Killeen, where her father retired from the Army.

She began her career in composition in 1989 at Ad Team, Inc., a commercial printer in the Dallas suburb of Carrollton. While there, she attended community college at North Lake and Brookhaven in Dallas.

Before coming to Salado, she worked at Express Printers in Killeen as a Graphic

SEE NEWSPAPER, PAGE 16A

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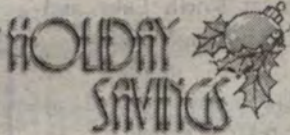
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As Canadian weather moves south into Texas for a winter stay, the Texas Department of Health (TDH) advises people to take precautions against the cold. Freezing temperatures, chilling winds, ice storms and snow can create severe problems for people more attuned to heat indexes than chill factors.

Hypothermia, the severe or prolonged loss of body heat, begins when a person's body temperature falls below 95 degrees. Because the temperature drop may be

gradual, and an early symptom of hypothermia is mental confusion, the victim may not know a problem exists. TDH officials warn that vulnerable people can die from the effects of cold weather.

Last year, exposure to excessive cold resulted in 28 Texas deaths.

People most susceptible to hypothermia include those 60 and older, infants and small children, the sick, those taking certain prescription drugs or drinking alcohol, the homeless, auto or boating accident victims and those unable

to find temporary shelter in cold weather.

Often an older person's metabolism is slower than that of someone younger, which means less body heat is generated. Or the older person may already be in poor health and taking medications that can alter their awareness of dangerously low temperatures.

People 60 and older may not perceive or respond to cold as readily as younger people because the body's natural alarm signal - the reflex of shivering that

increases blood flow - lessens with age. Some hypothermia victims die because they simply are unaware of gradual temperature changes.

And some people, especially those living on low incomes, may not turn up their thermostats, fearing high heating bills.

To reduce potential dangers:

- Watch for hypothermia symptoms including confusion, drowsiness, slurred speech, a drop in blood pressure, shallow breathing and a pinkish tint to the skin. Anyone with these symptoms related to cold temperatures is in immediate danger.

- Check on elderly or ill people, especially if they live alone or in isolated areas.

- Wear loose-fitting clothing in layers, gloves and a face cover to block the wind if you must be outside. Stay dry.

- Be extremely cautious in the wind. A strong wind, even in only moderately cool weather, can cause a wind chill far below freezing.

- Remember, too, that animals may die if left outside in extremely cold weather. Provide them a warm environment, out of the chilling wind. Be sure they have access to food and that their water has not frozen.

Winter storms also may cause power outages, and food safety can be a problem. If you lose power for more than four hours, take the following precautions with refrigerated food products:

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.

- Discard any potentially hazardous foods such as meats, eggs, dairy products and leftovers that may have exceeded 45 degrees. When in doubt, throw it out.

- Any frozen food that has thawed but not exceeded 45 degrees should be prepared as soon as possible. Do not re-freeze.

Wind chill refers to the cooling effect wind has on the skin. Not only can wind chill cause rapid body heat loss, it also can cause frostbite - actual freezing of tissues. Frostbite can occur in 15 minutes or less at wind chill values of 18 below zero or lower.

TDH officials warn that no one should underestimate cold weather and should dress appropriately. Anyone planning outdoor activities in cold weather should check local weather forecasts for information.

This year, make some financial resolutions

Now that it's almost 2004, it's time to make some New Year's resolutions. What are yours? Lose weight? Volunteer more? Quit smoking? Spend more time with your family?

All these are worthwhile goals. But, while you're in the resolution-making frame of mind, don't forget your financial resolutions. Here are some to think about:

• Cut your debt load - If you feel overburdened by debt, you're not alone. At the beginning of 2003, American households owed, on average, nearly \$9,000 on all credit cards, according to Cardweb.com, a Web site that provides credit card information to consumers. This figure is up 173 percent over the past decade. You'll find it very hard to achieve your financial goals if you're overburdened by debt. Set a realistic goal for whittling down the amount you owe. And avoid taking on unnecessary new debts through more credit card purchases.

• Increase your retirement savings - Put in as much as you can afford to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. These tax-advantaged accounts are great ways to help boost your retirement savings.

• Put bonuses and salary increases to work - Consider investing your bonuses and salary increases. If you don't really need the additional money to meet your basic needs, you can put it to work helping you build your investment portfolio.

• Avoid tapping into your investments - Try to build an "emergency" cash cushion of about three to six months' worth of living expenses. Once you've established this fund, you won't need to tap into your investments to pay for major car repairs, new appliances or any other unexpected costs. And by letting your investments have the opportunity to grow as long as possible, you can accelerate your progress toward your long-term financial goals.

• Diversify your portfolio - By spreading out your dollars over a wide range of assets - stocks, bonds, government securities, etc. - you can help cushion the impact of a downturn that may affect just one particular area. And by owning many different investments, you give yourself a better chance to succeed.

• Keep emotions out of investing - There's plenty of evidence that fear and greed drive the market. Don't be ruled by your emotions. If a

stock is falling, you don't have to join the selling stampede - especially if the company has good prospects. Conversely, don't chase after "hot stocks" - they may already be cooling off by the time you buy.

• Protect your family - Go over your insurance coverage to ensure it is sufficient to help your family meet their needs should something happen to you.

• Check your beneficiary designations - If you've gone through any significant changes in your life - divorce, remarriage, stepchildren, etc. - then you'll want to make absolutely sure your beneficiary designations on all your financial documents are up to date and correct.

Financial Focus

by: Allen Mantanona

• Boost college savings - If you have a child, it's never too soon to start saving for college. Consider opening a 529 plan or a Coverdell Education Savings Account.

• Rebalance as needed - As your needs, goals and personal situation evolve over time, you'll want to adjust your portfolio. Your investment professional can help you make the appropriate changes.

By following through on these resolutions, you can make great strides toward improving your financial situation in 2004 - and in all the years to follow.



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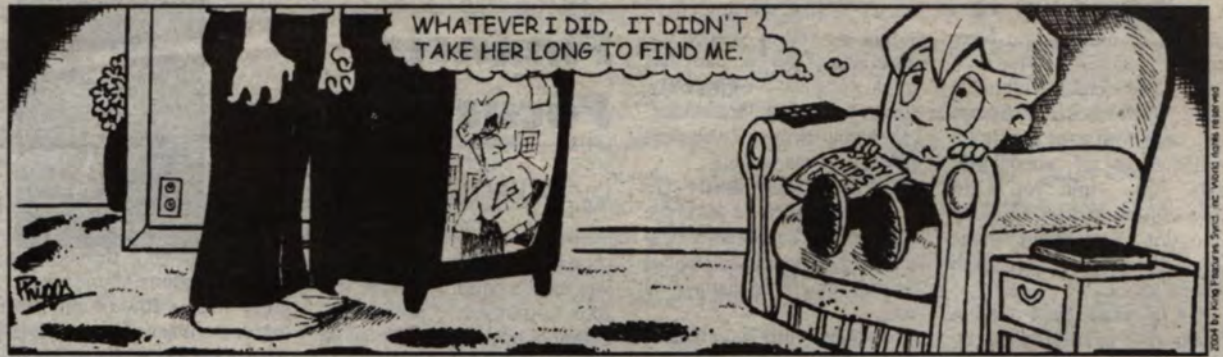
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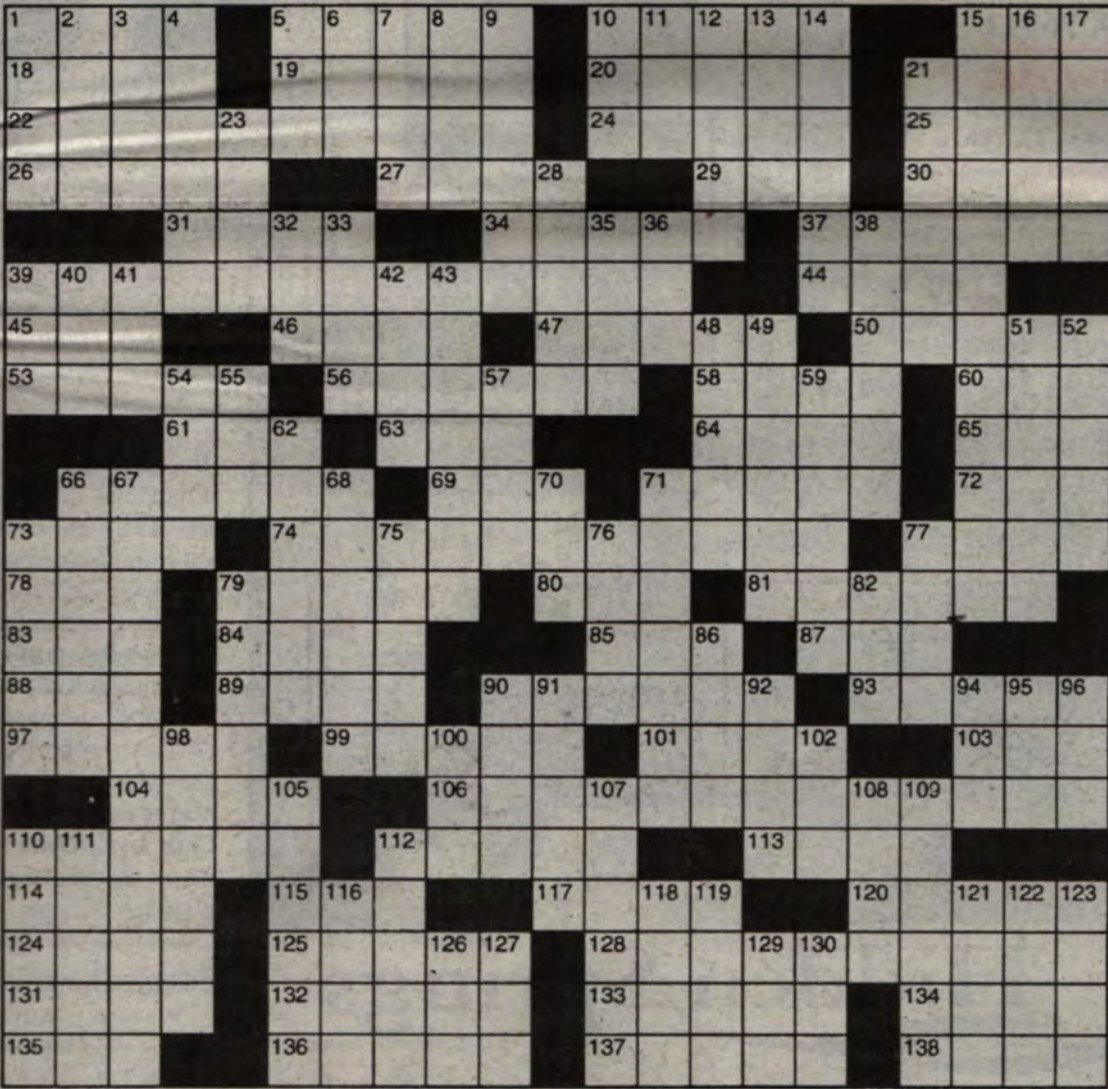
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ACROSS

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- 5 Cargo crane
- 10 Circus employee
- 15 Hilarious Howard
- 18 What you used to be
- 19 Mennonite group
- 20 Cheer
- 21 Planted
- 22 Bovine jazzman?
- 24 Famed fabulist
- 25 Geometric figure
- 26 Chrissie of The Pretenders
- 27 Warts and all
- 29 Actress Munson
- 30 "May I interrupt?"
- 31 Certain Semite
- 34 Rocker Cassidy
- 37 Pay
- 39 Bovine auto racer?
- 44 Fit
- 45 Crony
- 46 Director Ferrara
- 47 Rock's — Trick
- 50 Yellowish brown
- 53 Chasm
- 56 Adams or Astor
- 58 Couch
- 60 Maris of "Nurses"
- 61 LAX letters
- 63 Kimono closer
- 64 Jab
- 65 Noisy racket
- 66 Mystical
- 69 German city
- 71 Electronic device
- 72 Say please
- 73 "Beat it!"
- 74 Bovine outlaw?
- 77 Satiated
- 78 — Aviv
- 79 Free-for-all
- 80 Word with sister or story
- 81 Costume sparkler
- 83 Actor Kjellin
- 84 Learn fast?
- 85 Spare tire
- 87 Johnny Yuma, for one
- 88 Mythical bird
- 89 Periodic table abbr.
- 90 Gave someone a smack
- 93 Writer Runyon
- 97 Rise
- 99 Go in
- 101 Beholds
- 103 Southern constellation
- 104 Sue of "Lolita"
- 106 Bovine actress?
- 110 "Cat —" ('65 film)
- 112 Exodus edible
- 113 Prudish one
- 114 Melville work
- 115 "— Day Now" ('62 hit)
- 117 To be, to Baudelaire
- 120 Entangle
- 124 Puzzle direction
- 125 Chutzpah
- 128 Bovine publisher?
- 131 Ages
- 132 Church law
- 133 Brinks
- 134 Banana-rama, e.g.
- 135 Actress Susan
- 136 Endangered animal
- 137 Adjust a watch
- 138 Time to evolve?
- 4 Dairy treat
- 5 Smidgen
- 6 Internists' org.
- 7 Jet-setter's need
- 8 Egyptian deity
- 9 Religious belief
- 10 Bristol brew
- 11 Bristol brew
- 12 Jocular Jackie
- 13 School founded in 1440
- 14 Meal
- 15 Bovine boxer?
- 16 Proprietor
- 17 "— Mine" ('85 film)
- 21 Justice Antonin
- 23 St.-to-be
- 28 Astound
- 32 Chicken — king
- 33 Iceberg's kin
- 35 '68 US Open winner
- 36 Exploit
- 38 Small mall
- 39 Hydro-therapy site
- 40 Actor Hunter
- 41 TV Tarzan
- 42 Franco of "Camelot"
- 43 Drop
- 48 Salad type
- 49 Spongelike
- 51 Bright inventor?
- 52 Like Lincoln
- 54 Splinter group
- 55 Alphabet sequence
- 57 Ingratiating
- 59 Silo stuff
- 62 Victoria's husband
- 66 It's spotted at zoos
- 67 Bovine band-leader?
- 68 Louisiana university
- 70 Geographical abbr.
- 71 "Clair de Lune" composer
- 73 Celebrities
- 75 Car bomb?
- 76 Grabs all the goodies
- 77 Neighbor of Hispaniola
- 79 Bob of basketball
- 82 Proof letters
- 86 Rock hound?
- 90 Eager
- 91 Castle or Cara
- 92 "How — Is Your Love" ('77 hit)
- 94 Deface
- 95 Supper scrap
- 96 Slangy denial
- 98 Stockings
- 100 TV listing abbr.
- 102 Big —, CA
- 105 Shade of meaning
- 107 Ecclesiastical title
- 108 Sage
- 109 Put the match to
- 110 Portended
- 111 "That's —" ('53 tune)
- 112 Loy or Blyth
- 116 "A Face in the Crowd" actress
- 118 Discourteous
- 119 They're often beaten
- 121 Curly coif
- 122 Equine accessory
- 123 Aphrodite's son
- 126 "— Ryan's Express" ('65 film)
- 127 Remnant
- 129 TV's "— Haw"
- 130 Presidential monogram

DOWN

- 1 Decorate glass
- 2 Nautical cry
- 3 Wilder's "Our —"



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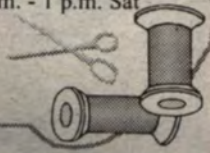
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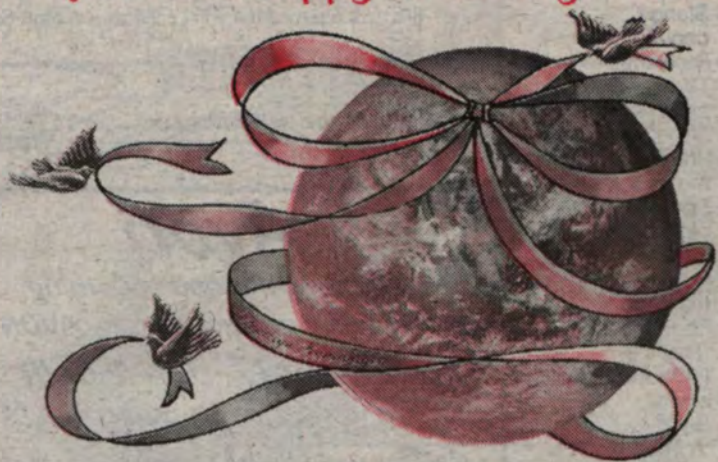
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Designer.

She has also worked in the composition department for *Thrifty Nickel*, *Killeen Daily Herald* and *Express Printers, Inc.*

Judy has two children, Travis, age 13, and Alyssa, age 7.

Her interests are spending time with her family, shopping, reading, movies, country music, arts & crafts and anything else that requires being creative.

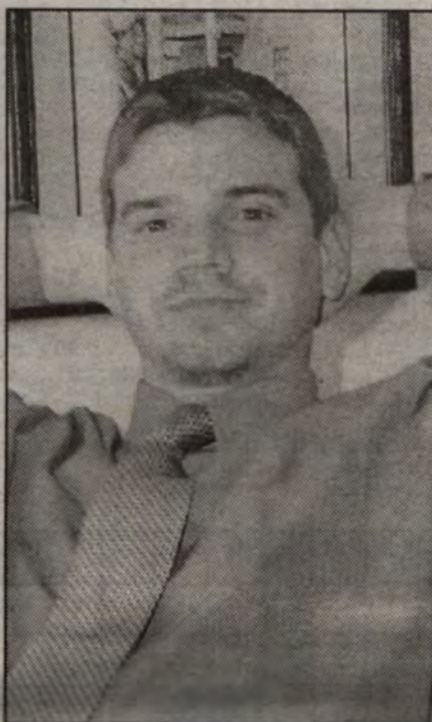
CHRIS MCGREGOR

Chris was born in July of 1979, in Georgetown, Texas, and reared in Salado.

All of his public edu-



Judy Shumate



Chris McGregor



Schuyler Kuykendall

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cation came courtesy of Salado school's, K-12. He graduated from SHS in 1997.

He joined the newspaper in April 2002 when Tim and Marilyn Fleischer offered him a position on the staff. He enjoys his work and looks forward to a career in letters.

Chris has now entered his second year of married life, with his wife, Whitney. He is also enjoying a winning season from the Dallas Cowboys and their imminent return to the playoffs. Chris says, "Don't bug me when the Cowboys are playing."

SCHUYLER KUYKENDALL

Schuyler Kuykendall began working for the *Salado Village Voice* as an office assistant in 1997, while attending Temple High School.

Schuyler took a position with Belton ISD in October 2000, but returned to the newspaper in March 2003.

She and her daughter, Chloe, age three, now live in Belton.

In her spare time she enjoys shopping and spending time with friends. At least once a week, you can find her and co-worker, Judy, at Texas Roadhouse.

Salado Village Guide

Shopping Map
Pages 10-11B

Section B Salado Village Voice, December 31, 2003 20 Pages Shopping, Dining, Golfing, Events, Real Estate

New businesses in 2003



Pictured at top, Eric and Dominique Deprez of Le Baffroy Bed and Breakfast and Belgian Restaurant, pose with staff and Chamber of Commerce well-wishers at their Jan. 21 ribbon-cutting. In the middle photo, Debbie Harrison (holding scissors) is pictured with husband Ron at the Jan. 24 ceremony marking the induction of their B&B, the Red Barn Hideaway, into the Chamber of Commerce. Bottom photo, Mother and daughter duo, Peggy Bush and Staci Masson, of Shenanigan's, pose with Chamber members during their ribbon cutting ceremony Jan. 24. Shenanigan's is located in the Shady Villa shopping center, between Sweet Nut Things and Gregory's and features a variety of eclectic selections.



PHOTOS BY CHRIS MCGREGOR

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What's happening in 2004?

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: play-group, contact Amanda at 947-5507.

Saturdays

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

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 8 Salado Presbyterian Church seminar on People of New Testament: Virgin Mary. Noon-1 p.m. at the church. Seminars also held **Jan. 15 and 22.** Info: 947-8106.

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 Faire 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,** Salado Civic Center

DECEMBER 3-4 A Christmas Carol 7 p.m at Tablerock Amphitheater Tickets Adults \$5 children \$3 6:30 p.m.



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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.

New businesses in 2003



Before and After Ladies Tanning and Fitness Center officially joined the Salado Chamber of Commerce when they participated in a ribbon cutting on Jan. 14. Members of the Chamber were in attendance to witness the event. (PHOTO BY ASHLEY SMITH)

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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

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New businesses in 2003

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947-9215



Beth Scarborough (holding scissors), owner of Bundle of Joy, is pictured with Chamber of Commerce representatives at the ribbon cutting for her shop, held March 7. Bundle of Joy, as its name implies, specializes in products for infants, ranging from clothing ages newborn to 6X in girls, and newborn to 4T in boys, to handmade cribs and custom bedding. The shop, which is located next to Solas Gallery on Rock Creek Drive, also offers baby gift registry. (PHOTO BY CHRIS MCGREGOR)

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New businesses in 2003



Top photo, The Salado Chamber of Commerce held a Ribbon Cutting for Salado Cleaners, April 25. Owners are Robert and Joanne Mim of Salado. Salado Cleaners services include alterations, laundry, dry cleaning, and preserving wedding gowns. Most services can be ready in one-day. Their hours of operation are 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sat. They are located at 1209 N. Stagecoach. For more information call 947-7299.

The Amish Store, owned by Tom and Jean Hall (left), located in the Colony shopping center on Main St., officially joined the Salado Chamber of Commerce March 21. The Amish Store deals hand made furniture from the traditional Amish regions of Pennsylvania. For more information, call 947-8803. Photo at left.

(PHOTO BY CHRIS MCGREGOR)



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THOMAS KINKADE

Painter of Light™

I've chosen to re-visit a favorite artistic place in Blessings of Christmas, which takes a fresh look at the charming cottage of "Victorian Garden II" in its evergreen bower, but now in the snowy grip of winter. The warmth of family life lives in this cozy dwelling, accentuated by the shroud of snow that sits so gracefully wrapped in his red scarf, holding a straw broom, embodies the spirit of the season.

Thomas Kinkade

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The Salado Chamber of Commerce held two ribbon cuttings to officially induct Uncommon Grounds Cafe (top of page) and Three Dogs or a Quilt (above). Uncommon Grounds is owned by David and Cynthia Apichino, who are pictured at center along with daughter Brooke. Three Dogs or a Quilt is a new shop located at 101 Salado Plaza Drive, and is owned by Ivan and Janet Williams, who are pictured at center, holding scissors. (PHOTOS BY CHRIS MCGREGOR)

Christy's of Salado Ladies Boutique
 Christy Arner

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The Salado Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony May 30 for one of Salado's newest shops, Water Lily, located at 642 N. Main Street. Water Lily is owned by Summer Sparkman, pictured at center, holding scissors. Water Lily specializes in custom made soaps, gels and lotions, which are made on-site. Water Lily also carries apparel, bath teas, jewelry and manicure and pedicure sets. (PHOTO BY CHRIS MCGREGOR)

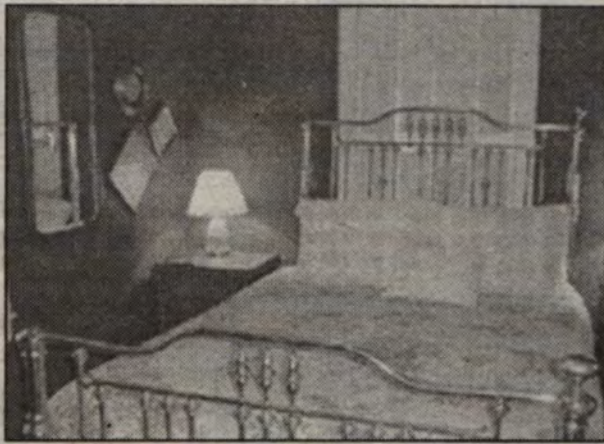
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 (FREE ADMISSION - Limited to 10 people)
 Dinner is provided. Bring your own drink!
 Bowls will be auctioned in November to aid the Salado Family Relief Fund, Inc.*

Empty Bowl Project


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

BED & BREAKFASTS



Pictured above is the bedroom of Sally's Cottage, part of the Inn on the Creek. The cottage features a living room, large bathroom and Murphy bed. For reservation info, call 947-5554.

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 Facing east side of IH-35 between Exit #284-285



In the second ribbon cutting of May 30, The Village Steakhouse was officially inducted as a member of the Salado Chamber of Commerce. Owners Richard and Kim Clapper are pictured at center, with scissors. The Village Steakhouse has recently introduced a lunch menu, with specials priced at \$2.99. They are located at 302 N. Main St., next to Heirlooms. (PHOTO BY CHRIS MCGREGOR)



Shiny Top Ranch, located off Crow's Ranch Road a few miles west of Salado, was welcomed into the Salado Chamber of Commerce at a June 20 ribbon cutting ceremony. Owner D.R. Jones is pictured at center. Shiny Top Ranch offers guided hunting expeditions, camping and catering in an authentically rustic setting. (PHOTO BY CHRIS MCGREGOR)

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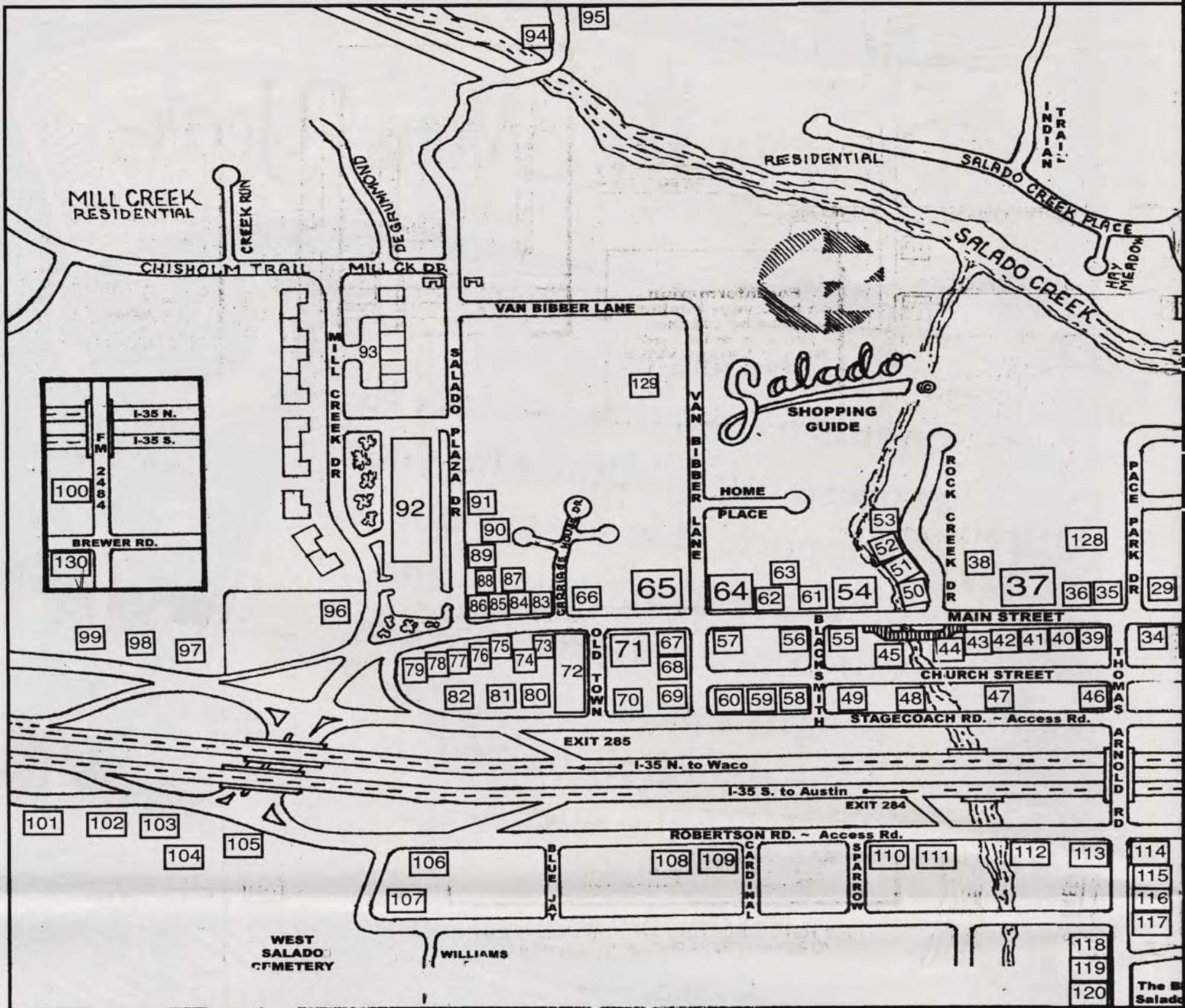
Ring in the New Year

With the New Year comes a fresh opportunity to express our gratitude for your support. It is always our pleasure to serve you, and your continued patronage is greatly appreciated. You have definitely helped us become the successful

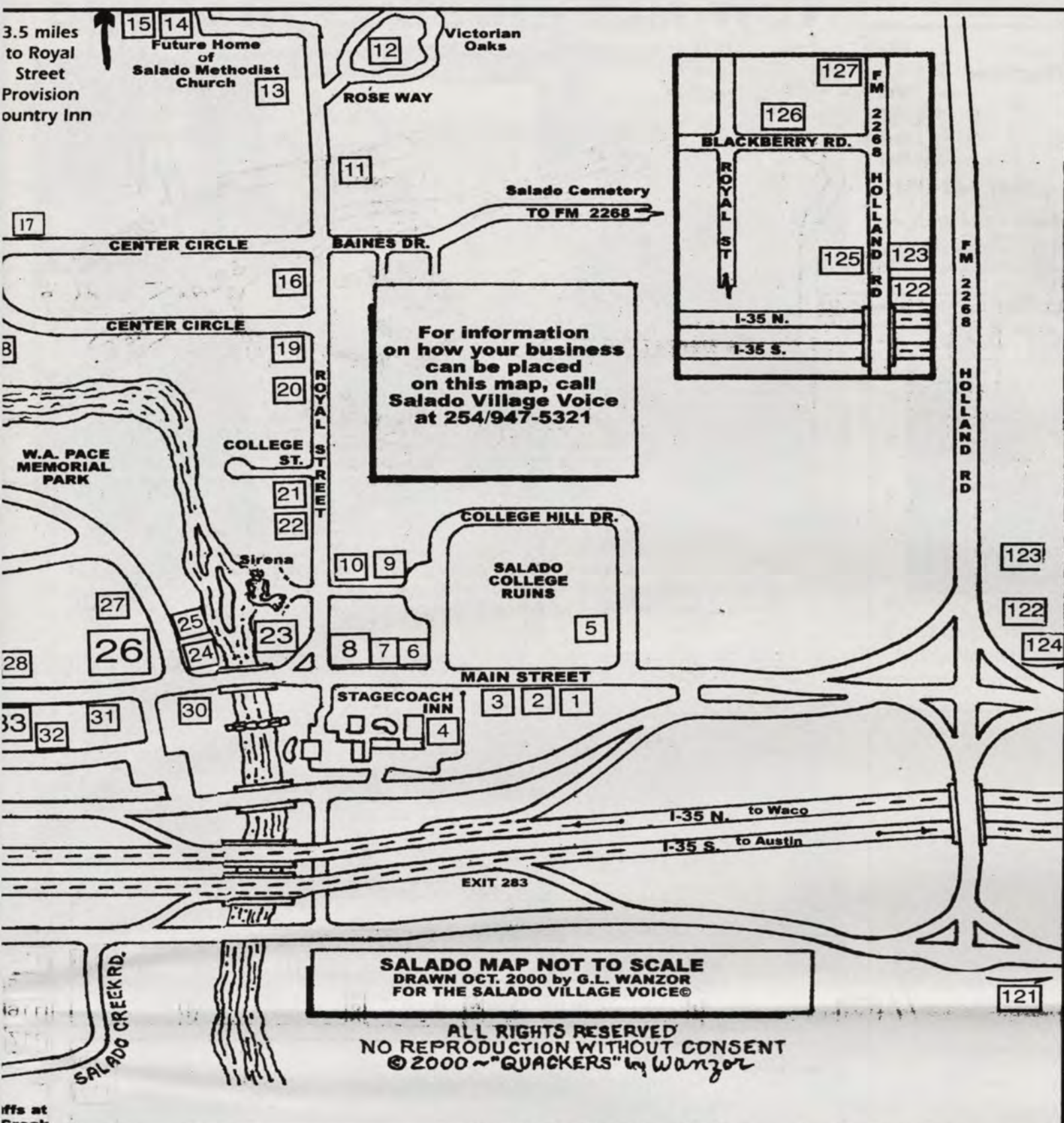
newspaper we are today. May the New Year bring you much happiness, joy, success, good health, and prosperity.

Salado
Village Voice

We will close at noon on Dec. 31 and will re-open Jan. 2.



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Wells Gallery 254/947-0311 | 26. CREEKSIDE CENTER | 48. Salado Volunteer Fire Department 254/947-8961 |
| Truly Texan Metal Art 254/947-8986 | Prellop Fine Art Gallery 254/947-3930 | 49. Salado Church of Christ 254/947-5241 |
| Sweet Dreams 254/947-9200 | Scarlett's 254/947-3600 | 50. The Glass House 254/248-2279 |
| RMK Gallery 254/947-4400 | Susan Marie's 254/947-5239 | 51. Splendors of Salado 254/947-3630 |
| 4. Stagecoach Inn 254/947-5111 | 30. First Baptist Church 254/947-5465 | 52. Charlotte's of Salado 254/947-0240 |
| 5. StoneCreek Settlement 254/947-9683 | 31. Salado Mansion 254/947-5157 | 53. Uniquely Europe 254/947-3222 |
| 6. Central Texas Area Museum 254/947-5232 | 32. Salado Masonic Lodge #296 | 54. THE COLONY |
| 7. Salado Galleries 254/947-5110 | 33. THE VERANDA | The Amish Store 254/947-8803 |
| 8. SHADY VILLA | First Texas Brokerage 254/947-5577 | 55. Heirlooms 254/947-0336 |
| Gregory's 254/947-5703 | 34. First State Bank 254/947-5852 | 56. Village Steakhouse 254/947-3663 |
| Sweet Nut Things 254/947-8088 | 35. Christy's of Salado 254/947-0561 | 57. Seasons of Salado 254/947-4769 |
| 9. Peddler's Alley 254/947-9722 | 36. Inn at Salado 254/947-0027 | 59. Salado Floors and Walls 254/947-0048 |
| 10. The Dusty Rose 254/947-9215 | 37. SALADO SQUARE | 60. The Village of Salado 254/947-5060 |
| 11. Tablerock Amphitheatre 254/947-9205 | Browning's Courtyard Cafe 254/947-8666 | 62. Thomas Kinkadee at RMK Gallery 254/947-4400 |
| 12. The Rose Mansion B&B 254/947-8200 | Carden's 254/947-0300 | 64. SALADO CIVIC SQUARE |
| 14. Serenity Spa Service 254/947-8833 | Classics on Main 254/947-3277 | Innkeeping with the Times 800/439-3828 254/947-9683 |
| 15. Royal Street Provision 254/947-3350 | Linda Pritchard, RMT 254/947-HAND | Properties of Larry Sands 254/947-5580 |
| 16. The Baines House 254/947-5260 | Main Street Place 254/947-9908 | Uncommon Grounds Cafe 254/947-3354 |
| 17. Le Beffroy B&B 254/947-7177 | Magnolia's on the Square 254/947-0323 | |
| 18. Inn on the Creek B&B 254/947-5554 | 38. The Range at the Barton House 254/947-3828 | |
| 19. ROYAL STREET COURTYARD | 39. Family Dentistry 254/947-5242 | |
| Botangles Salon 254/947-4747 | Dr. Douglas B. Willingham | 65. SALADO CIVIC CENTER |
| Salado Springs Celebration Center 254/947-0027 | 41. Mud Pies Pottery 254/947-0281 | Salado Civic Center 254/947-8300 |
| 20. The Lodgings 254/947-0027 | 42. Southern Comforts 254/947-0595 | Chamber of Commerce 254/947-5040 |
| 21. Springhouse Antiques 254/947-0747 | 43. Salado Haus 254/947-1868 | SISD Administration 254/947-5479 |
| 23. ONE ROYAL | 44. Willowby's 947-WILO | 66. Halley House B&B 254/947-1000 |
| FSG Fine Jewelry 254/947-9447 | 45. Wigglesworth Place 254/947-8846 | 68. Little Kountry Kabin 254/947-3337 |
| Jan's 866/947-4303 | Lodging 254/947-8846 | 70. The Sewing Basket 254/947-5423 |
| Institute for the Humanities at Salado 254/947-5729 | 46. Salado United Methodist Church 254/947-5482 | 72. OLD TOWN SALADO |
| | 47. Salado Printing 254/947-3590 | Alice's 254/947-9000 |
| | | Angelic Herbs 254/947-1909 |



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 Country 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
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Uniquely Europe		53
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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
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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

- 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**
Before & After Fitness & Tanning 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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 Three bedroom, 2-1/2 bath plus a bonus room. \$174,000. Call 254-947-8851.



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.

Mike and Rita Oden
(254) 718-9814



Uniquely Europe, a new shop located on Rock Creek Drive, next to Charlotte's, held its official Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting ceremony July 24. Owned by Jan Scurlock (at center, holding scissors), Uniquely Europe features authentic giftware from Germany, Turkey and the Czech Republic, among others. (PHOTO BY CHRIS MCGREGOR)



Confetti Rentals, located inside Salado Wedding Wishes, on Royal St., officially cut the ribbon Sept. 12, thereby becoming members of the Salado Chamber of Commerce. Owner Chris Cowan is pictured at center, with scissors, amidst Chamber members and well-wishers. Confetti Rentals offers special occasion rentals from gazebos and fountains, to plateware and accessories. (PHOTO BY CHRIS MCGREGOR)

Shepherd's Glen




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New businesses in 2003



Mary Kite, of Village Realty is pictured (with scissors) along with friends and family at the ribbon cutting ceremony marking her induction into the Salado Chamber of Commerce. The Village Realty team also consists of Leta Stokes (center). Village Realty is located at 401 N. Main. They can be reached at 947-0342.
(PHOTO BY MARILYN FLEISCHER)



The Salado Chamber of Commerce held one of two ribbon cutting ceremonies the morning of Nov. 14. Pictured above is attorney Rick Akins, at center holding scissors, outside his office at Carriage Place Square.
(PHOTOS BY CHRIS MCGREGOR)

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Bringing Home Buyers to Salado



1316 Morgan Dr. • Temple

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109 West Creek Dr.

Lovely split 4 BR home in an ideal location near schools. This home has vaulted ceilings, hardwood and tile floors, new carpet and paint, like new! Ready to move in. Oversized deck with winding pathway overlooking wet weather creek and huge live oaks.



910 Lazy Oak

Reduced - Atmosphere of beauty and tranquility. A great blend of classical and contemporary elements. Wooded and landscaped. 3 bedroom, 3 baths, study, huge living area. **\$333,300.**

Charming home in the country. Living/dining area, 3 BR/2 BA, 2 car garage. Wonderful covered front porch runs full length of home plus covered back porch. Situated on 4.59 acres. 7205 Elm Grove, Belton. **\$167,500.**

Unique Home in Mill Creek. 2 BR/2 BA, formal dining room, 2 large living areas, lots of windows w/views of wooded lot. Approximately 2,694 square feet. 1303 Old Mill Road. **\$169,900.**

Lots

Near Historic District: One of the few lots left close in, trees, much desired location, 110 Royal View. **\$45,000.**

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



3901 Chisholm Trail #5 & #6

Two lovely adjoining townhouses in Mill Creek. Close to the golf course with great view. Each has 3 BR, 2 BA, stone WBFP, two car garage. Live in one and lease the other. Chisholm Ridge Townhouse Association maintains the landscaping. Exterior painted this year. Price reduced to close by January '04.

Home for the
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The second ribbon cutting of Nov. 14 was The Glass House, located on Rock Creek. The Glass House is owned by Angela Smith, pictured above.

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Century 21
Bill Bartlett

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A family tennis festival was held Oct. 19 sponsored by Stagecoach Inn/Mill Creek, USTA tennis and Salado ISD, for the rededication/ribbon cutting of the newly resurfaced tennis courts in Salado. Tennis activities included games for all levels as well as prizes and USTA t-shirts for all participants. Resurfacing of the courts was completed this month through the combined efforts of grants written by Debbie Dixon, and support from Stagecoach Inn/Mill Creek and Salado ISD. If you are interested in tennis in Salado or would like to form a community tennis association, contact Melissa Hyer at (254) 947-6900, ext. 2075.

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Ladies Auxiliary-Who are those ladies?

The Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary is the largest women-based group in Salado, with 185 members. Together, they help to make the Village of Salado a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

The Ladies Auxiliary offers support services to the Chamber of Commerce in all of its projects as well as having their own agenda. The group has many educational and entertaining meetings including lunch out, book reviews, cooking demonstrations, quilt raffle, Christmas in October, and helping with the Empty Bowl Project.

They work to raise funds for the Salado Volunteer Fire Department and other community proj-

ects including the Salado Civic Center, Salado Community Chorus, Salado Cemetery Association, Project Graduation, Tablerock Amphitheater, PALS, and the Living Room Theater.

The Auxiliary's main fundraiser is Christmas in October.

The Ladies Auxiliary meets at the Civic Center

Retired Officers' Wives Club to meet Jan. 14

The Retired Officers' Wives Club will hold a luncheon Jan. 14, at the Ft. Hood Officer's Club with check-in beginning at 11:30 a.m. and lunch served at noon.

General Dave Palmer will speak on Military History. Reservations are due

on the second Thursday of each month with a social hour and coffee at 9:30 a.m. The business meeting and program begin at 10 a.m.

Membership dues are \$10 a year.

For more information on the Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary call (254) 947-5040.

no later than Jan. 8, and can be made by calling:

Sylvia Van Doren at 254-634-1964, Jacque Bergstrom at 254-698-1739, or Mary Scharth at 254-771-1667.

Permanent reservation list will be in effect for this event.

Tree Varieties for Central Texas

Previous articles in this series discussed the advantages of planting trees in the home landscape and the benefits derived from trees. The second article discussed how to properly plant your selected trees and how to water new transplants. This article will give the reader suggestions on which trees to select for our Central Texas area.

We have challenging soil and climate conditions. Planting trees that are adapted to this area will increase your success and give you many years of pleasure. Space limitations make the list incomplete and a full description is not possible here, but there are many books and other resources available in the community.

Here are suggestions for the reader to consider when choosing trees for your landscape. Some of the varieties listed are better adapted than others for this area. As always consult with your local nurseryman to ensure the variety that you select will fill the spot in your landscape just the way you want it to.

Master Gardening

by Deeborah Martin

Best Shade Trees

- Bur Oak
- Chinquapin Oak
- Escarpment Live Oak

- Texas Red Oak
- Cedar Elm
- Shumard Oak
- Montezuma Cypress
- Lacey Oak
- Bigtooth Maple

Other Shade Trees

- Pecan
- Hackberry
- Texas Ash
- Anagua
- Chinese Parasol Tree
- American Smoke Tree
- Ginkgo
- Sweetgum
- Bald Cypress
- Fruitless Mulberry
- Bradford Pear
- Chinese Pistache
- American Sycamore
- Escarpment Black
- Cherry Roughleaf
- Dogwood

Trees for Unusual Bloom or Fruit

- Texas Mountain Laurel
- Crepe Myrtle
- Desert Willow
- Hawthorn

- Red Bud
- Yaupon Holly
- Mexican Persimmon
- Flowering Senna
- Texas Palo Verde
- Mexican Plum
- Mexican Buckeye
- Jujube
- Retama
- Possumhaw Holly
- Eve's Necklace
- Goldenball Leadtree

Trees For Colorful Foliage

- Aristocrat Pear
- Soapberry
- Bigtooth Maple
- Flameleaf Sumac
- Spanish Oak
- Chinese Pistache
- Bradford Pear
- Carolina Buckthorn
- Pomegranate

Conifers

- Arizona Cypress
- Bald Cypress
- Montezuma Cypress
- Pinyon Pine

Smaller Trees for Small Areas

- Texas Persimmon
- Texas Redbud
- Mexican Plum
- Southern Wax myrtle
- Vitex

- Mexican Buckeye
- Crepe Myrtle
- Texas Mountain Laurel
- Carolina Buckthorn
- Texas Madrone

Some of the trees on this list require soil modifications or must be protected from freezing temperatures in winter. Some do better with little water and some need moist soil. Any interest in a particular variety should be accompanied by as much information as possible to ensure success in your landscape.

Please contact your county extension agent or the many books and pamphlets available. A wealth of excellent information may be obtained at the Texas A&M website <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>.

Availability of some unusual trees may be limited. In any case be sure to obtain your trees from a reputable company. Plant them with attention to their needs for light and room for their mature size and you will have years of pleasure in beautiful trees in your landscape.



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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New insurance laws taking effect

New insurance legislation affecting the use of credit scores, water damage claims and the regulation of public adjusters is being put into place for 2004.

Beginning Jan. 1, legislation found in SB 14 allows consumers to avoid negative credit scores by notifying their insurance company of catastrophic events in their lives. Consumers must write to their insurer notifying them of a serious illness or injury, a death of a spouse, child, or parent, or temporary loss of employment, by divorce or by identity theft. In each case, insurers may consider only credit information not affected by the event or assign the policyholder a neutral credit score.

SB 14 also prohibits insurance companies from denying, canceling or nonrenewing a residential or auto insurance policy solely on the basis of credit scoring.

Public adjusters will need a state-issued license to conduct business beginning next year.

Public adjusters act on behalf of an insured in negotiating the settlement of a claim, with their payment a percentage of that claim.

SB 127 requires public adjusters to successfully pass an examination, comply with financial responsibility requirements and provide fingerprints to the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) to become fully licensed.

TDI will be responsible for investigating any complaints or violations involving public adjusters. The legislation also capped the commission fee of public adjusters at 10 percent for any insurance claim settlement.

SB 127 places restrictions on the use of claims history for water damage.

The law says homeowners cannot be charged higher rates or be nonrenewed if they have had less than three appliance-related water claims within a three-year period and have had the damage properly repaired and inspected.

Beginning April 1, mold remediators, who

perform mold-related activities affecting indoor air quality, will be required to take a state-wide examination, register and obtain a license from the Texas Department of Health (TDH). HB 329 calls for TDH to investigate any complaints regarding mold remediators and mold-related activities.

Many other provisions of SB 14, which carried most of the major insurance reform legislation, will become effective Dec. 1, 2004. Those provisions include moving both residential homeowners and auto insurance from the benchmark rating system to a file and use system.

Real Estate Consulting

Have questions or problems regarding real estate?



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- Subdivision Developer
- Residential Home Builder
- Graduate Real Estate Institute
- 30 years real estate brokerage

Salado 254/947-5050

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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.

For Sale
Approximately 10 acres on Cedar Valley Road, lots of trees, gorgeous homesite, Salado ISD. Only \$7,500 per acre.

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Bell County

Central Texas Business Resource Center schedules course for January

The Central Texas Business Resource Center (the BRC) provides business counseling, training, and assistance to potential and existing small business owners. Each month the BRC offers or sponsors classes and special events for the small business community, ranging from cost-free to \$25.

The BRC's January class and event schedule follows.

Jan. 6: Being Your Own Boss – course discusses the fundamentals of starting your own business and how to prepare for self-employment. Time: 5:30

pm - 7 p.m. Location: Killeen Workforce Center, 300 Cheyenne, Room 102. Cost: \$25. Please RSVP at least one day in advance by calling 254-200-2001.

Jan. 13: Bankrolling Your Business – this free course covers information about funding sources available for businesses including grants, loans, and other sources, and how to qualify for funding. Time: 5:30p.m.- 7p.m. Location: Killeen Workforce Center, 300 Cheyenne, Room 102. Cost: FREE. Please RSVP at least one day in advance by calling 254-200-2001.

Jan. 20: Business Plan Boot Camp – This series of four courses covers a thorough overview of developing a well-written business plan, with a Q&A session. Business Plan Basics, Writing a Successful Business Plan, Techniques for Promoting Your Business, and Understanding Financial Reports. Time: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Location: Killeen Workforce Center, 300 Cheyenne, Room 102. Cost: \$75 per person payable in advance. RSVP at least one day in advance by calling 254-200-2001.

Jan. 27: Expanding Your Business Using Online Auctions – This course instructs specifics about how to expand your markets and increase profits using "eBay" Internet auction services. Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Cost: Free

For more information call 254-200-2001 or contact the Business Resource Center at brc@workforcelink.com. Central Texas Business Resource Center is located at the Central Texas Workforce Center, 300 Cheyenne, Room 101, Killeen.

Keep your New Year's resolutions

BY LINDA FUCHS, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT - FCS

Happy New Year! Perhaps you realize now that you may have over-indulged in eating your weight in chocolate during

the holidays, or over-extending your budget with gift giving. Now that Christmas is over you just might recognize that although preparing for Christmas was a joyous occasion that it was also a stressful one.

As this year comes to an end, you have the opportunity to set new goals and make changes for self improvement. After all, that is what the New Year is all about. It is a sense of renewal and rebirth. Determine what your values are. What are the truly important things in life for you?

Many New Year's resolutions are made each year. Some keep their resolutions and others fail to keep them and finally decide just not to make them any more because they are not committed

to making behavioral changes.

Some of the more popular New Year's resolutions include: promising to lose weight, eat healthier, exercise more, start saving money, get more organized, and have more time for family.

If you would like to achieve any of these admirable goals, contact your local county Extension office. We provide education in areas that are important to the quality of life for children and adults, individuals and families such as: Food preparation, food safety and nutrition; Financial management; Healthy lifestyles; Parenting skills; Time management; and much more!

Several exciting programs which are going to be implemented by

Texas Cooperative Extension in Bell County this year include:

Walk Across Texas, a program to help get started and establish a habit of regular exercise. Walk Across Texas uses friendly competition and group support to help people not only start exercising regularly, but also to continue long after the eight week program is over.

FRED, a four week program designed to encourage fathers to read to their children on a daily basis. This program promises positive parent-child interaction.

Better Living for Texas, this program provides education to food stamp recipients and other limited resource audiences to teach knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavior necessary to maximize resources, consume nutritionally sound diets, adopt safe food handling practices, and improve food security status.

For more information about any of these programs and how you can be involved, call the Family Consumer Sciences Extension agent in Bell County at 254-933-5305.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

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 Any size lawn and tractor mowing.

17 years experience in this area.

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Happy New Year!

Another happy holiday season is upon us and the time is right for reflecting on the past year and looking ahead to an even brighter year.



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Properties By Larry Sands

"Our Star Properties This Week"




A Lot full of trees! Just listed this brick traditional 3 BR/2 BA with a huge SLA w/fireplace for those cool fall evenings!! Sit outside on the nice wood deck under the shade when springtime returns!! Great privacy fenced yard w/trees galore!! Under \$150,000.

A GREAT LOCATION, spacious 2 BR/2-1/2 BA with BRIGHT white kitchen!! LIGHT galore with 2 skylights & lots of windows that view #3 fairway on Mill Creek #1. Great closets & huge garage. Only \$149,950. Call Jan Hallmark, TODAY!

Properties By Larry Sands
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For more information on these or more of our STAR properties, please call us or visit our web site.

www.saladoproperties.com

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Yard Maintenance: Mow, weed eat, trim. 947-1356, 721-4699 Popeye or 913-4692 Herbie. TFNB

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

Coastal Hay & Baling 939-7844 760-3286 tfnb

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

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

J.R.'s Small Engine Repair 518 N. Robertson Rd. used push and riding lawn mowers for sale. 254-947-8979 tfnb

Gene's Tractor Service, Spread dirt, tills gardens, lots cuts grass on lots or acreage 947-5516 760-8949.tfnb

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

12' x 36' covered RV parking spaces with electrical hookup. Security lighting and fenced. 24 hour access with personal gate code. On site manager during regular business hours. Conveniently located on Interstate Highway 35 just 5 miles north of Salado. Only four spaces remaining. Call 254-939-5355. 91/10b

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

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

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

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Services



boxes, and retainer walls. Anywhere in Texas. (512) 446-0439 B9/25/04

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

Room Additions - Have your new room addition constructed by the experts. 21 yrs. experience. Sweezy Homes. Call for quote (254) 291-8888.

Housekeeping



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

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

Basic Things house cleaning service. Let me clean the dirt gorilla out of your house. Bonded. Doug Tobin 254-541-1395 tfnb

Need your house cleaned? Call Blanca and Griselda, the sisters will clean at an affordable price and convenient time. (512) 818-1897 or (254) 913-1649.

For Sale



Jewelry/Display counter for sale; white/glass, \$250. Greeting card racks, \$50. Southern Comforts, (254) 947-0595.

Full Orthopedic mattress set. New still packaged. Can deliver. Warranty. \$100 (254) 662-6769.

King - Brand new orthopedic mattress set, \$189. Can deliver. Warranty. (254) 662-6769.

Bed \$299. New king doubled sized pillowtop mattress set, with warranty in plastic. Can deliver. (254) 662-6769.

\$125 Queen orthopedic mattress set. Can deliver. New with warranty. (254) 662-6769.

Bed \$199. New queen pillowtop mattress set, with warranty in plastic. Can deliver. (254) 662-6769.

Estate sale items: upholstered couch, various crystal pieces, silverplate tableware, end tables and more. Call 947-1131 or 718-1585.

Firewood for sale at Salado Hardware. By the stack, bundle and halfcord delivered in

For Sale



Salado area. \$100. (254) 947-8979 or (254) 289-3669.

Hunter green leather sofa and recliner. 3 yrs old. \$750. (254)

Employment



Accountant

Bartlett Electric Cooperative is accepting applications for the position of Accountant. Job functions include the preparation of monthly operating reports, investments, and other related financial activities of the Cooperative.

A degree in accounting and two years related experience is preferred. Bartlett Electric Cooperative provides electric service to members in Bell, Williamson, Milam, and Burleson counties. The Cooperative offers an excellent NRECA benefits package. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Applications must be received on or before January 12, 2004. EOE.

Bartlett Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 200, Bartlett, TX 76511, (254) 527-3551, aboliver@bartlettec.coop

Employment



Full Time Dairy Position. 200-cow dairy, parlor milking. Dairy experience not required. References required, wages negotiable, \$200 in relocation expenses along with housing and utilities provided. Floyd Swier Dairy, Ramona, SD (605) 482-8117.

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

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

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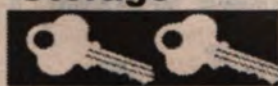
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Central Texas Council of Governments

Position Announcement

Director, Planning and Regional Services Division

Overview

The Central Texas Council of Governments is seeking a proven leader for the position of Director of the Planning and Regional Services Division.

Background

The Central Texas Council of Governments is a seven county regional planning organization based in Belton, Texas. The organization was founded in 1968 and currently employs staff of over 120 professionals managing a budget of over 35 million dollars annually.

The successful applicant will lead a dynamic professional staff and manage a budget of several million dollars. The division operates a wide range of programs in the broad areas of physical planning, environmental planning, emergency management, geographic information systems, and transportation planning.

Required Professional Background

Bachelors degree required, planning certification preferred. Experience in managing a multidisciplinary staff a must. Individual must be a self-starter with the ability to work with limited guidance and oversight.

Compensation Package

Salary will be commensurate with the successful applicants' level of experience. A comprehensive benefits and retirement program is provided.

Selection Process

Resumes should be submitted to:

CTCOG
Attention: Jim Reed, Executive Director
P.O. Box 729
Belton, Texas 76513

Position open until the best applicant is selected.

CTCOG is an equal opportunity employer.

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Homes For Sale



If you enjoy country living...this home is for you! 2-story country style home with nice front porch, on 3.5 acres. Outstanding craftsmanship, utilizing 100-year old wood in interior stairs, walls and wainscot. Huge, comfortable den. 36x40 shop, plus more! \$209,800. Call Century 21-Bill Bartlett, 254-947-5050.

The most beautiful 15 acre tract available in Salado with all kinds of possibilities! A 2336 SF home with 3BR/2BA, loft and game room. Exposed beams and Franklin stove give this home a lodge feel. Also, 960 SF barn with an additional 320 SF heated and cooled guest area, a 1950 SF RV garage, a tractor barn, sheds and more. City water plus a well. Private location. \$349,800. Call Century 21-Bill Bartlett at (254) 947-5050.

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

Exquisite 4/3/2 on .868 acre lot in one of Salado's choice subdivisions. Formal and informals living and dining areas beautiful view, custom landscaping, green house, garden room hot tub, etc. \$337,000 Call First Texas Brokerage 254-947-5577

New home under construction on the golf course overlooking Salado Creek. Absolutely beautiful view. Ten to 14 foot ceilings throughout the home. Priced at \$310,000 Call First Texas Brokerage 947-5577 tfn

A beautiful hill top 3/2 home, manicured lawn overlooking 3 acre lake on 13.42 acres. Numerous windows and huge covered deck, outstanding views. Foliage and trees enhance the beauty of the home supplying shade from the hot summer sun \$399,000 Call First Texas Brokerage 254-947-5577 tfn

Early 1900's classic home totally renovated 2/1 living with fireplace,

Homes For Sale



formal, dining, sunroom, 10 ft. ceilings, wood floors, metal roof W/D connections. 309 Josephine, Holland, \$95,000 254-541-8747 tfn

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

2/2/1 Townhome in Salado. Washer/dryer connections inside, 6 closets, close to shopping. \$87,500. (254) 338-5083. TFNB


Mill Creek. PRICE REDUCED! 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2 car + golf cart garage. Plantation shutters throughout and butlers pantry, fully landscaped, sprinkler system. 3812 Chisholm Tr. \$249,000. (254) 947-8346. Call for Appt.

Convenient Mill Creek location. 3BD/2.5BA, 2 living, 2 dining. Fenced yard, spacious deck, great tree covered lot, golf cart garage. 1208 Old Mill Rd. (254) 947-0579.

Like new - 4BD/2BA, 2,000 sq. ft. double wide on one acre next to large ranch. Salado schools. 254-947-5697.

For Sale - pick up payments of \$308/mo. 1997 mobile home. 15x56 Sonoma by Clayton. (254) 634-2100 or (254) 289-2496. Credit check. Appliances included. Salado area.

Rent or Lease

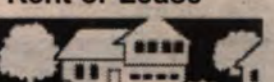


This beautiful home features a lg. family room w/ fireplace, covered porch, sprinkler system, fenced yard, and too many extras to mention. The owner provides professional lawn maintenance and outside water. It is located close to the golf course and shopping. No pets accepted. Call John Reider Properties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

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

Rent or Lease



2-car garage and room for golf cart. \$1,250/month. Call Larry Sands (254) 947-5580.

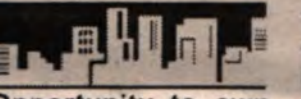
Duplex for lease, 2BD/2BA, 1,100 sq. ft. \$700 per mo. plus deposit, yard maintained and watered. (254) 718-0411

Salado, Lease/Purchase, doublewide, 1,800 sq. ft., excellent condition. \$700 per month, \$300 deposit. (254) 913-7102.

Available Jan. 5! 1,000 sq. ft. 2BD/2BA duplex, privacy fence, 1 car garage, water paid. 152A Satch Dr. 12 Month Lease, \$795 per month. Call (254) 848-4181 or (254) 289-9536.

For Rent: 3BD/2BA, 2 living, 1.5 acres in Live Oak Estates, Salado. 30x50 shop with electricity. \$900/month, \$850 security deposit. Pet allowed with \$300 pet deposit. Call Century 21-Bill Bartlett at (254) 947-5050.

Commercial Rental




Opportunity to own Main St. property in Salado. Established business is creating space for a new business to flourish with Main St. exposure. 2090 SF of retail space. Perfect for a new business to reduce cost of ownership & still have established business next door to promote pedestrian traffic. \$224,500 Call C-21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050 tnf

Office or retail space on Main Street, Salado. (254) 947-5933 TFNB

Commercial Space Wanted to Lease: 500-1,000 Sq. Ft. Retail Space on Main St. 800-670-3534.

Land for Sale



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

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

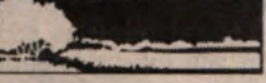
Wonderful homesites! Reduced Price! 19.59 Acres with large oak trees, good water well and horse barn. \$180,000. Call Rodney at the Charter Group 778-6675 tfn

End of Cul-De-Sac 3.2 ac \$43,900 Beautiful tract w large trees near historic Salado. Cul-de-sac backs up to large ranch. County rds, electric telephone, more. Only \$43,900! Call 1-254-947-5901 ext 849

30-360 acres, 15 mi. N. of Georgetown, 6 mi. S. of Salado. Beautiful land, well located, owner finance. Some restrictions. Call Bill at Century 21-Bill Bartlett, (254) 947-5050 or 800-352-1183. TFNB

Texas Veterans Land from \$162 per mo. Own beautiful 2 to 5 acre country properties in a prime location near historic Salado. Huge oak trees and great soil. Privacy galore! Price: \$26,900, 5% down, bal fin 30 yrs @ 6.5% fixed, WAC. Call now for details 888-973-5263, x. 954, hiddenspringstx.com.

Land for Sale



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

CLASSIFIED AD FORM
Classified ads cost \$2 for the first 10 words and 10 cents for each word that follows. Classifieds running 1 time are prepaid, monthly billing can be arranged for long term.

Name: _____
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Century 21 Bill Bartlett

860 N. Main St.
Salado, TX 76571

(254) 947-5050 (800) 352-1183

www.C21bb.com

Salado's Home Team

Rita Oden	718-7956
Sue Ellen Slagel	760-3226
Ann Carroll	760-0101
Melanie Kirchmeier	760-5855



Best wishes for a Happy New Year!



\$224,900 - "Like-new" home overlooking Mill Creek Golf Course. Check out the heated/cooled office located inside the garage. Enjoy the view from the enclosed screened porch. This home is a "must see".



\$241,800 - Synergy Builders has done a magnificent job with the landscaping of this new home. They added brightness to the spacious kitchen with a skylight. Room for your golf cart, granite counter tops, tons of crown molding, full sprinkler system.



\$189,000 - Wonderful oak trees shade a fully landscaped yard in the heart of Mill Creek. This home has a magnificent sun room that overlooks a lush yard. Welcoming courtyard enhances the front walkway. Large living room accommodates two sitting areas. Master BR has a view of a wooded back yard.



\$324,900 - Another custom home by Westerfield Homes. Walk into elegance with wood flooring throughout breakfast, kitchen, living room, dining room, entry & study. Double crown molding in main living areas and beautiful custom cabinets in kitchen. Granite kitchen countertops provide an inviting atmosphere for entertaining friends. Spacious front porch overlooks Mill Creek golf course. This home is positioned on a corner lot to enhance privacy.



\$194,500 - Work out of your home or need additional space for a relative? This home may be for you. Only a few minutes from downtown Salado. Three or four BR home with two living areas & two dining rooms. A separate building close to the main home could be used as an apartment, office or mother-in-law suite. Four car carport, two storage buildings make this home versatile for many uses. Master BR downstairs with two bedrooms, one bath and game room upstairs.



\$349,800 - The most beautiful 15 acre tract available in Salado with all kinds of possibilities! A 2,336 SF home with 3 BR, 2 BA, gameroom and loft room. Exposed beams and Franklin stove give this home a lodge feel. Also, 960 SF barn with an additional 320 SF heated & cooled guest area, a 1950 SF RV garage, a tractor barn, sheds and more. City water plus a well. Private location.



\$259,500 - This beautiful home sits on Salado Creek and Mill Creek Golf Course #13 Green. Features include wood floor entry, built-in entertainment center, study with built-in cabinets, bright kitchen with see-through white cabinets, oversized garage, speaker system wired, including deck area.



\$131,800 - Jimmy Wilson Homes presents this new home in Salado Prairies with split BR's, breakfast room & breakfast bar, formal dining room & large family room.



\$106,800 - Clean, light & bright! Very well maintained home only 6 years old. The owners upgraded the home thinking they would be there forever. Security system, sprinkler system, water softener, fenced back yard, gutters all around, shed and more.

Residential

- \$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.
- \$124,900 - New construction on W. Amity. 3 BR/2 BA.
- \$128,800 - Jimmy Wilson home on 1 acre, covered patio.
- \$131,800 - New mid-size home, great finishing touches.
- \$139,900 - Mobile home & barn on 10 acres. Beautiful trees.
- \$189,000 - Courtyard enhances the front walkway, lush yard.
- \$194,500 - 3 or 4 BR, apartment/office. 4 car carport.
- \$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. - SOLD.
- \$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.
- \$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 - SOLD.

Lots

- Mill Creek Lots**
- 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 - 7.65 acres between Belton - Salado with offices, metal buildings & mini storage.

FIRST TEXAS

RESIDENTIAL ★ FARM & RANCH ★ COMMERCIAL

WWW.SALADO.NET

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 2 acre. Lots of privacy! Priced at **\$159,900.**



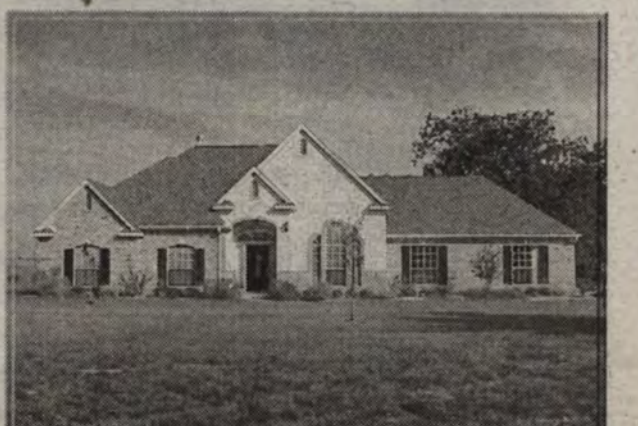
Beautiful lot in Southlake Harbor subdivision near Lake Belton. Gated community close to Belton schools **\$65,000.**



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. **\$99,000.**

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.**