

Village Voice

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Primary vote set March 7

Primary Election voting will be 7 a.m.-7 p.m. March 7 at the Church of Christ Activities Center, at the corner of Blacksmith Rd. and Church Street, off of Main Street in Salado.

Voters will be casting their ballots using the Helping Americans Vote Act (HAVA) Compliant Auto Marker Machines and the votes will be counted with the M100 Precinct Counter.

The Precinct Conventions will start at 7:30 p.m. March 7 at the Church of Christ Activities Center, after the polls have closed.

Thus far in early voting, 2,649 have cast ballots in the primary elections, with 2,170 voting in the Republican primary thus far and 479 voting in the Democrat primary.



Taste of Salado

The Public Arts League of Salado (PALS) played host to its annual Taste of Salado at Tenroc Ranch's Blue Heron Event Center. Above, Jody and Juanita Arnold of Sweet Smells of Salado serve delightful dessert to Ron Harrison. At right, Harold and Jean Teal, of Salado, mark down their bid on a state flag that was flown over the state capitol building during the Silent Auction. The Fourth Annual Taste of Salado was a fund-raiser for PALS, which includes the placement of the Troll and Billy Goat Gruff at the walking bridge among its major projects.

(PHOTOS BY MARILYN FLEISCHER)



Filing underway for local races

The filing period for local races, including school board, library board and board of aldermen, has begun and will continue until March 13.

Jeff Kelley and Miriam Ervi have filed for re-election to the Salado I.S.D. board of trustees.

No candidates have filed for election to two seats on the Village Board of Aldermen, although Michael Cooper stated that he would seek re-election as aldermen. Two seats on the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor come up for election this spring. Mayor Rick Ashe said that he will file for re-election. Suzi Epps said she will file for re-election to her position on the board of aldermen.

Three two-year terms on the Salado Public Library Board of Directors will be elected this spring. They are currently filled by Connie Cryar, Hulda Horton and Ben Willingham. Cryar

has stated that she does not intend to run for re-election to the board.

Applications to file for election to the three boards can be picked up from the Salado I.S.D. Central Office, the Village of Salado Municipal Building and the Salado Library for their respective governing boards.

The school district will be closed for Spring Break on March 13, the last day to file, so applications for SISD board of trustees may be picked and/or filed that day only (March 13) at the Civic Center office or the Salado Chamber of Commerce office.

Anyone who is interested in running for the school board either this year or in the future, may wish to attend an informational session 6-7 p.m. March 2 at the Salado Civic Center.

The session will be led by Salado I.S.D. Sup. Robin Battershell.

Local Lions Club is 'flipping out'

Salado Lions will host its first annual Pancake Breakfast 7:30-10:30 a.m. March 4 at the Church of Christ Activity Center on Church Street.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12 with all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage.

You can buy your tickets at the door. If you want to buy your tickets in advance, contact Don Clapp, 947-7175; Claire Hartman, 931-0586 or Hulda Horton at the Salado Civic Center at 947-8300. Tickets can also be purchased at First Community Title at 40 N. Main St. Salado.

Proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast will be used to purchase eye glasses for Salado are children and to support the Texas Lions Camp.

Texas Lions Camp is a 400 bed, residential camping facility for children with physical handicaps, type 1 diabetes and cancer. The Camp is located on over 500 acres in the Texas Hill country, and is designed to introduce the "Can Do" philosophy to children dealing with special medical conditions.

Children with special needs from all over the State of Texas are invited to attend one of nine weeks, which Lions hope will become one of their life-long childhood memories. A week designed for fun, exploration and challenge.

\$16.4 mil approved for rest areas

The Texas Transportation Commission, at its February meeting, approved the \$16.4 million construction contract for Mitchell Enterprises, LTD of Sherman, TX, to perform the work.

"My legislative priority for more than a decade has been the expansion of IH-35," said State Rep. Dianne White Delisi of Temple. "This project is one more step in the ongoing process to upgrade IH-35

through Central Texas to three lanes on either side with continuous one-way frontage roads. It moves us closer to achieving the transportation capacity we need and is welcome news."

These new facilities will borrow architectural forms and elements from the area's early, unique establishments.

In the case of these two southern Bell County rest areas, an Old Grist Mill

theme will be incorporated into the design.

The design incorporates representations of the historical and cultural significance of the area.

Each safety stop area will be climate controlled, offer 24 hour on-site security, security surveillance cameras, extensive travel information, wireless Internet access, native landscaping, picnic benches, lighted parking for trucks and RV's separate from

passenger vehicles, and many other features.

The project will require approximately 40-50 acres of land on each side of Interstate 35.

"The project is an example of TxDOT's commitment to maintain I-35 and improve the safety and comfort of travelers. I-35 will continue to be a vital travelway in Texas, even as parallel corridors are developed," Kenneth Roberts of TxDOT said.

Municipal building, court on agenda

Salado aldermen will discuss the Municipal Building and the Municipal Court during their 6:30 p.m. March 2 meeting at the Municipal Building at 317 Stagecoach Rd.

Alderman Merle Stalcup will report on the progress

of the renovation of the old Salado Funeral Home building for municipal uses. The Village purchased the building which is directly south of the current municipal building for additional space and offices.

The board will discuss a

municipal court prosecutor and the setup of a municipal court docket program during new business.

The board will also consider the burn ban executive order by Mayor Rick Ashe which remains in effect. The fine for violating the

burn ban is \$500.

In other business, Police Chief Alan Rogers will give his annual report on racial profiling, as required by law, in addition to discussing the emergency operations plan for the Village of Salado.



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Student Art exhibit at Civic Center

The Third Annual Salado Education Foundation Student Art Exhibit and Competition will be 10 a.m.-2 p.m. March 4 at the Salado Civic Center. The awards presentation will be at 1:30 p.m. at the Civic Center.

All interested parents, students, faculty, and community are welcome to attend.

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FORUM

An Open Exchange of Ideas



Mob theology

Christians have long wondered how to get due regard for their religious sensibilities from the arbiters of our culture. Now they know the answer: mayhem.

The riots and protests around the Islamic world and in Muslim communities in the West regarding a dozen cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad published in a Danish newspaper have fostered a newfound sensitivity to religious offense in the more secular precincts of the West. The New York Times -- the most important liberal organ in the country -- chastised the Danish cartoonists and refused to reproduce the cartoons, instead bizarrely illustrating the controversy with a photo of a painting of the Virgin Mary festooned with elephant dung from a long-ago dispute at a Brooklyn museum.

The Times' disdain for the cartoons is a departure. What happened to art for art's sake? When was the last time the Times criticized any piece of art, no matter how jejune, outrageous or stupid? And what happened to shocking the bourgeoisie? Well, they are much more enjoyable to shock than Islamists because, once duly shocked, the bourgeoisie pack the kids into a minivan and head to a soccer game, rather than issue death threats and burn down embassies. Fear stalks the cartoon debate. Understandably. Few editors want to potentially endanger their employees by reprinting the cartoons. The comedian Sarah Silverman has a riff in her offensively titled concert movie, "Jesus Is Magic," in which she explains that she feels freest to insult groups that she's not afraid of. So she lets loose on Asian-Americans, assuming they won't threaten her. This logic is also why she would never title her film "Muhammad Is Magic," and is clearly at play in the cartoon debate.

It helps account for the bend-over-

Rich Lowry



backward attitude toward Islam from people who would never adopt the same posture toward Christianity. In this, they do no favors to Islam. The cartoon riots are a power play. They are an attempt to set limits on free speech in the West, and to give an advantage to those forces of backwardness -- both religious and secular -- that are resisting the modernization of the Middle East. It is notable that Ayatollah Sistani, the pro-democracy cleric in Iraq, denounced the cartoons, but reserved his harshest language for the Islamist provocateurs who are opportunistically fomenting violence over them.

Thuggish intimidation has often been a weapon in the battle of ideas. Christian bishops were known to use rampaging crowds of monks to buttress their doctrinal positions in what historian Paul Johnson calls "mob theology." He writes, "A fanatical religious mob could be used to blackmail a council of frightened ecclesiastics or even to overturn an imperial decision which impinged on Church affairs." Of course, that was 1,500 years ago.

No one has reason to fear organized mayhem from Christians anymore, thank God. The clash between civilizations and, more importantly, within Islamic civilization exemplified by the cartoon controversy is over whether the day will come when we don't have to fear it from Muslims either.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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"Secret" seaport deal uproar cooling after terror-nerves erupted from the White House to Congress to Main Street.

Not wanting to be accused of "piling on" the President, or his corps of furtive types both in and around the White House, this week's column will be directed towards a review of, and questions about, what has thus far emerged concerning the "explosive" contract between the United States and Dubai Ports World corporation. A company owned by the United Arab Emirates.

Thankfully, after nearly a week of firing hot-air-seeking political and legislative rockets, congressional leaders and the White House began cooling the rhetoric. Perhaps, thought rather than emotion, will now be used to resolve this "contract event" that's troubling not only the "powerful" in D.C. but the rest of us out here in the hustings.

Starting, we hope, with a workable prescription to correct an otherwise out-of-sync "balance of power" between the executive and legislative branches - that created this "international" car-wreck in the first place.

PORT CONTRACT

Last week's news, that a UAE controlled company was granted a federal contract to operate six major seaports on our east and gulf coasts, triggered a congressional explosion of fear and consternation, that such a thing could happen in the midst of our nation's number one public anxiety - "terrorism and terroristic attacks" - primarily from enemies in the Muslim world.

The company - Dubai Ports World, was approved as the principal operator of ports in New York, Newark, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Miami and New Orleans.

Republicans led the charge as they decried the administration's willingness to contract "port operations" with a sovereign Arab nation (with a questionable past). These GOPers blamed the President and promised quick legislative action to kill the deal with the UAE. Bush retaliated with an even testier response that ended with a veto threat against any such law.

FOREIGN CONTROLLED PORTS

We have since learned (to our amazement) that most of the major seaports in this country are operated by foreign companies and/or nations.

It was further discovered that contracts between these companies and the U.S. are reviewed and approved by a little known group of cabinet officials - appointed by the President and naturally all marching to the same "classified info-only policy" orchestrated by the White House.

The panel - "Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States," meets without public notice. It's headed by Treasury Secretary John Snow and includes top level assistants from the Departments of Defense, Justice, Commerce, State, Treasury and Homeland Security.

CONTRACT ON HOLD

After three days of angry huffing and puffing by Republican lawmakers and the President - things simmered down (a bit). Bush's fireman-in-chief Karl Rove, said that a delay in starting the \$6.8 billion contract would be acceptable. **Dubai Ports World agreed to a "fuzzy" 45 day implementation interval so Congress and the Administration can re-examine the agreement.**

KICK THE SECRECY HABIT

For some time thoughtful folks have suggested that the Bush administration, with its penchant for secrecy, would be better served by bringing the legislative branch into the loop when matters,

Off the Record
by Ken Clapp



such as this Arab port operation contract, are under consideration.

Fact is - the trio-of-taciturnity (Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld) have been bushwhacked time and again because of their unwillingness to let Congress and the public know what they're up to.

These guys need to accept the concept of our "check and balance" system, or face the consequences of a revolting public that will eventually turn them out of office.

QUESTIONS ARISE

This brief backgrounder leads naturally into the arena of pertinent questions starting with the most obvious: **Why is it necessary to go overseas to find people or companies to handle such important tasks as operating our major seaports?** Are there no domestic companies capable of doing the job?

Next: How could a tiny, but all powerful (and very secretive) panel of administration officials, (aforementioned "Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States"), be given sole authority to decide which foreign country or company can buy or invest in American industry as they did with the Dubai Ports World deal?

Follow-up: Was this group authorized by Presidential fiat or congressional action, and what part does the President play in the approval process?

In any event, this "Committee" should be scrapped and all future operational contracts reviewed by an appropriate committee of Congress. And not in secret sessions, but open public hearings.

SEAPORT SECURITY

Finally - the question of seaport security. Every port, on both coasts, off-loads thousands of huge metal containers daily. These containers are inspected by the Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection agents.

However, manpower and equipment shortages allow only five percent to be thoroughly checked. The rest are transhipped or temporarily stored near the docks.

Think how easy it would be to insert nuclear devices in these containers? Unload them at the Port of New York and level a metropolitan area that includes millions of people?

The Bush team that's so hell-bent on secret operational contracts, might also want to keep in mind that the Port of Baltimore is just 39 miles from the District of Columbia.

COMMENTARY

This entire matter of security, control of seaports, and the overhanging threat of the most holocaustic disaster of all - a nuclear disintegration of a major U.S. city, is almost more than a person can handle mentally or emotionally.

But handle it we must. And begin with a complete examination of everything arriving in this nation either by container or otherwise. It'll take manpower and money. Both are valuable treasures, that might have to be brought back from overseas for use in our own country.

In addition, it's time for partisan bickering to end. Bush and his people, in concert with Congress, must stop trying to outfox each other and begin a genuine effort to resolve the very real problem of terrorism - instead of talking it to death.

And do it before a nuclear or biological catastrophe occurs.

That's -30-

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I am proud to be a Texan!

Capitol Comment



Kay Bailey Hutchison
U.S. Senator



I meet a lot of non-Texans who just do not fully appreciate what it means to be a Texan. I explain to them that Texas Pride is more than just a phrase. We are proud of our heritage because it reveals a lot about our character and vision. Our early fight for independence says something important about who we are today.

Texas's march toward freedom became an all-out stampede on March 2, 1836, with a declaration of independence from Mexico. Texas residents were no longer willing to live under Mexican rule, and they were determined to do whatever it took to establish self-governance.

A 54-member delegation signed the original declaration, including my great-great-grandfather - Charles S. Taylor. The signers of the Texas declaration, like those who signed the American Declaration of Independence in 1776, risked their lives and families when they took that bold step. Since Texas was Mexican territory, they were considered traitors, but the threat of death did not stop them because they were willing to pay any price for the freedom of Texas.

In the battle for independence, General Sam Houston and the Texas Revolutionary Army defeated Santa Anna and his Mexican forces in less than two months. While victory was achieved at the battle of San Jacinto, the siege of the Alamo was a defining moment for the spirit of Texas. Though the Texas army suffered a defeat in San Antonio, their courageous stand gave General Houston valuable time to marshal his forces at San Jacinto.

Colonel William Barret Travis commanded the badly outnumbered Texas forces, who fought valiantly until the bitter end against a Mexican army that outnumbered them at least 10-to-1. Despite overwhelming odds, Colonel Travis swore in a letter to the "People of Texas and All Americans in the World" that "I shall never surrender or retreat." He closed the letter with the promise, "I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country - victory or death." In the end, this heroic group of 189

Texans inflicted nearly 600 casualties on Santa Anna's Mexican forces. To this day, their valiant stand is a model for schoolchildren of how to remain brave in the face of adversity.

Word of the Alamo spread quickly throughout the state, rallying Texans behind the fight for independence. Just over six weeks later, the war was over, with Texas standing tall and victorious at the battle of San Jacinto - but not before another group of brave Texans gave their lives for the cause.

At the battle of Coleto, a group of Texas soldiers led by James W. Fannin were overwhelmed, and he surrendered his command to Mexican forces according to the customs of war. After his troops were disarmed and had peacefully entered Mexican custody, Santa Anna gave an order to execute them, and all 342 men were lost at Goliad.

This massacre only cemented the determination of Texans to not rest until victory was achieved. Anything less would dishonor the memory of the men who had already paid the ultimate price fighting for Texas. When General Houston's 900-member force overpowered Santa Anna and his 1,300-man army to end the war at San Jacinto, the soldiers cried "Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!" in the name of those who had fallen.

Today, Texans are still aware of the debt we owe to those who died in the fight for independence. Because of our gratitude for their sacrifice, we guard our freedoms fiercely.

Santa Anna's capture was met with calls for his execution in retribution for his heinous actions during the war. However, General Houston did not extract vengeance on his Mexican counterpart; instead he showed generosity after his great victory. Such magnanimity is also a trait that defines the Texan character.

For his leadership during the revolution, Sam Houston was elected as the first president of the Republic of Texas, and he established March 2 as Texas Independence Day in 1842 during his second term as president. As we celebrate our past, the legacies of revolutionaries such as Sam Houston and William Barret Travis continue to inspire Texans today, just as they did many years ago in the fight for

FORUM



Property tax buy-down is first step

By BYRON SCHLOMACH, Ph.D.

The Texas Supreme Court has ruled our school property tax system to be a constitutionally-prohibited statewide property tax.

The reasoning is as follows: a tax is local only if the state does not so completely dictate expenditures and limit local tax rates that a local entity cannot determine its own priorities, thereby having essentially no discretion to finance projects and purposes beyond the state's mandates.

Many districts are at or near the statutory maintenance and operations (M&O) rate cap, meaning they have no discretion to go beyond state mandates. That is the essential finding that caused the court to rule that we have a statewide property tax in the school M&O property tax, which is capped by the legislature at \$1.50 per \$100 property value.

It appears that until the legislature fulfills its responsibility to statutorily define what constitutes essential education, the court has determined

to view all spending as essential, thus creating the current crisis.

The real issue becomes how near school districts are, on average, to the \$1.50 cap. Currently, the weighted average rate is about \$1.45.

So there is only a five cent gap between the average school M&O property tax rate and the \$1.50 cap. Presumably, the state would no longer be in violation of the constitution's prohibition against a statewide property tax, according to the court, if the "rate-cap gap" were to increase.

There are three basic mathematical possibilities for growing the rate-cap gap (excluding options that force M&O rates to rise). These include: 1) increasing the cap to a rate greater than \$1.50; 2) buying down property tax rates, and 3) buying down rates and decreasing the cap but decreasing the cap less than the buy-down.

Whatever option is chosen to increase the rate-cap gap, this "fix" will only be temporary. At most, barring some kind of radical change in the court or other action by the legislature, a sizeable increase in the rate-cap gap might buy 10 years' respite before we once again have a de facto statewide property tax.

The reason for this is simple. History shows us that absent a revenue cap, school M&O property tax rates WILL rise. It is only a matter of time until they close the rate-cap gap enough to make it too small again.

The legislature can begin moving toward a permanent solution by using excess revenues to buy down the property tax. This is the first move toward putting a spending limit in place that caps

spending with growth in inflation and population. Beyond that, the legislature can fulfill its responsibility by defining the state's responsibility so clearly that the court can readily determine which expenditures are indeed a result of local discretion.

One reason the rate-cap gap will shrink due to rate increases lies with the Robin Hood school funding system, which is itself essentially a court mandate. Because the court has said there must be a (unspecified) measure of tax and expenditure equality in the schools, and because the property tax is the chosen local school tax base, the Robin Hood system is inevitable. It requires relatively wealthy districts to give money to relatively poor districts in addition to state aid, which automatically falls as property wealth increases. A cap is also necessary in order to avoid too great a degree of inequality.

Low-wealth districts are encouraged to increase rates due to state and wealthy district subsidies. High-wealth district administrations have an excuse to increase rates in the rake-off of local property tax funds that go to low-wealth districts.

The last time school M&O property tax rates were substantially reduced with a state buy-down was in 1997. Texas property taxpayers never saw any of the benefit because property tax rates almost immediately bounced back to where they were.

This time around, the legislature must do more to protect taxpayers.

Byron Schломach, Ph.D., is the chief economist at the Texas Public Policy Foundation (www.TexasPolicy.com), a non-partisan research institute based in Austin.

Microsoft plays China's game



Jim Hightower

Just a few weeks ago, Microsoft honcho Bill Gates was named "Man of the Year" by *Time* magazine, hailed for the humanitarian work he has done through his foundation. Good. But what about the anti-humanitarian work that Gates continues to do through his corporation?

Time didn't mention that Microsoft is a willing accomplice in the denial of human freedoms in China, and perhaps elsewhere. The Internet giant, eager to sell its products in China's burgeoning market of Web users, is ingratiating itself to that country's repressive rulers by cooperating in their repression - literally selling out Microsoft's own customers there!

Take the case of Mr. Zhao Jing. He's a well-known blogger and advocate of democratic freedoms in China. When the government recently fired the editor of a progressive newspaper, Zhao Jing loudly criticized the repression on his blog, which runs on a Microsoft system. Tyrants have little sense of humor about criticism, and China's rulers wanted this guy silenced, pronto. No problem - Microsoft did the dirty work for them, closing down the dissident's blog.

Gates's corporation also admits that its Internet system in China censors blogs, filtering out words that the government doesn't like, such as "democracy" and "human rights." Well, says the company, naturally we don't agree with them, but if we're to do business in China we have to comply with local laws.

Now that's a hoot! Giants like Microsoft don't comply with our own laws!

They either hire squads of lawyers to skirt the law of the land or hire skads of lobbyists to twist the laws to their liking. Also, China's rulers need Internet companies as much or more than the companies need China.

Tell Microsoft and Bill Gates to stop their cowardly and avaricious complicity in repression - and to start standing up for free expression everywhere.

About those math textbooks...

To the Editor:

Ref: Letter about not having math textbook. (SVV- Feb. 2)

The State has a textbook rotation and adoption cycle. Math books were up for new adoption three years ago. To date, the State has never released the funds. We have continued to use the old textbooks, but they are out-of-date, especially in light of the new TAKS test. Last year, we went on and purchased classroom sets out of local tax dollars, thinking that State funds would be released

Your Voice

Letters to the Editor

this year. They were not. We did not purchase a textbook for every student because we knew that anything we purchased may not appear on the future state adopted/approved textbook list.

We will be meeting with math teachers this spring to decide what to do for next year. We still have no word on whether or not math textbooks will

be up for adoption next year. In the meantime, we will be purchasing some math books for the high school library. These may be checked out by students to take home. This isn't ideal, but in light of the uncertainty regarding when math textbook adoption will occur, this will help.

Robin Battershell,
SISD Supt.

Put more into retirement in '06

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If you have a 401(k) plan, you've got a great way to save for retirement. And, as of the first of the year, your 401(k) got even better - because you can now contribute even more to it. The same is true of 457(b) plans (if you work for a governmental agency) or 403(b) plans (if you work for a non-profit group). With all these plans, you can now put more in - which means that, someday, you should be able to take more out.

In 2006, you can put in up to \$15,000 to your 401(k), 403(b) or 457(b) plan, up from \$14,000 in 2005. And if you are 50 or older, you can make additional "catch-up" contributions of \$5,000 to your plan, giving you a ceiling of \$20,000. (In 2005, the "catch-up" limit was \$4,000.)

Furthermore, if you do participate in a 457(b) plan,

Financial Focus

by Allen Mantanona



and you are within three full calendar years of your normal retirement age, you may be able to contribute even more, sometimes up to double the limits. This means you may be able to put in up to \$30,000 to your plan in 2006. You can't take advantage of both the normal "catch-up" contribution and the double-contribution benefit in the same calendar year.

Of course, all the numbers we've mentioned thus far are sizable sums, and you might not think you can afford to reach whichever limit applies to you. Still,

do whatever you can to boost your contributions to your employer-sponsored retirement plan, because you'd have a hard time finding a better way to save for retirement. First of all, your contributions are typically made with "pre-tax" dollars, so the more you put in, the lower your adjusted gross income will be. Also, your earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis.

If you can't afford to "max out" on your retirement plan, at least put in enough to earn your employer's match, if one is offered. And every time you get a raise in salary, increase your contributions.

Time to Rebalance?

While it is important to put in as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored plan, it's just as essential to choose the right funding vehicles. Not that many years ago, employees only had a few options: a "growth" account, an "income" account, a "cash" account and, in some instances, an account

containing company stock.

But now, you could have a dozen or more investment opportunities from which to choose. That's a big responsibility - and it's your responsibility. Your employer has some obligations to explain the various investment options offered in your plan, but you are ultimately the one who will need to pick the right investments to meet your retirement needs.

That's why you will want to study your retirement plan holdings at least once a year with your qualified investment professional. Have you properly diversified your investment dollars? Are you investing either too aggressively or not aggressively enough? Have your retirement goals changed so much that you now need to make some significant changes to your portfolio? These are the questions you'll need to ask yourself as you and your investment professional go over your plan.

So, while it's still early in the year, review your plan and make whatever changes are necessary. You work hard for the money that you put into your retirement plan - so make sure the plan is working hard for you

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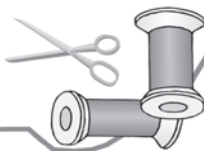
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Blowing bubbles

Buying and Selling

by Ryan Hodge

As the phrase "housing bubble" is thrown around, folks start to compare the present pricing boom to the tech-stocks of the 1990s stock market. Homeowners are trying to determine if the real estate market is peaking, and how they can take advantage. A word of caution: it's practically impossible to "time" this market.

The biggest gamblers are selling their homes, intending to buy back into the market when prices eventually fall, or when the "bubble" bursts. This trend started a couple years back, but even within the last year, some markets have seen prices climb 20 percent. If you sold your home last year, you still couldn't afford to buy a comparable home yet.

Deciding to buy or sell your home based solely on financial opportunity can be disastrous. Remember that, unlike stocks, buying and selling houses can involve high costs, and the tax implications must be seriously considered. In markets where homes regularly sell in the seven digits, capital gains can enter the picture.

People who need to move shouldn't hesitate to plan their sale and purchase. It can work to your advantage if you're downsizing, or moving from a high-end market to a less pricey one. Real estate is like the stock market in one very important sense: it's for the long term. Over a twenty to thirty year period, it has not gone down.

Eagles win first three; best start since 2002

The Salado Eagle Baseball team swept three games over the weekend to take first place in the Franklin Tournament. The 3-0 record is the best start for the Eagles since 2002.

The Eagles won their opening game over Milano 11-4. Salado jumped out to a 7-0 lead in the first inning and never looked back. Tanner Myers, Wesley Ruth, and Tucker Wilhite drove in runs with base hits during the first.

Salado added two runs in the second on a Tanner Myers single with the bases loaded. The Eagles added single runs in the third and fourth.

Myers and Kevin Jackson led the offense going 2-2 as the Eagles collected 11 hits.

Brian Bates was the winning pitcher. He allowed one hit in three innings and struck out four. Wilhite and Rudy Torres pitched an inning each.

In the second round Salado faced the Huntsville JV. The Eagles used the big inning to get them going again. Salado scored seven runs in the top of the second en route to a 12-3 win.

Jackson and Josh Shaw both went 2-3 on the night to lead the Eagles 10-hit attack. Jackson had three runs batted in, while Justin Schiller drove in two.

In the championship game the Eagles were pitted against College Station A&M Consolidated's JV. This game was more of a pitchers duel and a defensive game.

Salado scored a run in the bottom of the first and added two runs late in the second and fourth innings.

Consolidated scored twice in the top of the fifth for a 5-2 final score.

Jesse Rodriguez was 2-2 on the night. Schiller collected two RBI's in the game, while Jackson added one.


Sam Van Hoozer pitched a crafty game to get credit for the win. He allowed two hits in four-plus innings. Schiller pitched the fifth inning to earn a save.

Rodriguez and Johnny Nix made several fine defensive plays to keep A&M off the bases.

Kevin Jackson, Jesse Rodriguez, Matt Fritsch and Sam Van Hoozer were all named to the all tournament team.

--REPORTED BY MELVIN BATES

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Tim is *recognized state wide as a leader* in several areas of public policy affecting county government. He has served as chairman for the Texas Conference of Urban Counties. He has been appointed by both Governor George W. Bush and Governor Rick Perry to advisory positions. He has served as President of North America's Super Highway Coalition (NASCO), an international group working to improve Interstate 35.

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Eagles fall to Wallis-Brazos

Not even Ryan Clark's 31-point outburst in Salado's bi-district playoff tilt versus Wallis-Brazos was enough to carry the Eagles past the Cougar's and into the post-season's second round, as Salado fell in a heartbreaker, 59-55 Feb. 21 in Elgin. The boys close out the season with a 21-10 overall record, going 10-4 in District 25AA, earning a third place district finish.

Clark, and the entire Salado team, began the game on a hot streak, as 17 first half points from Clark helped stake the Eagles to a 31-27 halftime lead.

After the break, however, the Cougars took measures to limit Clark's game, shadowing him with one-to-two defenders the rest of the way. The strategy was somewhat successful, as Clark was held to 14 second half points, but only knocked down two shots from the



(PHOTO BY TIM FLEISCHER)

Justin Konzen tries the inside during the Salado Eagles' playoff loss to Wallis-Brazos last week.

field. More importantly, though, the newly-applied pressure forced a bevy of Eagle turnovers - 11 in all - in the second half, helping Brazos turn a halftime deficit into a narrow fourth quarter lead.

Still, the Eagles had a real shot to take the victory, even when they trailed by six with little more than 90 seconds to play.

Salado guard Chad Tumey, shortly after converting on two free throw shots, drained a three pointer to bring Salado within one, 56-55, with 14 seconds remaining.

Following a purpose foul, which led to Brazos missing the bottom half of two foul shots, the Eagles

regained possession looking to take the lead.

Hoping to set up one last offensive play, Salado was whistled for an illegal screen, giving possession of the ball - and automatic free throws - to Brazos.

But the Cougars' Le-land Murray failed to convert on either of his chances, and just like that the Eagles were presented with one final glimmer of hope. A turnover on an inbounds play, however, spelled doom for Salado, ending any chances the Eagles might have had.

Two more token free throws from Brazos brought the game to its 59-55 final.

Clark - the only Eagle to hit double-figures - led all scorers on the night.

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Lady Eagles split tourney games

Mother Nature didn't fully cooperate for the Salado Soaring Eagle Softball Classic, but the rains did hold off long enough for two day's worth of games to be played, with Salado coming out 1-1.

Competing in a field featuring some of the finest Central Texas-area softball teams, Salado opened the tournament Feb. 23 against state-ranked Troy (state finalists in 2005).

It didn't take the Lady Trojans long to show that they deserve their ranking, as Troy plated nine runs in the second off Salado starter Shae Janda, and added four more in the third to set the table for a 13-3 victory.

The Lady Eagles were kept off the basepaths for much of the first four innings, and didn't push across their first runs until the fifth, when they scored three.

Justine Ferrel-Raborn led off the Salado fifth with a single, and two more Lady Eagle hits and a sacrifice laid down by Shawna McPherson helped to account for Salado's only runs.

Janda absorbed the loss and didn't have one of her better games, as she was peppered for 15 hits and nine earned runs and four innings of work.

One of the few bright spots in the game for the Lady Eagles was the play of freshman first baseman Lindsey Coffey, who played well defensively and went 2-3 at the plate with 2 RBI's and a run scored.

The Lady Eagles rebounded for their lopsided loss to Troy by dispatching Class 3A Manor the following day by a final of

13-6.

This time, it was the Salado bats which struck first, as the Lady Eagles scored all of their runs in the first three innings, starting off with five in the first.

Following a groundout to open the Salado first, Coffey picked up where she left off the night before, singling and eventually scoring Salado's first run on her way to a 4-4 game at the plate.

Heather Winters advanced Coffey with a sacrifice, which was followed with two singles, a triple, a

walk and a double, leading to Salado's five run first.

Salado added to the lead with two runs each in the second and third, as Janda returned to form on the mound, surrendering just eight hits in seven innings of work while striking out six to move to 2-2 on the season.

At the plate Janda, Lauren Culver and Rachel Stemmer each collected two hits, while Winters closed out the game 1-1 with three sacrifices.

The win improved the Lady Eagles to 3-2 on the young season.

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- Member of First United Methodist Church of Temple.
- Married 11 years to the former Dawna Anel. The couple has two children: Zoe, 8, and Nicholas, 5.

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Golf teams wins Rogers Invit.

The Salado Eagles golf team won the Rogers Invitational at Sammons in Temple recently.

Following are the team and individual results:

- Boys 1st Place
1. Salado-297
 2. Gatesville-309
 3. Riesel A-331
 4. Cameron A-335
 5. Caldwell-335
 6. Mart-343
 7. Rockdale-345
 8. Cameron B-369
 9. Riesel B-371
 10. Marlin-393
 11. Rogers-424
 12. Somerville-437

Medalist

1. Chris Schroeder-Riesel-71
2. Wes Dowel-71
3. Travis Kemp-74
4. Landon Cole-Gatesville-75
5. Lucas Martin-75
6. Cody Manning-Gatesville-76
7. Clint Permenter-77
8. Ryan O'Rear-78
9. John Krause-Rockdale-78

Girls win Rogers

Salado High Lady Eagles golf team won the Rogers Invitational

at Sammons in Temple recently. Following are the team and individual results.

Girls First Place

1. Salado 343
 2. Gatesville 389
 3. Cameron 414
 4. Mart 426
 5. caldwell 472
 6. Riesel 479
 7. Rogers 487
- Medalist
1. Sarah Dowell- (81)
 2. Veronica Patockova- (84)
 3. Adair-Mart (87)
 4. Cassandra Roberts-Cameron (87)
 5. Katie Harris-(88)
 6. Lacey Bartlett-(90)
 7. Jordan Dean-Gatesville (90)

Other Salado Scores
Nicole Weatherly-103
Julie Hajda-128

Salado Boys JV

Salado JV boys were

the only 2A boys to compete in the Killeen JV Boys Tournament recently, competing against 3A, 4A and 5A schools.

Team Totals

1. RR Stoney Point-324
 2. Georgetown-330
 3. RR McNeil I-342
 4. Belton I-356
 5. Harker Heights -359
 6. RR McNeil II-367
 7. Pflugerville-369
 8. Salado-375
 9. Burnett-389
 10. Lampasas-383
 11. Temple-403
 12. Belton II-433
 13. Killeen Ellison-458
- Salado individuals
1. Jared Hahn-83
 2. Denny Jordan-93
 3. Blake Newman-95
 4. Tyler Pines-99
 5. Tyler Burden-100
 6. CJ Little-103
 7. Trevor Radcliffe-115

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Lady Eagle tracksters win season's first meet

Competing in the first meet of the track season Feb. 25 in Gatesville, the Varsity Lady Eagles totaled 101 points on their way to a first place team finish. Host squad Gatesville came in second, with 94 points, while Lampasas was third with 60. The JV girls finished fourth, behind Hutto, Mexia and

Evant.

Individual results are as follows:

- 1600m run: Chelsea Ervi, second, 5:38.25;
- 3200m run: Ervi, first, 12:06.58; Kathryn Holdampf, fourth, 13:46.
- 400m dash: Leigh Martin, sixth, 1:05.09.
- 800m run: Keelie Mims, fifth, 2:27.24;
- 400m relay: Salado (Tamra Stanish, Kristen Smith, Cortney Dunnahoo and Danielle Mattson), third, 54.77;
- 800m relay: Salado (Johnson, Dunnahoo, Stanish, Mattson), third, 1:57.48;
- 1600m relay: Salado (Mims, Martin, Mattson, Molly Rooney), second, 4:26.03;
- 100m hurdles: Rooney, third, 16.99;
- 300m hurdles: Rooney, first, 48.98;
- Shot Put: Mary Runyon, second, 31'6.5";
- Discus: Lauren Haire, fourth, 92'3.5".

JV Results

- 800m relay: Salado (Amy Wooley, Chelsie Resendis, Cody Davis, Candy Jimenez), second, 2:00.18;
- 1600m relay: Salado (Wooley, Abby Frazier, Marissa Saucedo, Davis), fifth, 4:53.57.
- 100m hurdles: Kaitlyn Ruth, second, 18.02;
- 300m hurdles: Ruth, fifth, 55.89
- Shot Put: Ciera Pipes, sixth, 24'8".
- 200m dash: Jimenez, sixth, 30.21;
- 400m dash: Davis, fourth, 1:08.85;
- 400m relay: Salado (Wooley, Resendis, Ruth, Jimenez), fourth, 56.46.

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Making history

Speech competitors qualify for prestigious state contest

For the first time, Salado students have qualified for the TFA State Meet (Texas Forensic Association). Magan Bradshaw, Travis Cook, and Tyler Cook will be competing this week in domestic extemporaneous speaking at the annual state meet held this year at Pharr-San-Juan-Alamo High School. Qualifying for the state meet puts these students in the top 124 speakers in the state, crossing all conferences, 1A through 5A.

"It was hard getting established on the TFA circuit as an unknown small school, but our determination in being taken as seriously as the bigger schools was the deciding factor in our success," said junior Magan Bradshaw.

Extemporaneous speaking is divided into two categories: domestic and foreign. In this contest, students have only 30 minutes to prepare and write a 7-minute speech on current events and topics without the use of notes.

A sample extemporaneous topic might include: "Will the new federal reserve chair implement his philosophy of "inflation targeting" to promote economic growth?" according to

SHS speech and debate coach, Tim Cook.

Students work during the school year to build files and stay abreast of current events by accumulating and studying resource material from newspapers, magazines, and the Internet from which they can draw quick reference in the 30 minutes given to prepare their speech.

"It is an event that requires intelligence, critical analysis, and the ability to think on your feet. This kind of competition gives students not only life skills, but the confidence to use them successfully," said Coach Cook.

"It's really exciting being one of the first students from Salado High School to qualify for this competitive tournament. We have worked hard and our hard work has paid off," said senior, Travis Cook.

Travis' brother, Tyler, is the single freshman among the qualifiers for the state competition. "I feel privileged to be among the first group to go to TFA state from our school. TFA is the 'cream of the crop' state speech tournament. In order to get there, we had to beat all the big schools. It feels great when we come from



Brothers and competitors Tyler Cook and Travis Cook will compete in the Texas Forensic Association state meet this week.

a little 2A school and we beat the big 5A schools," said freshman Tyler Cook.

The purpose of the Texas Forensic Association is to maintain and advance the ideals and standards of the speech and theatre arts in schools across the board. There are no conference divisions such as 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A or

5A; all students compete together, regardless of school size or population. The membership of the organization has grown steadily each year with more than 420 professional members in the 1997-1998 Silver anniversary year.

The Texas Forensic Association promotes the interests of interscholastic

speech and theatre by encouraging a spirit of fellowship among participating students and teachers. Activities viewed as central to the organization's function

SEE STATE, PAGE 12A

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SUNDAY		WEDNESDAY	
Contemporary Worship/Bible Study	9:00a.m.	Fellowship Meal	5:30 p.m.
Traditional Worship/Bible Study	10:30 a.m.	Celebrate Recovery	6:00 p.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.	Youth Choir	6:00 p.m.
Jr. High Huddles	6:00 p.m.	Team Kid (Age 3 - 6th grade)	6:15 p.m.
Sr High Huddles	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Meeting	6:15 p.m.
		Youth Half-Time	7:30 p.m.



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"The animals take cover, The tempest comes out from its chamber, the cold from the driving winds. The breath of God produces ice, and the broad waters become frozen."

from Job 37:8-10



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Sunday Morning Service • March 5, 2006



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Minister

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Sunday

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

Evening Worship • 6 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes • 6:30 p.m.

IH-35 at Blacksmith Rd.

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Monday Club

The Salado Monday Club will meet 2 p.m. March 6 at the Salado United Methodist Church on Royal Street.

The program will be given by Gwen Morrison.

All ladies of the community are invited to attend.

St. Stephen Catholic Church

Religious Education Classes

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

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Sunday

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Mozart's Requiem to be performed March 5 at Salado FBC Worship Center

The combined choirs of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor will join forces with the McLennan Community College Chorale to present Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Requiem" 6 p.m. March 5 in the Worship Center of the First Baptist Church in Salado.

"Mozart was born on January 27, 1756 so this year marks the 250th anniversary of his birth," says David Guess, Director of Choral Activities at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. "When we began to think of a celebration I immediately made the decision to give our students the experience of performing one of the most significant and popular works from Mozart's long list of compositions."

The "Requiem" is considered to be one of

the most mysterious pieces of music ever written. For years the history of the piece has been clouded by rumors, inconsistencies, and missing information.

Mozart, who was born in Salzburg, Austria, had been living in Vienna for about 10 years when he was offered a handsome commission to compose a Requiem Mass (Mass for the Dead) by an anonymous member of the community. Throughout the days that he spent composing the Requiem he fought various illnesses which ultimately led to his death. Much research has been done to seek to confirm just how much of the Requiem was actually composed by Mozart.

"This is one of the most musically inspiring choral/orchestral works of all time and the controversies over compositional ownership and the life of Mozart

himself add mystery to the experience," says Guess.

The choirs will be accompanied by an orchestra made up of some of the best musicians in the Central Texas area. The solos will be performed by students from UMHB and MCC rather than professional soloists. "This is a great musical and educational opportunity for our students and an opportunity for the Central Texas Community to hear one of the major works of the Classical choral repertoire, he added"

There is no charge for the concert but seating is limited. For more information about the performance contact the College of Fine Arts at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, 254-295-4678, or the offices of First Baptist Church of Salado, 254-947-5465.

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Memorial services held for Kristi Marie Billington

Kristi Marie Billington, 19, of Salado, died February 24, 2006 in a Temple hospital.

Memorial services were held at the First Baptist Church of Salado on Feb. 27.

Kristi Billington graduated from Salado High School. She was attending the University of

Mary Hardin Baylor as a freshman, majoring in Christian Studies. She accepted Christ as her savior in 1993 and surrendered her life to the ministry after a mission trip in 2004. She was on the Dean's List at UMHB, a First Year Council member and worked in the First Baptist Church of Salado girls ministry.

Salado; her sister Mattie Billington, of Salado; her grandparents, Royce and Alma Billington and David and Darlene Stevens, and a great-grandmother, Faye Billington.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Kristi Billington Christian Scholarship Fund at UMHB.

Dossman Funeral Home in Belton was in charge of arrangements.

She is survived by her parents, Ricky and Meschill Billington, of

Southern Gospel group The Isaacs to perform

Southern Gospel music group, The Isaacs, will appear in concert 6:30 p.m. March 11 at the Mary Marshall Auditorium at Temple College. Also appearing with The Isaacs will be the Central Texas-based group, the Messenger Quartet.

The performance is being sponsored by Cedar Valley Music Ministries, of Salado.

A concession stand with sandwiches, sausage wraps, nachos, tacos and sodas will be available. Homemade snacks, as well as whole cakes and pies will also be offered.

Tickets for the show are priced at \$12 if purchased in advance, or \$14 if purchased at the door.

They are available for purchase at the RMK Gallery in Belton, 122 N. Penelope and in Temple at the Lifeway Christian Store, or at Holze Music Store.

More ticket information can be obtained by calling Donnie or Linda Jackson, 947-5100, or e-mailing Cvmusicministry@aol.com.

Children under 12 will be admitted free. It is suggested that attendees arrive early.

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State

FROM PAGE 9A

include debate, theatre, and competitive individual speaking events such as extemporaneous speaking, humorous interpretation, dramatic interpretation, and duet.

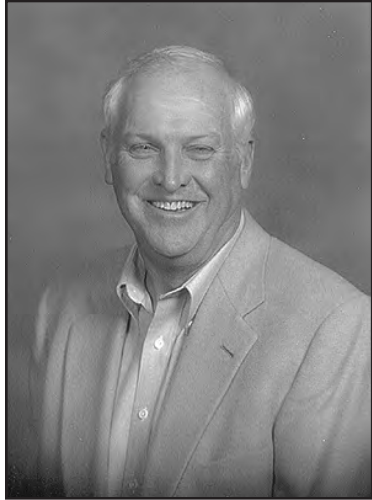
The Association continues to set high standards and strives to meet new goals for the benefit of Texas teachers

and students. The model of the Texas Forensic Association has been recommended for other states with active speech and theatre programs in

secondary schools. Texas schools boast of having one of the largest and most competitive speech/theatre circuits in the United States.



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Bell, Coryell schools collaborate with TC, S&W on Bioscience

Bell and Coryell School Districts, Scott & White, and Temple College are collaborating on a Texas Bioscience Institute.

Salado ISD students will be able to compete for an opportunity to receive dual credit courses, applicable to an associate's degree, at the Bioscience

Center. This center will be housed in the old Texas Instrument's building. It is being retrofitted and is becoming a state-of-the-art cancer research center through a Scott & White grant. Students in this program will have courses that can apply to a bachelor's degree in the sciences leading to many medical professions in addition to medical and nursing school.

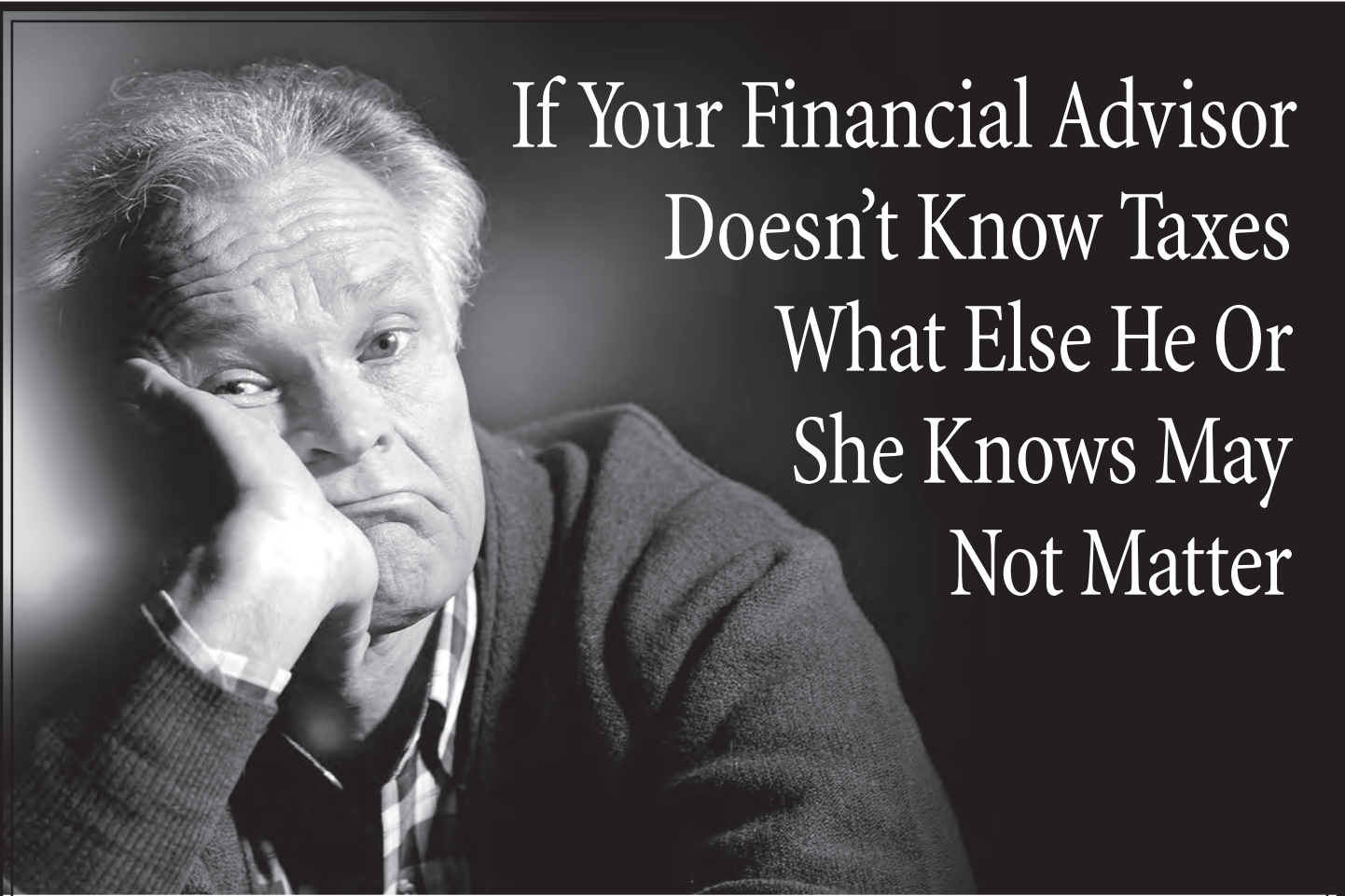
This next year Salado ISD will have 2-3 placements for students. To apply SISD students must meet the following criteria.

1. must be an 11th or 12th grade student on the Recommended or Distinguished Graduation Program
2. have completed Algebra II, Biology I, and Chemistry I prior to starting at the Texas Bioscience Center
3. have test data indicating passing scores on TAKS (juniors may show proof of 10th grade passing scores) TAKS minimum score: M-2200, Eng-2200, W-3

Students would receive a half-day of rigorous courses at the Biotech Center and then the other half-day of courses at SISD.

This is a competitive process. Applications will be available in late-March.

Several parents information meetings have been set. If you think your student is interested, please attend one of the sessions: March 2, 6:30 p.m. Temple High School; March 6, 6:30 p.m. Belton High School; March 7, 6:30 p.m. Temple College, One College Center Community Room; March 8, 6:30 p.m., Temple College, One College Center Community Room.



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Salado Village Guide

Shopping Map
Pages 6-7B

Section B Salado Village Voice

March 2, 2006

12 Pages Shopping, Dining, Overnight, Events

St. Stephen celebrates marriage, dedicates new steeple Feb. 26

The St. Stephen Catholic Church Celebration of Commitment to Marriage brought out about 100 people to the first Anniversary Reception Feb. 26.

With a special invitation from Father Charles Davis, the new parish hall was filled to capacity with church members enjoying a beautiful and sumptuous reception. A table was set up for about 40 wedding photos and early marriage photos which caused quite a stir with everyone trying to figure out which couple matched them.

Carolyn Milliser provided delicate pastel tulips at each table and vases filled with them throughout the hall. A special cake was baked and decorated by Linda Row with Connie Johnson volunteering to cut and serve the cakes, punch and coffee provided and served by Sandy Gromacki, appetizers, salads and more deserts provided by members of St. Stephen Women's Society with ham, rolls and other items provide by the parish.

The couple celebrating the longest years together was Richard and Helen Petro, parents of Robert and Suzanne Petro, with their 55th anniversary coming this year. They received a certificate from Father Davis from the office of the Austin Diocese and a photo with Father Davis.

Co-incidentally, it was discovered that they were at the first Mass celebrated by Father Davis at the beginning of the mission held at the Tablerock amphitheater on Sunday, May 1, 1989. They shared their memories of being there and Richard's being home on furlough to attend.

Following the reception, blessed by a beautiful sunny day, the group gathered for the blessing and dedication of the new steeple with iron crucifix on top of the church building, crafted by local artist Larry Tomasek.

The St. Stephen Catholic Parish thanks "all the members of the Salado Community and the pastors of all the churches for their encouragement and friendship throughout the years that St. Stephens has grown from a mission to a full-fledged parish. Salado is a unique, caring, sharing and encouraging community and we are thankful to be a part of it," Father Davis said.



St. Stephen Catholic Church dedicated its new steeple which is topped with a crucifix (above) created by artist Larry Tomasek (left).



Richard and Helen Petro are shown above with Father Charles Davis.



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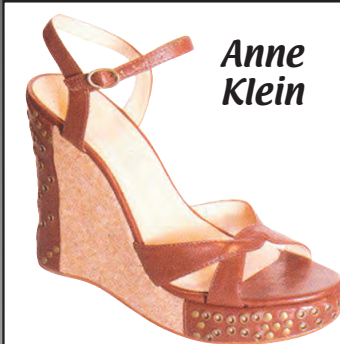
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MARCH 4

Salado Lions Club Pancake Breakfast fund raiser, 7:30-10:30 a.m. at the Salado Church of Christ Activity Center. Tickets: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and younger.

MARCH 5

First Baptist Church of Salado hosts a free concert of Mozart's "Requiem," featuring the combined choirs of UMHB and MCC, 6 p.m. in the church's Worship Center. Admission is free

but seating is limited. Info: FBC, 254-947-5465.

MARCH 5

Sixth Annual Wild Bill Memorial Roping at Wildfire Ranch Arena. Cowboy Church led by Joe Bentley, 8:30 a.m.; Roping begins at 10 a.m.; \$2,000 in scholarships to be awarded. Info: 254-947-3350.

MARCH 6

Monday Club of Salado meeting, 2 p.m. at Salado United Methodist Church. Program

given by Gwen Morrison. All ladies invited to attend.

MARCH 6

Salado Historical Society general meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center. Speaker: Dr. Estelle Owens, Chairperson of the Division of History at Wayland Baptist University.

MARCH 9

Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 9:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. Program: Helen Alexander on "Stress Management."

MARCH 15

Mill Creek Community Association meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Inn on the Creek.

MARCH 17

11th Annual Denver Mills Golf Tournament at Mill Creek, benefitting Tablerock Amphitheater, \$60 entry fee. Shotgun start at 1 p.m. Info: 254-947-3354 or email tablerock1@aol.com.

MARCH 18

Annual Salado Eagle Alumni Baseball game, at the high school field. Homerun contest 11 a.m., game to follow at noon. Open to any former SHS baseball players. Cost: \$10 for the game, \$5 for the homerun contest. Email t-shirt sizes to mbates@saladoisd.org if you plan on playing.

MARCH 18

Salado Civic Center Auction and Dinner honoring Wilbur and Jessie Foster, 6 p.m. at Salado Intermediate School. Tickets: \$10 per person. Info: 947-8300.

MARCH 21

Teacup Tuesday meeting, Program: "New Wines and Old Wineskins (new identity) by Molly White, 9:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church.

MARCH 26

Institute for the Humanities at Salado Spring Lecture Series, featuring Admiral Bobby Inman on "Sustaining the American Dream." Lecture: 4-6 p.m. at the Celebration Center; optional dinner with speaker, 6:30 p.m. at same location. Tickets and info: 254-947-5729 or www.salado-institute.org.

APRIL 1

Fourth Annual Smokin' Spokes Bike Ride, benefitting the Salado Volunteer Fire Department. Info: www.saladospokes.com.

APRIL 1-2

Annual Wildflower Art Show. More details TBA. Info: Salado Chamber of Commerce, 254-947-5040.

APRIL 2

Living Room Theatre presents "Murder on the Menu," a luncheon theatre production. Two performances, one at 12:30 p.m. and the other at 2 p.m., both at Salado Civic Center. Reservations available for non-subscribers beginning March

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Village of Salado?

28. Wildflower Art Show public may attend.

APRIL 3

Salado Historical Society board meeting, 7 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center.

APRIL 7

Thomas Arnold Elementary/PTO Moms and Muffins morning, 7-7:45 a.m. at the school. Info: 947-5191.

APRIL 8

Chisholm Trail ABWA Style Show, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mill Creek Restaurant. Info: 254-947-3617.

APRIL 13

Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 9:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. Program: Ronnie Wells, "The Wells Story."

APRIL 14-16

Easter Pageant at Tablerock Amphitheater, presented by First Baptist Church of Salado, 8:15 p.m., bring a lawn chair. Free admission; church groups welcome. Info: 254-947-5465 or www.fbcshalado.org.

APRIL 18

Teacup Tuesday meeting, Program: "History Mysteries" by author, historian and Salado-resident Charlie Turnbo, 9:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church.

APRIL 19

Mill Creek Community Association Spring Cleanup. 8:30 a.m. coffee and rolls, 11:30 a.m. free hot dog lunch. More details TBA.

APRIL 22-23

Eleventh Annual Gospel Festival at Tablerock Amphitheater, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. April 22 and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. April 23. Food, drink, and gift vendors on-site. Admission: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under. Tickets available at gate. Info: Donnie Jackson, 254-947-5100 or email cvmusicministry@aol.com.

MAY 1

Salado Historical Society board meeting, 7 p.m. at the Salado Civic

Center.
MAY 6

Institute for the Humanities at Salado Spring Lecture Series, featuring Patricia Limerick, Ph.D on "Pride Without Vanity: Patriotism in the 21st Century." Lecture: 5-7 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center; lunch with the speaker, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Range. Tickets and info: 254-947-5729 or www.salado-institute.org.

MAY 6-7

Third Annual Salado Yard and Garden Tour, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. May 6 and 1-4 p.m. May 7. More details TBA.

MAY 11

Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary Spring Luncheon at the Salado Civic Center. Program: Gwen Morrison on "Mothers and Daughters."

MAY 11

Salado Community Chorus Spring Concert 7 pm at the Salado Civic Center

MAY 13

Eleventh Annual Thomas Arnold Elementary Fourth Grade Play at Tablerock Amphitheater, 7:30 p.m. Students, under the direction of Jackie Mills, write, produce, crew and act in their own melodrama. Admission: Adults, \$5; children, \$3.

MAY 16

Teacup Tuesday meeting, "Tea, Talk and Togetherness" luncheon at Stagecoach Inn. Details TBA.

MAY 17

Mill Creek Community Association meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Inn on the Creek.

MAY 25

Salado High School Class of 2005-06 graduation ceremony at Bell County Expo Center. Info: Salado High School, 254-947-5429.

JUNE 5

Salado Historical Society board meeting, 7 p.m. at the Salado Civic

Center.
JUNE 8

Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 9:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. Program: Storyteller Joe Pehoski.

JUNE 10

Annual Salado Reunion, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Salado Intermediate School. Info: 254-947-5783 or 254-939-3187.

JUNE 21

Mill Creek Community Association meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Inn on the Creek.

JUNE 24-25

Auditions for Tablerock's production of Macbeth, 3 p.m. both days at Tablerock. Director: David Dunlap, 254-247-0220 or ddunlap@tablerock.org.

JULY 4

Salado Historical Society Annual Picnic, 6:30 p.m. in Pace Park.

JULY 13

Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 9:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. Program: Ruth Daw, "Women of Peru."

JULY 19

Mill Creek Community Association meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Inn on the Creek.

JULY 22, 29 & AUG. 5

Tablerock's 14th Annual presentation of Salado Legends, 8:15 p.m. Dinner: 7:15 p.m., cost \$8, reservations required. Performance

tickets: \$15 adults, \$5 for children 12 and under. Info: 254-947-3205 or www.tablerock.org.

AUGUST 5-6

40th Annual Salado Art Fair in Pace Park. Info: Salado Chamber of Commerce, 254-947-5040.

AUGUST 10

Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 9:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. Program: Paul Letourneau on his book "My Vietnam Experiences." Spouses invited.

AUGUST 12

Mill Creek Community Association Fall Social, 6 p.m. happy hour, 7 p.m. dinner. Details TBA.

AUGUST 16

Mill Creek Community Association meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Inn on the Creek.

SEPTEMBER 16-17

Tablerock's Fantasy Faire 10 a.m.-6 p.m. both days, featuring characters from history, literature, mythology and imagination. Enjoy music, dance, swordplay and storytelling, and shop goods from over 50 vendors. Admission: \$7 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under, seniors and military. Info: 254-624-1008 or email hhood@tablerock.org.

SEPTEMBER 20

Mill Creek Community Association meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Inn on the Creek.

OCTOBER 7-8

Auditions for

Tablerock's annual A Christmas Carol production, 3 p.m. both days. Info: 254-947-9205 or email harrisesweet@sbcgl obal.net.

OCTOBER 7, 14 AND 21

Tablerock's Annual Shakespeare Play, Macbeth, under the stars, 7:30 p.m. each night. Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$5 for child, student or military. Info: 254-247-0220 or email ddunlap@tablerock.org.

OCTOBER 12-14

Annual Christmas in October event, sponsored by the Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary. Details TBA.

OCTOBER 18

Mill Creek Community Association meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Inn on the Creek.

OCTOBER 21

Salado Area Republican Women Fine China Luncheon, noon at Mill Creek Restaurant. Info: 254-947-3433.

OCTOBER 21

Annual Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament, 8 a.m. start at Mill Creek. Info: Salado Chamber, 254-947-5040.

OCTOBER 28-29

Tablerock's Fright Trail 7:30-10:30 p.m. both nights. Two trails to choose from. Concessions available. Admission: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under. Info: 254-947-9205 or email tablerock1@aol.com.

NOVEMBER 15

Mill Creek Commu-

nity Association meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Inn on the Creek.

NOVEMBER 21

Salado Historical Society annual General Meeting and Chili Supper, 6:15 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center.

DECEMBER 1, 2, 8 AND 9

Tablerock Amphitheater's Annual presentation of Charles Dickens' Yuletide classic, A

Christmas Carol, 7 p.m. each night. Tickets available at the gate beginning 6:30 p.m. Concessions open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children. Info: 254-947-9205 or www.tablerock.org.

DECEMBER 1-3

Salado Historical Society's Annual Christmas Tour of Homes. More details TBA.

DECEMBER 1-3 & 8-10

Annual Salado Christmas Stroll event. More details TBA.

DECEMBER 12

Mill Creek Community Association meeting and Christmas Dinner at Mill Creek Restaurant. 6 p.m. happy hour, 7 p.m. dinner.

DECEMBER 12

Mill Creek Community Association meeting and Christmas Dinner at Mill Creek Restaurant. 6 p.m. happy hour, 7 p.m. dinner.

Have a Salado event to list on this calendar? Email your information to: news@salado villagevoice.com, call 254-947-5321, or fax to 254-947-9479.

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Chamber Auxiliary to learn more of Stress Management March 9

The Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary will meet for their regular monthly meeting on March 9 at the Civic Center.

Social begins at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting and program to begin at 10 a.m. This month's program, Stress Management, will be presented by Helen Alexander.

Alexander did undergraduate work at UT/Arlington and received a bachelor of science/psychology from the

University of Houston, and a Master of Arts/Psychology from Texas Women's University. She pursued a license in Professional Counseling in 1990, and had a private practice in Houston from 1990-99. After moving to Salado, Alexander began teaching psychology and biofeedback at Temple College.

Auxiliary membership fee for 2006 is due and may be paid at the meeting to the chair, Linda Hill. Guests are welcome.



Is this the face of a murderer? Find out on April 2 during the Murder on the Menu performance at the Salado Civic Center. Linda Mohlstrum will portray Noonie, the Nosy Neighbor.

Did the nosy neighbor do it?

This is the second in a series of Murder Suspects appearing in the Living Room Theatre production of Murder on the Menu, in a "Luncheon Theatre" setting at the Salado Civic Center, two performances April 2, at noon and 2:30 p.m.

A three-course "Southern Living" Luncheon will be included and Murder is guaranteed to be on the Menu.

Nosey Neighbor "Noonie," the village snoop, peeps through bushes to spy on nouveau-wealthy heiress Leona MacBeth. She is not one of the guests invited to attend the birthday bash for Leona, but she happens to drop by just as the party gets underway and insinuates herself into the celebratory event.

Though Noonie smiles sympathetically and says, "Bless your heart" every time she assassinates someone's character, she is not to be trusted!

She joins other suspects, Leona's Nameless Servant; Leona's Husband, Leon; Crazy Cousin Kitty; Ranch Foreman Bubba Billy Joe Don Bob White; Mary Lou Setswan Chou, Widow of the Chinese Ambassador to Canada; and State Senator "Bull" Hockey.

Next week, another in the series of potential murderers will be posted in the Salado Village Voice, and information regarding admission to performances will be published pending notification of the bumped-off victim's family.

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The Salado Chamber of Commerce will once again play host to artists and artisans from across the state, April 1-2, at the Annual Wildflower Art Show. The Art Show includes many different art mediums such as jewelry, clothing, pottery, painting and sculpture and currently has over 40 participating artists and crafts people. Local artist Joan Hoffman has designed this year's beautiful poster, which is currently available at the Chamber Office for purchase. The Wildflower Art Show is located on the grounds of the Salado Civic Center at 601 N. Main Street. The Show will be open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. April 1 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. April . Admission is free. For more information please contact the Salado Chamber of Commerce at 254-947-5040, or, visit its website at salado.com.

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Cardio questions answered

Most of us have tried to lose weight and after some level of success, look in the mirror with disappointment.

"Why don't I look and feel the way I want? After losing 15 pounds I look fatter than I did before I lost the weight!"

Believe me, you are not alone. This is why fitness programs don't succeed, or if a regime shows some initial success, the success is short lived. Please know that you are not alone. Below I want share some of the questions that my clients ask me most frequently. I think that the answers will both help and surprise you.

I realize you believe that cardio is only the third most important component when achieving optimal health and fitness levels, but if I want to do cardio, would you recommend "jogging" or "fast walking"?

Your choice here is determined by your ability to decrease risk of injury while "fast walking" vs. "jogging." The amount of force put on the joints of the body during jogging is much greater than fast walking, plus when "fast walking" correctly, you have the ability to travel at the same speed as a jogger. Simple question, simple answer...stay away from jogging! Though this answer may be somewhat harsh, I challenge you to take a look at which body you would rather have. Would you prefer the catabolic, broken down jogger body or the lean,

LIFESTYLE AND WELLNESS

By **KEVIN McCAULEY**



walker body? Walking can be beneficial as a stress reliever as well.

Are you a proponent of moving slowly (walking, jogging, etc.) to lean out (lose body-fat) or moving quickly (bike sprints, hill training, etc) to achieve your optimal physique?

I could answer this question with another question; "look at the animal kingdom. Which animals are the leanest, the sprinters (lions, tigers, etc.) or the walkers/joggers (cows, etc.)?" Pretty simple, the quick movers are the leaner of the two. But, in case you are not sold on this point, look at our Olympic team and compare a quick moving sprinter to a slower moving marathon runner. You look at those physiques and tell me which is the more muscled and leaner of the two. And honestly, which of the two do you believe has the better cardio vascular health? Our explosive athletes have the best metabolisms possible because of their muscle to fat ratio and the way they train.

Concerning burning body fat, what burns fat the fastest, running or walking?

You burn a higher ratio of fat to calories the slower you are moving, so actually, while sleeping you burn

the highest percentage of fat compared to calories. Unfortunately, the problem is you are not burning very many calories. If you have a fine-tuned nutritional program I consider "aerobic base" (low end) training the best approach to lose body fat. If you struggle with your nutritional program, I recommend anabolic or high-intensity training (HIIT) to create a greater

fat burning environment. For very motivated clients I combine "aerobic base" training with the "HIIT" training to maximize their results.

I realize that these cardio concepts are probably not considered "conventional wisdom" and that they may be new to you, but in the end, each of us is unique and you may truly benefit by trying something new. After all, your wellness is all about you.



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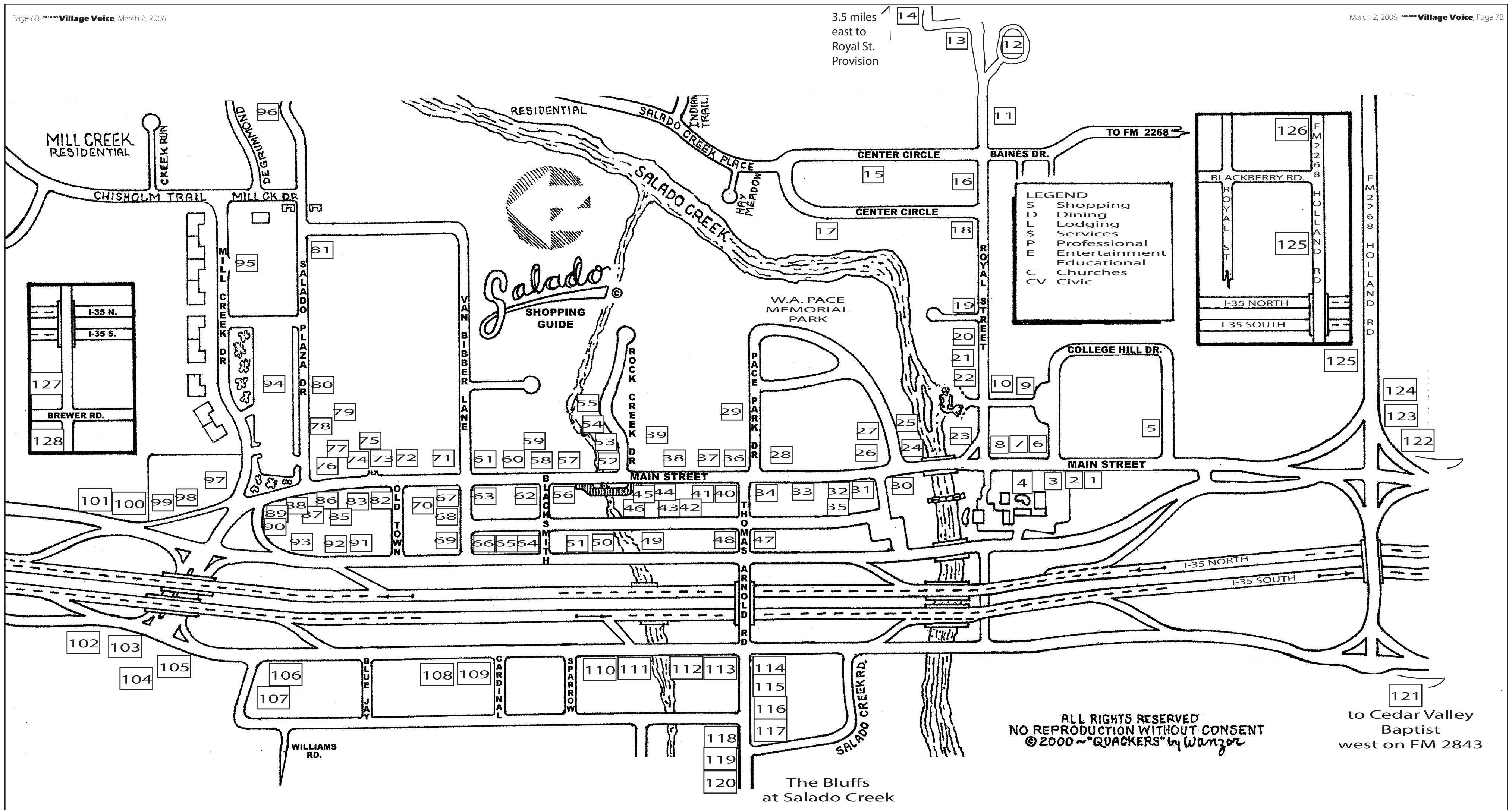
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5. Stone Creek Settlements	254/947-9099	L	24. Accents of Salado	254/947-5908	S	42. Mud Pies Pottery	254/947-0281	S	Cathy's Boardwalk Cafe	254/947-8162	D	120. Salado High	254/947-5429	E
6. Central Texas Area Museum	888/777-8844	E	25. Leigh's Necessities and Floral Creations	254/947-0128	S, \$	43. Southern Comforts	254/947-0595	S	Texan by Design	254/947-4479	S	121. Cedar Valley Baptist Church	254/947-0148	C
7. Salado Galleries	254/947-5232	S	26. CREEKSIDE CENTER			44. Salado Haus	254/947-1868	S	Century 21 Bill Bartlett Real Estate		\$	122. Eagle Rock Ranch	254/947-5369	\$
8. SHADY VILLA	254/947-5110	S	Prellop Fine Art Gallery	254/947-3930	S	45. Sweet Dreams	254/947-9200	S	The Personal Wealth Coach	254/947-5050	\$	123. Wildfire Saddlery	254/947-8080	\$
Gregory's	254/947-5703	S	Susan Marie's	254/947-5239	S	48. A Touch of Heaven	254/947-5543	\$	88. The Personal Wealth Coach	254/947-1111	\$	124. St. Stephen Catholic Church	254/947-8037	C
Sweet Nut Things	254/947-8088	S	Levi Tenney House B&B	254/947-1003	L	50. Salado Fire Department	254/535-6676	CV	94. SALADO PLAZA			127. Grace Baptist Church of Salado	254/947-5917	C
Shyenne's of Salado	254/947-9215	S	First Baptist Church	254/947-5465	C	51. Salado Church of Christ	254/947-5241	CV	Salado Village Voice	254/947-5321	\$	128. Janelle's	254/947-3584	S
Tablerock Amphitheatre	254/947-9205	E	31. Salado Mansion	254/947-5157	D	53. Splendors of Salado	254/947-3630	S	Edward D. Jones	254/947-5128	\$	Not shown on map		
The Rose Mansion B&B	254/947-8200	L	32. THE VERANDA			54. Charlotte's of Salado	254/947-0240	S	Monteith Abstract & Title Co.	254/947-3922	\$	The Event Center at Tenroc Ranch		
Salado United Methodist Church	254/947-5482	C	First Texas Brokerage	254/947-5577	\$	56. OLD CHURCH PLACE			Salado Chiropractic	254/947-BACK	P	2 miles west of I-35 on Thomas Arnold Rd.		
Tennille's Place	254/947-3811	S	First State Bank	254/947-5852	\$	The Front Row Emporium	254/947-5831	S	Salado Eye Care	254/947-LENS	P	512/947-9218	\$	
(1 mile east on Royal)			34. FIRST CENTRE at 40 N. Main			57. THE COLONY			Village Pharmacy	254/947-3185	\$			
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Country Inn			First Community Title	254/947-8480	\$	Lori's	254/947-8350	S	Salado Public Library	254/947-9191	E			
(3.5 miles east on Royal)			35. Salado Masonic Lodge #296		CV	59. Watersong Massage	254/947-0042	P	Salado Cleaners	254/947-7299	\$			
Friendship House B&B	254/947-3136	L	Christy's of Salado	254/947-0561	S	61. SALADO CIVIC SQUARE			Village Realty	254/947-0342	\$			
The Baines House B&B	254/947-5260	L	Inn at Salado	254/947-0027	L	Joe Read State Farm Agency	254/947-3599	\$	100. Village Realty	254/947-0342	\$			
Inn on the Creek B&B	254/947-5554	D,L	SALADO SQUARE			Properties by Larry Sands	254/947-5580	\$	102. Robertson's Hams and The Choppin' Block	254/947-5562	S			
CELEBRATION CENTER			Browning's Courtyard Cafe	254/947-8666	D	Uncommon Grounds Cafe	254/947-3354	D	Fairway Golf Carts	254/947-4065	S			
Botangles	254/947-4747	\$	Carden's	254/947-0300	S	62. Heirlooms	254/947-0336	S	Scissors Hair and Nails	254/947-9001	\$			
Old Salado Springs Celebration Center and Retreat	254/947-5933	\$	Linda Rountree Pritchard	254/947-4263	P	65. The Village of Salado	254/947-5060	CV	Super 8 Motel	254/947-5000	L			
Old Salado Springs			Main Street Place	254/947-9908	S				Johnny's Steaks & Bar-Be-Que	254/947-4663	D			
Guest Lodging	254/947-5933	L						Johnny's Texas Banquet Hall	254/947-4663	D				
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Iraqi physician makes way to U.S.

Dr. Mayada Samarraie, an Iraqi physician who has resided in the U.S. since Oct. 2005, addressed the Rotary Club of Salado Feb. 21 about her experiences in Iraq before and after the U.S. invasion. Although she has only been in the U.S. for less than six months, Dr. Samarraie began assisting the U.S. military shortly after occupation, as an interpreter and physician. The U.S. military repaid Dr. Samarraie by helping her reach America, where

she now hopes to earn citizenship.

She began by giving a narrative history of her life in Iraq prior to coming to the U.S. She said she was number one in her country in academic testing after completing six years of primary and six years of secondary education. Her high scores qualified her to move on to an education as a physician. This is considered the highest calling in Iraq; those lower on academic testing are directed to careers in what they consider inferior professions.

She said she attended Medical School for six years, beginning at the age of 18. In Iraq, Samarraie continued, medical training begins with two years residency in all fields of medicine and ends with formal education, and all medical text books are in English. English, she explained, is taught to Iraqi school children from fifth grade on.

Dr. Samarraie joined the U.S. military immediately after U.S. occupation and became a trusted interpreter for the General in charge; she also helped in delivering medical



Dr. Mayada Samarraie

supplies to hospitals as needed, and worked with victims of infectious diseases.

She pointed out that for the first six months of U.S. occupancy troops were welcomed and respected. Thereafter, the insurgents employed intimidation and created an atmosphere of fear among the many people like her that supported and worked with allied troops.

As a result, according

to Samarraie there are now a great number of Iraqi's that look on cooperating with the U.S. as the equivalent of treason. She says she is concerned about the welfare of her family that remains in Iraq, and added that many expect no solution to the current situation short of civil war, partly because each country bordering Iraq is trying to influence Iraq's future.

--REPORTED BY GERRY REIHSEN

SHS Talent Show postponed

The Salado High School student council will present a Talent Show 7 p.m. March 6 in the Salado Intermediate School cafeteria.

Both SISD students and faculty are expected to participate, and Gary Askins will serve as master of Ceremonies. Special guest judges for

the evening will be Penny and Grainger Esch of the Salado Silver Spur Theater.

A trophy and \$100 prize will be awarded for first place, and door prizes will also be issued.

Tickets, which are available at the Salado High School office and at Century 21 - Bill Bartlett Real Estate, are priced at \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

All proceeds will benefit scholarships for Salado students.

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Surprise your taste buds with these treats

Several years ago, after a session in the late James Beard's cooking classes, I went home intending to follow one of his suggestions. He had flavored a bowl of fruit with brandy from a bottle containing a vanilla bean.

I happened to have a bottle with about an ounce in it and a new bottle of brandy. I half-filled the opened bottle, put in a large vanilla bean and returned it to the cabinet.

A few weeks later I was sautéing shrimp and, trying to go fancy, took out a bottle and poured some into the pan. In a few minutes, this lovely aroma reached me. I assumed one of my neighbors was

baking. You know what? It was coming from my skillet. I'd used the brandy with the vanilla. The shrimp was delicious -- sweet, but delicious. Sometimes mistakes lead to creative cooking.

It occurred to me that vanilla might be good in other non-dessert dishes. So, accommodating us, the Watkins, Inc. people fiddled around and came up with a vinaigrette that will surprise your taste buds. And we have a Cinnamon Swirl loaf for you too.

Cinnamon Swirl Loaf
1 cup sour cream
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 cup (1 four-ounce

The Chopping Block

By Philomena Corradeno

stick) butter
1 cup sugar
2 eggs, beaten
1 teaspoon Watkins pure vanilla extract
1 3/4 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon

Combine sour cream and baking soda in small bowl; set aside while preparing batter.

Cream together butter and sugar; beat in eggs and vanilla. Mix together flour, baking powder and

salt. Add half the flour mixture and half the reserved sour cream mixture, blending well after each addition. Repeat with remaining flour mixture and sour cream mixture, mixing until well-blended.

In separate bowl, combine brown sugar and cinnamon; set aside.

In greased 9-by-5-by-3-inch loaf pan, alternate one-third batter and one-third cinnamon mixture, repeating twice, starting with batter and ending with cinnamon mixture.

With a knife, swirl contents of loaf pan. Bake at 350 F oven 1 to 1 1/2 hours or until cake tester inserted in center comes out clean. (Check first after an hour.)

Tarragon-Vanilla Vinaigrette

1-1/2 cups grapeseed oil or vegetable oil
1/2 to 2/3 cup white wine vinegar
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
1-1/2 teaspoons Watkins pure vanilla extract
2 teaspoons sugar
1 teaspoon tarragon
1 teaspoon basil
1/2 teaspoon dry mustard

1/2 teaspoon freshly ground sea salt
Freshly ground black pepper

Combine all ingredients in medium bowl; whisk until smooth.

Refrigerate until needed.

Makes 2 cups, 2 tablespoons per serving. Keeps up to one week in refrigerator.

Note: For a creamy salad dressing, substitute 1 cup buttermilk and 1 cup non-fat plain yogurt for the oil and vinegar.

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Mexican hot cocoa an homage to chocolate

Mexican Hot Cocoa

As a tribute to the origins of chocolate, this creamy and spicy hot cocoa is perfect to warm and soothe the soul.

Serves 2

- 4 TB unsweetened cocoa powder
- 4 TB sugar
- 2 1/2 cups whole milk
- 3 oz. bittersweet chocolate, chopped
- 1/2 vanilla bean, split
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- whipped cream
- chocolate shavings*

Mix together cocoa powder and sugar. Heat milk in a medium saucepan over very low heat with vanilla bean, chocolate, cinnamon, nutmeg and cocoa mixture. Whisk thoroughly until cocoa becomes hot. Do not boil. Divide into two mugs and

top with whipped cream and chocolate shavings.

*Use a vegetable peeler on a block of semisweet chocolate to make shavings.

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LaFon's Antiques
P.O. Box 529, 221 North Main

M Dear Customers: LaFon's Antiques will be moving on March 30, 2006 to a new location. Our new location will be at 511 Stagecoach Rd. and I-35 in the Salado Creek Antiques building, Salado, Texas. The telephone number will remain the same, (254) 947-8040.

O We will be open for your shopping pleasure, Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday from 12 noon till 3:00 PM, closed Monday & Tuesday except by appointment. **Sale Time! I will be having a moving sale for my regular customers from now until March 1, and then it will be open to the public. Come in for great savings of 10% up to 50% off. Please bring your card.**

V Thanks, *LaFon* lafonantiques.com

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Please join us this weekend

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Roasted Eggplant Dip

Second Course
Mixed greens with Poppy Seed Dressing

Main Course
Grilled Beef Tenderloin
Fillet with the Inn's
Homemade Bearnaise Sauce
Butter-Herb Green Beans
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Dessert Course
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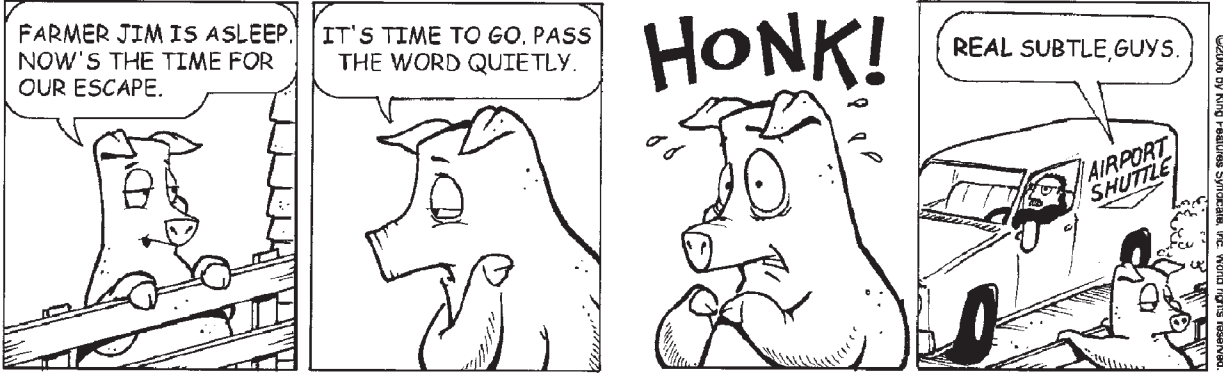


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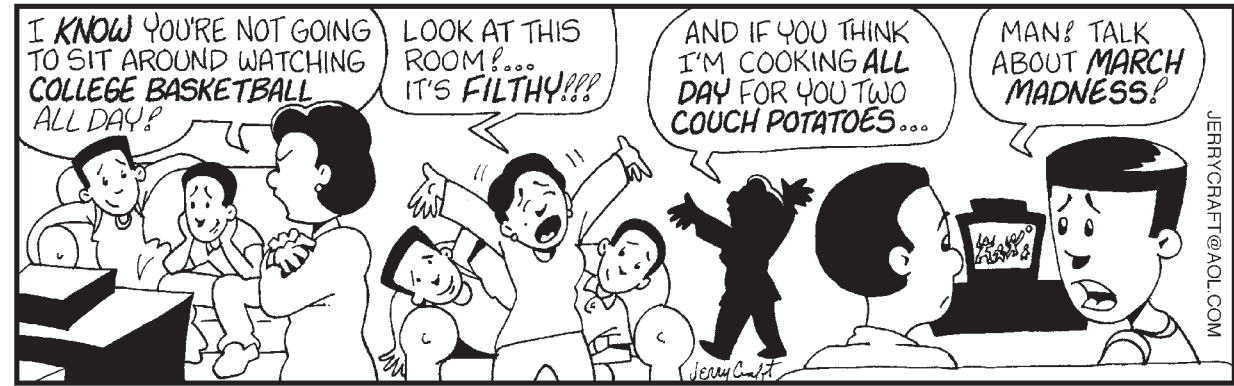
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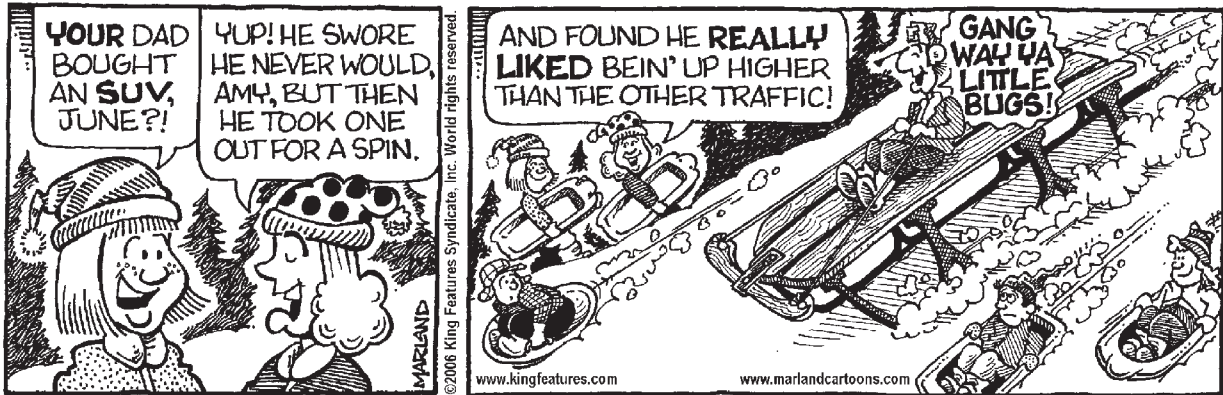
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The Garden Bug

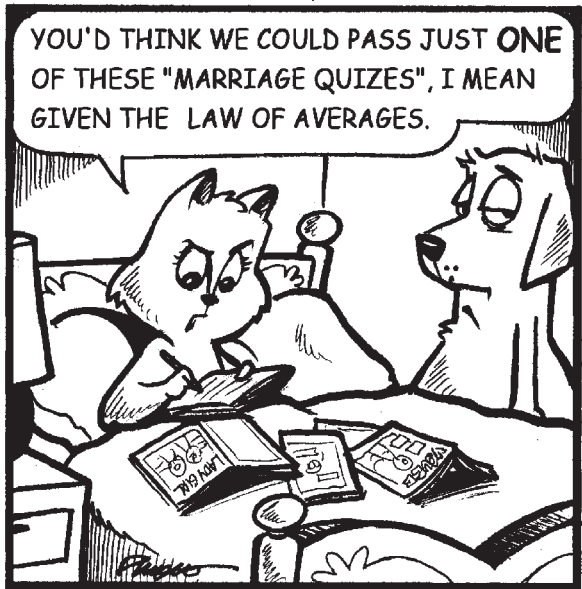
The shamrock

The symbol of the seamrog ("summer plant") of Ireland has held much meaning to the various peoples that have lived there over the centuries.

White clover (*Trifolium repens*), hop clover (*medicago lupulina*) and woodsorrel (*oxalis acetosella*) are often referred to as shamrock.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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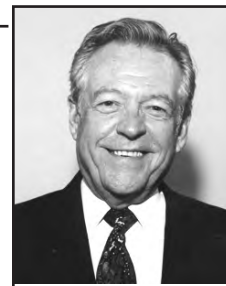


EMILY RAY®



Bonnie Parker's last hairdo

by
Tumbleweed
Smith



I was in Mineola the other day and someone told me I ought to go interview Odelle Strickland, who lives in the small community of Alba. The person who recommended her to me said she is 95 years old and lives alone in a house that she maintains by mowing the lawn and doing roof repairs.

So I went to Alba and interviewed Odelle about her life. She grew up on a farm and milked cows and plowed fields. She was a beauty operator for 75 years and still has a beauty shop in Alba. Occasionally she'll fix somebody's hair. She also has a collection of old clocks and some antique beauty shop equipment that she keeps in good working order. She bowled a lot and owns three bowling balls. A couple of pictures she painted hang in her living room.

She thinks she is the oldest living beauty operator that is still working. "I could fix hair every day if I wanted to," she said. In the early days of her

career she charged a quarter for a shampoo and set. Some people thought that was too expensive.

I recorded our conversation for about 30 minutes and was satisfied I had enough material for a column or program and was putting away my recorder and microphone when she said, "I gave Bonnie Parker her last hairdo two weeks before she and Clyde Barrow were shot." I got out my microphone and sat down to hear all about that.

"We were not busy one day and this lady came in and said 'lock the door and don't let nobody in and don't answer the phone.' She said she wanted her hair done. The other girl in the shop washed her hair, but she was so nervous she could hardly do anything. Bonnie didn't

bother me. I rolled her hair up then put her under the drier. She kept a towel over her face. She had a half-opened umbrella and kept her hand in it all the time she was in the shop. I tried every way to see in it, but she always moved it. She knew what I was doing. I'm sure she had a gun in there.

"The county doctor had an office next to our shop and we had a big double door that joined our place to his. When he was gone, we always answered his phone. His phone got to ringing and Bonnie told us not to answer it. I told her if we didn't, people would get suspicious. Bonnie told me 'you look honest enough. Go ahead and answer it. But leave the door open.' So I went ahead and took the mes-

sage. While I was on the phone, I wrote a note saying 'Bonnie Parker is in the beauty shop. Go get the sheriff.' The doctor came while she was still there and tried to open the door to our shop. Bonnie told us not to let him in. I told her he needs to know where the patient lives. Bonnie let me go to the door and talk to the doctor. I told him Bonnie was still in the shop. The doctor went to the sheriff's office but nobody came. She wouldn't let us finish dying her hair real good, but I went ahead and fixed her hair best I could. She paid us and said 'don't follow me or say nothing.' Then she left. When we thought she had time to get gone, we rushed outside. I figure Clyde was waiting for her and she got in the car and they took off. We went to the sheriff's office and asked why they didn't come over. They said they were afraid we'd get hurt."

Shakespeare Fest cancelled

Tablerock Festival of Salado has announced that the Shakespeare Invitational, scheduled for this weekend, has been cancelled due to unforeseeable scheduling problems faced by the event's organizers.

"The board of directors still firmly supports this event, and we plan to do it at another time in the near future. We truly regret the short notice in this cancellation, but it was truly unforeseeable," says Shakespeare director David Dunlap.

Tablerock still has plans for a full production of "Macbeth" later in the fall, Oct. 7, 14 and 21.

"We will keep you apprised of rescheduling for the Shakespeare Invitational once we have some more solid information to pass along," says Dunlap.

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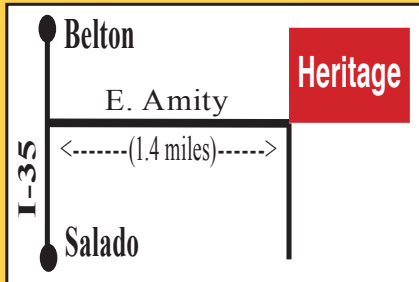
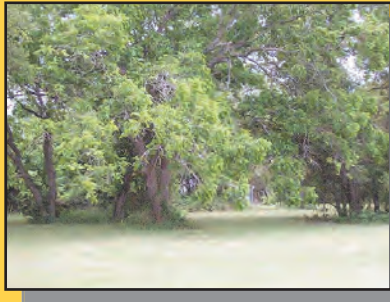


manufacturers use cost-cutting techniques that reduce overall quality. He compares the solid wood and traditional joinery he uses to the chipboard, fake wood grain, and mechanical fasteners found in store-bought pieces. "With traditional building techniques, a custom piece will last for generations," Pascoe says.

There are other advantages to a custom-built piece. Pascoe can size a project to your specification and finish it to blend with your existing decor. "I have one customer who loved the style of a table from a well-known furniture store, but wanted it 8 inches wider and a darker color. With the store, it's what you see is what you get. I was able to match both the style and customer's requirements." In many cases, Pascoe is even able to beat store prices.

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

For Sale 2003 Ford F150 XL truck regular cab, long bed, cruise/tilt, am/fm/cd commercial truck cap with dual ladder rack. Day 254-493-7367 evening 254-947-5032
2/23tfnb

For Sale: Couch, Love Seat and Ottoman Southwest style and print 2 years old \$575. 947-8144
2/23b

Garage & Estate Sale

Re-decorating and Garage Sale Furniture and many decorative and household items. Saturday March 4, 8:00 a.m. till ? (weather permitting) 1000 Brookhollow Circle

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\$274,900: Recently constructed home in Heritage Subdivision. 4 BR, 2.5 BA. Stone/brick combination in the breakfast and dining area. Beautiful view out front door. Check out this home and subdivision. Salado schools.



\$429,000: Home on 2.5 acres in restricted subdivision in Salado ISD. Walk into elegance as you enter this home with high ceilings, gourmet kitchen, granite countertops, & beautiful tiled fireplace. This home also has an inground pool with waterfall & hot tub. The backyard is completely fenced for privacy. Yard is irrigated by private well. 4 BR and 3 full baths.



\$335,000: Beautiful home in Royal Oaks located on a wooded lot. Conveniently located to downtown Salado. Very spacious rooms, large kitchen, four car garage, sun room, 3 BR, 2.5 BA. Lawn is irrigated by a well. Built in 1995. Excellent location.



\$239,900: Hilltop view of Texas countryside, private & quiet. Pier & beam construction elevates home so you can see for miles! Custom tile & backsplash in kitchen. Covered porch on two sides for relaxing with family & friends. Plenty of room for barn and horses.



\$209,900: This home is oozing with personality and creativity. Located near the back entrance to Mill Creek off Blackberry, the location couldn't be better access to I-35 or downtown Salado. Kitchen is open to family room with a granite bar that seats 4 people.



\$124,950: Just outside of town on 1 acre! 3 BR, 3 BA ranch style home with recent metal roof & recent AC/heat. Nicely redone & ready for new owners. Barn/stable for animals at back of property, nice country landscape with huge oak tree in backyard.

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\$269,900: Drive by & imagine yourself living in this Texas Limestone ranch home. This 4 BR, 3 BA is loaded with extras. All countertops are granite. The wood floored entry opens to the large living area & formal dining room. Irrigation system, landscaping, & gutters.



\$195,000: Great location on Indian Trail in Salado. Beautiful trees and a private back yard. Larry Lilly built home in the heart of Mill Creek.



\$162,000: Lovely hardwood floors accent this home throughout. Master BR with French doors opening onto a covered back porch & deck. Kitchen opens into the breakfast area & living room. Private backyard with a great deck for entertaining. Antique roses adorn the back yard.

Acreage Available

- 780 acs. with nice home, several ponds, large metal building.
- 439 acs. on FM 487, Florence. Oaks, grasslands.
- 145 acres near Eddy. Mostly coastal grass, well fenced. UC
- 5 wooded acres on Blackberry Rd.

Lots & Home Sites

Mill Creek Lots

- Mill Creek Springs I & III - \$30,000-75,000
- Mill Creek Springs IV *Just Released!*
Golf course & hilltop view lots start at \$40,000
Interior lots start at \$25,000
The Overlook, estate-sized lots start at \$94,000.

Woods of Salado Lots

- Live Oak Rd. Lots 21 A&B \$70,000

Other Lots

- Windy Hill Ranch: 2 acre lots - \$35,000-\$45,000.
- Heritage: 1 to 3 acre wooded, near Salado. Restricted.
- Hidden Springs: Lot 2, Lot 31.
- Denman's Loop: Lot 8, B 19, Sec, 2, \$18,000.
- Terra Bella: 12 estate lots in park-like setting off Armstrong Rd. \$45,000-\$110,000.
- Jeremiah's Well: 11.9 acres with pond and well.

Commercial Property

- \$429,000: 5.66 acres commercial property off Main Street Salado.
- \$149,000: 1.6 acres with good potential for commercial near I-35 & FM 2484.
- \$84,500: Commercial building on Thomas Arnold Rd. close to Salado Schools & I-35.
- \$79,800: Great location for a Salado business, on 0.925 ac. on Center Circle.

Considering selling your home?

We have buyers looking for...

- 2 homes, or room for 2 homes, on 20-150 acres, under \$2,000,000. Convenient to Scott & White.
- Nice, clean home on wooded lot under \$300,000.
- 3 BR, 2 BA home in Mill Creek under \$180,000.
- Home on acreage, 2500+ SF, under \$350,000.
- Home on acreage under \$200,000.
- 10-15 acres to accommodate home, indoor & outdoor arenas.
- Home in Mill Creek under \$160,000.
- Home under \$100,000, Salado Schools.
- Historic home for possible B & B.
- 3 or 4 BR, 2 BA home 1800+ SF, under \$200,000.
- Home with nice front porch, trees, 2 living, 2 dining, under \$250,000. Mill Creek area.
- Trees, newer home, split BR arrangement or home with apartment, under \$300,000.
- 35-150 acres, wooded, up to \$300,000, between Salado and Georgetown.



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3/2p
Moving Sale Saturday (March 4) from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. 727 Royal St. Love seat, cribs, coffee table, lots of baby items. Everything must go. 3/2p.

Employment

Office manager/bookkeeper needed. Send resume P O Box 1044, Salado, TX 76571

Now accepting applications for waitperson. Apply in person at Johnny's Steak and BBQ.

2/23tfnb
Part time help Sunday's 12:30- 5 p.m. Susan Marie's Ladies Boutique 947-5239 or come by. 1/26tfnb

Homes For Sale

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3/2-5/4p
2400 Sq. ft. golf home. Views, trees, Corian kitchen, jacuzzi, patios, utterly divine floors. 512-554-4987 \$234,500

2/23-3/16p
Hidden Springs. 4 BR, 2 BA, 2 Car garage on 2 acres. Fireplace., laundryroom, office. Beautiful home. \$219,000 254-760-4486

0209tfnb
East of Salado, this 3/2.5/2 custom home is fully landscaped. Granite countertops, large master bath, gutters and more. Study could be used as 4th bedroom. \$247,500. Call First Texas Brokerage 947-5577

0202F
Austin stone country estate on acreage is framed by large cascading oak trees. Wet weather creek runs on the back of this 8.72 acre homesite. Hardwood floors, windows from ceiling to floor in living room, great room effect, stone fireplace, gourmet kitchen, 3 BR/2-1/2 BA, library with built-ins, zoned AC. Two dining areas and spacious laundry. Barn/garage is 40' x 60' with 800 SF 1BR apartment. \$565,000. Call Village Realty 947-0342.

0202F
Walk into a beautiful living room accented by a rock fireplace. Formal dining, breakfast, and kitchen are all open to provide for easy conversation and entertaining. Split bedrooms with Master separate from two guest bedrooms. Magnificent trees cover the lot with a very private back yard. Long covered front and back porches. \$169,900. Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050

6/16tfnf
Century-old live oaks surround this 4/2.5 home on over 22 acres. Beautifully updated, 12 ft. ceilings, 2 living areas, over 800 ft. of patios, well and water meter. Northwest of Salado. \$324,900. Call First Texas Brokerage, (254) 947-5577

Private wooded setting. Soaring ceilings and stained concrete floors accent this gorgeous 5 BR, 3 BA home. Gas fireplace with slate front and hearth. second living now used as office. All stainless steel appliances convey 2 ovens. Granite countertops. Covered patio with surround sound and gas fire pit, second terrace is wired for hot tub. Too many extras to list. \$374,900 Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050

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Spacious Home on Quiet Street: 6/6/1, the possibilities are endless with over 3,500 sq. ft. on approximately 1.4 acres. Home or business. Reduced \$229,900. Call First Texas Brokerage at 254-947-5577

tfnf
Beautifully restored railroad depot on 16+acres. Master suite, country kitchen, large suite for guests/children. Garage with lots of storage areas that could be extra living. Horse stables, everything you could ask for in a convenient home on the range. \$525,000. Call First Texas Brokerage at 254-947-5577

tfnf
Own a Piece of Salado Creek. A Darwin Britt home built in 1987 with beautiful wood floors, beams and staircase designed by a true craftsman. 1910 beams from a Galveston warehouse accent the living areas. Walk through the archway of Belgium doors a you enter the formal living and dining. Brass door knobs, Jenn-aire appliances, Corian countertops, custom cabinets, tongue and groove wood floors allow for wonderful entertaining on the banks of Salado Creek. First time on the market since 1980's. Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050

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1710 Old Mill Rd. Unit 11 Mill Creek Salado
Offered at \$174,000

Enjoy the picturesque, 5th-hole golf course views from master bedroom and sunroom of this quiet, single-story townhome. At approximately 2800 SF, this home has a large gourmet kitchen with butcher-block island and breakfast nook with den and fireplace. 2 BR/2.5 BA, 2 dining areas and 2 living areas. The oversized master bedroom has a dressing room with vanity and two closets. Tile and wood floors, cedar closets and wet bar make this house a place you can call home. Please call Jerry Schmidt for your private showing!



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2850 Hester Way • Mill Creek • Salado

This stunning 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with study is ready for your family! Absolutely gorgeous with huge fireplace, granite tops in kitchen and ceramic tile throughout. Hardwood floors in study and private vanities in secondary bedrooms. This floor plan is very impressive and the décor is exceptional! Please call Marcie to see this dream home! 512-415-7786



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183 acres just .25 miles of FM 2484
Preliminary Engineering work complete with county approval for subdivision with 292 half-acre lots. Please call Marcie for complete package. Excellent investment opportunity. 512-415-7786



2288 Chisholm Trail • Mill Creek • Salado

Beautiful custom home on 1.5 acre lot. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths with study and formal dining. All the extras including granite and marble counters. Oversized garage and appealing landscape set this home apart.



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Land for Sale

Prime location in Salado, Great investment! Located in the historic district, can be residential or retail, lots of space w/over 2800 sf on corner lot. Lots of potential! \$170's for more details/app't's call Lorraine Goode, Realtor, Covington Real Estate 254-780-3668

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.

Heavily wooded 5.64 acre tract in a premiere Salado subdivision. Lots are flat and would be easy to build on. Perfect hideaway. \$70,000. Century 21 Bill Bartlett 254-947-5050

The Overlook - wooded estate sized lots with hill top golf course views. Century 21 Bill Bartlett 254-947-5050

For sale by owner: Hidden Springs 3.27 acres. Only \$41,500 Lot #326 254-541-5449 512-285-2563

Commercial Rental

Commercial Rental for lease: Early Texas home (Bell Co, 1850's) Beautifully restored. Ideally suited for professional, commercial or retail. Antique pine floors, two fireplaces, original wood walls. Spacious front porch. Call 254-947-5575 or 254-760-4346 2/16tfnb

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

For Rent or Lease

For Rent: 2 BR 1 Ba newly remodeled \$550 monthly \$400 deposit.

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Duplex: 2 BR, 2 Ba, 1 car garage. Available Feb. 15. 1 year lease.



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EVERYTHING IS "BIGGER" in this new Texas Style Rock Home with approximately 2,360 living sq. ft. 3 bedrooms, 2.75 baths, 2 living, 2 dining, master bath with his whirlpool tub. 3-car garage. Austin stone makes this a true Texas star. **\$283,500.**

HORSEMAN'S DELIGHT! Austin Stone ranch house in Salado on 29.5 acres. Home has 3 bedroom, 3 bath with approx. 1,851 living sq. ft. Master bedroom closet constructed for storm shelter. 3,016 sq. ft., 5-horse stall barn with pipe turnouts, office, tack, and feed room. Large 598 sq. ft. workshop with trailer carport storage. Pasture has traps with water and shelter. Austin stone entrance with iron gate. Panoramic view of countryside. **\$399,000.**

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Charming One BR, Mother-in-law apt. Sits back from the road next to a pond \$650 All Bills Paid. No Yard Work. Village Realty 947-0342

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March 2, 2006 ^{SALADO} Village Voice, Page 7C or short term. \$700 month plus deposit. Appliances, water, yard maintenance included. Non-smokers only, No pets. Call 254-913-2841 or 254-947-8273 or 254-947-0281. For Rent - 1BR/1BA completely furnished cottage with water, cable, and yard work included. \$750/month

plus \$400 deposit. Now available! No pets. (254) 947-7145. Charming, spacious, 2/2/1, town-home for rent, \$825. 6 closets, vaulted ceiling, w/d closet inside, Walk to shopping center. Lawn care provided. 254-338-5083. 12/15tfnb



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