

Salado Village Voice

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TTC-35 study area narrowed to 10-mile swath just east of Salado

Visit www.saladovillagevoice.com to view TTC-35 map

Texas Department of Transportation released its 4,000-page draft environmental impact statement for the Trans-Texas Corridor-35 April 4, including the 10-mile wide area in which a 1,200 feet wide swath of right-of-way may lie just east of Salado in a path that is mostly parallel to the current Interstate 35.

The report's findings show a narrowed study area from Gainesville to Laredo to be generally 10 miles wide and within close proximity to I-35 and metropolitan centers, except where it is centered on I-35 south of San Antonio to Laredo.

The report's findings are not final and will be subject to more than 50 public hearings along the I-35 corridor this summer.

The narrowed study area was identified as the preferred corridor alternative because it best supports the purpose and need for TTC-35 and incorporates the most miles of existing highways and rail – 195 and 214 miles respectively.

These findings are part of the TTC-35 draft environmental impact statement prepared by

the Texas Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

The draft report also examined population and traffic demand within the I-35 corridor and concluded that increased freight traffic and growing congestion compound the need for additional transportation alternatives within the I-35 corridor.

"After more than two years of analysis, the question regarding the need for TTC-35 is now well documented," said Michael Behrens, TxDOT executive director, referring to a section of the draft report on why the project should be built.

"Our strategic plan contains long-term, mid-term, and short-term tactics. "Building TTC-35 is one of our long-term tactical decisions to reduce congestion, enhance safety, expand economic opportunity, improve air quality, and preserve the value of IH-35," said Ric Williamson, chairman of the Texas Transportation

Commission.

Approximately 45 percent of the 21 million Texans live within 50 miles of I-35. With this significant portion of the population centered around I-35, proponents of TTC-35 say that the corridor is no longer an efficient option for inter-city and freight travel but rather has become a commuter route, particularly in the urban areas.

Even with planned improvements to I-35, traffic demand will reach or exceed capacity by 2025. TxDOT is in the midst of an expansion of I-35 from Hillsboro to Jarrell, adding one lane in each direction. The multi-phase project includes Salado, which will be one of the final phases of the project. Construction of the I-35 expansion through Salado is tentatively slated for 2008-2009.

"Take a good look at I-35," said Ralph Snyder, of Holland, "because that is the way it will look for two to three generations. It will be little more than a city street."

Snyder, who owns a salvage business on State

Highway 95 in Holland, was one of the early opponents of the TTC. He was the founder of the Blackland Coalition, an organization of farmers, property owners and residents formed to fight the TTC.

Snyder said that he had not had a chance to look at the 4,000-page environmental impact statement which was released April 4. However, for more than a year, he has been following the announcements by TXDOT officials and has "tried to let people know what is going to happen to them when this thing gets on the ground."

Snyder, who is no longer formally associated with the Coalition he helped to form, said that "The only way to stop it (TTC) is for the people to stand up and make their voices heard."

If Gov. Rick Perry wins re-election in November, Snyder said, then plans for TTC would continue to become a reality. "The election is his to lose," Snyder said. "There is a whole lot of money involved in this and tremendous forces behind it."

Most of the force behind it comes from the urban areas along I-35, including Dallas, Ft. Worth, Waco, Austin and San Antonio, where the interstate at times is a parking lot. Add to that the influence of trade and traffic on the interstate for a powerful cocktail of urban transportation needs and trade needs.

Transportation models also indicate commercial truck traffic in Texas will grow dramatically. By 2025, freight traffic will grow 132 percent, which translates into an average of 260,465 commercial trucks each day on Texas roads. Already, 20-38 percent of current traffic on I-35 is from commercial trucks and a significant portion is due to international trade.

In addition to determining the need for TTC-35, other factors were also analyzed to identify the narrowed study area. These included land use, engineering and design, traffic flow and potential impacts on environmental factors, such as wetlands, farmland soils, cultural resources

and socio-economic issues. Public input from 117 public meetings was also considered.

The next step in the tiered environmental process is to continue gathering public comments. Numerous hearings are planned this summer throughout the study area. The TTC website www.keeptexasmoving.org listed no dates or locations of public meetings on the EIS. Final approval by the Federal Highway Administration on a narrowed study area could happen by next summer, however it would not authorize construction.

If federally approved, the environmental process would continue with Tier Two focusing on the narrowed 10-mile wide study area. It is within this study area that a final project route would be determined for roads, rail and utilities. If approved, the Tier Two studies would authorize construction.

The Tier Two study will focus on narrowing the route by taking into consideration impacts on local communities, historical cemeteries, historical

SEE TTC, PAGE 5A

Auction benefits Project Graduation

Salado High School Class of 2006 will hold a fundraising dinner and silent auction, with proceeds benefitting the 2006 Project Graduation, 5-7 p.m. April 8 at the Salado Intermediate School.

The dinner menu, consisting of hamburgers, hot dogs, side dishes, drinks and homemade desserts, will be available for carry-out as well as dine-in. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children age

11 and up, while children under the age of 10 will be admitted for \$5.

Bruce and Susan Gordon are requesting donations for the silent auction. Anyone wishing to donate an item should contact them at 254-947-5240.

If you would like to make a monetary donation to Project Graduation, checks may be mailed to Projection Graduation Committee, PO Box 457, Salado, TX 76571.

Aldermen have full agenda

Salado aldermen have a full agenda 6:30 p.m. April 6 at the Salado Civic Center, including reports on renovation of the municipal building and the Village Sewer Evaluation Committee.

Other items include:

cancelling general election, tasers and additional fire-arms, an ordinance/code workshop, Pace Park renovation, operating agreement for Pace Park, and drainage at Hester Way and Mary Street. The meeting is open to the public.



(PHOTO BY MARILYN FLEISCHER)

Salado Smokin Spokes April 1 (shown above) was just one of several events in the village last weekend, which kept Salado buzzing with activity. Other events included the Wildflower Art Show, the Texas Packard Meet, and Murder on the Menu play.

TXU Delivery proposes Salado-Hutto line

BY TIM FLEISCHER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A proposed electric transmission line connecting an expanded Salado switching station on Rose Lane to the existing Hutto switching station on County Road 119 west of Hutto will be completed in 2010, if approved by the Public Utility Commission.

TXU Electric Delivery Company is proposing the expansion of the Salado substation to be a full switch station and the transmission line south to Williamson County in order for the company "to continue to provide safe and reliable electric service," TXU Electric Delivery officials stated at an April 3 open house at Salado Intermediate School.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) has determined that there is a need to provide another bulk

electric power transfer path from the San Antonio area to the Temple area. A 345 kV transmission line is proposed to be constructed from the Clear Springs switching station east of San Antonio to the proposed Salado Switching station where the new 345 kV transmission line will connect with the existing 345 kV transmission line network.

TXU Electric Delivery portion of the overall project is to provide the proposed transmission line between the proposed Salado switching station and the existing Hutto switching station.

TXU Electric officials presented maps of several possible routes or route combinations connecting the Salado-Hutto switching stations. Those routes can be viewed at www.saladovillagevoice.com. For those without internet access SEE TXU, PAGE 4A



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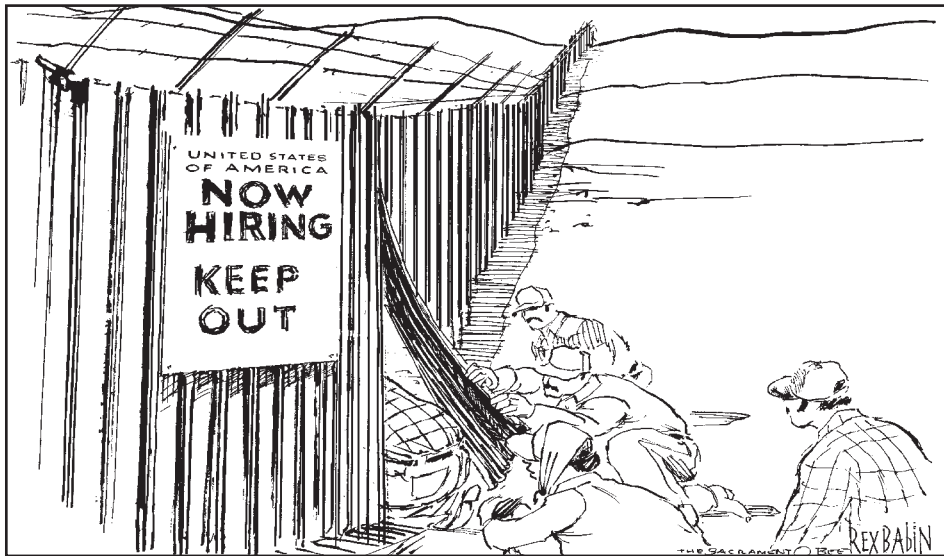
Salado Masons, such as Darrell Street and A.J. Hall worked a March 31 Fish Fry to benefit scholarships to local students from the Salado Masonic Lodge #296.

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FORUM

An Open Exchange of Ideas



Jobs Americans won't do?

A core element of the American creed has always been a belief in the dignity of labor -- at least until now. Supporters of a guest-worker program for Mexican laborers say that "there are jobs that no Americans will do." This is an argument that is a step away from suggesting that there are jobs that Americans shouldn't do.

President George Bush, a strong supporter of the guest-worker program, has long said that "family values don't stop at the Rio Grande." We are supposed to believe, however, that the work ethic does stop there -- it is only south of it that people can be found who are willing to work in construction, landscaping and agricultural jobs.

This is sheer nonsense. According to a new survey by the Pew Hispanic Center, illegals make up 24 percent of workers in agriculture, 17 percent in cleaning, 14 percent in construction and 12 percent in food production. So 86 percent of construction workers, for instance, are either legal immigrants or Americans, despite the fact that this is one of the alleged categories of untouchable jobs.

Oddly, the people who warn that without millions of cheap, unskilled Mexican laborers, this country would face economic disaster are pro-business libertarians. They believe in the power of the market to handle anything -- except a slightly tighter labor market for unskilled workers. But the free market would inevitably adjust, with higher wages or technological innovation.

Take agriculture. Phillip Martin, an economist at the University of California-Davis, has demolished the argument that a crackdown on illegals would ruin it, or be a hardship to consumers. Most farming -- livestock, grains, etc. -- doesn't heavily rely on hired workers. Only about 20 percent of the farm sector does, chiefly those areas involving fresh fruit and vegetables.

Rich Lowry



The average "consumer unit" in the U.S. spends \$7 a week on fresh fruit and vegetables, less than is spent on alcohol, according to Martin. On a \$1 head of lettuce, the farm worker gets about 6 or 7 cents, roughly 1/15th of the retail price. Even a big run-up in the cost of labor can't hit the consumer very hard.

There is a niche for low-skill labor in America. The question is simply whether it should be filled by illegal or temporary Mexican workers, or instead by legal immigrants and Americans, who can command slightly higher wages. The guest-worker lobby prefers the former option.

If this debate is presented clearly, there is little doubt what most conservatives -- and the public -- would prefer. In his second term, President Bush has become a master of the reverse-wedge issue -- hot-button issues that divide his political base and get it to feast on itself with charges of sexism, xenophobia and racism. The first was Harriet Miers; then there was the Dubai ports deal; and now comes his guest-worker proposal, making for a trifecta of political self-immolation.

There is still time for Bush to make an escape from this latest budding political disaster, but it has to begin with the affirmation that there are no jobs Americans won't do.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Post Abramoff-scandal reform attempt is inexcusable as Senators opt to "Stay the Course" with lobby pals

The Congressional "huffing and puffing" of outrage, following disgraced top lobbyist Jack Abramoff's guilty plea several months ago, is apparently over and "business as usual" has returned with few (if any) substantive changes.

When Abramoff agreed to trade jail time for tattling on House and Senate members who had sold votes and favors, a lot of sleepless nights and worried days ensued for the participating lawmakers, as well as those "tarred" by association with the actions of their felonious brethren.

Reason for that ludicrous rush of panicky conscience in early 2006, were the upcoming March primaries. The reaction to those painful pre-reelection fears were (as expected) vociferous promises to "completely" reform the relationship between Congress and the legion of D.C. lobbyists.

With that first election hurdle over, the calmed-down survivors now feel that with just a modest movement towards "reform" they'll face only a minimum of bloodshed on election day in November - and (hopefully) without endangering their dollar and gift producing lobby machines.

So - what did our brave Congress actually do to restructure their unconscionable way of doing business, either as active wrongdoers, or sideliners who knew what was going on - but with a "wink and a nod" kept quiet? Read on!

REFORM: SENATE STYLE!

The Senate last week passed their version of a milksop type reform package, and like the House of Representatives (several weeks ago), never touched the three basic problems that needed attention - starting with "ear-marking." A disgraceful practice that precludes debate (on spending) while favoring special interest lobbyists (example - military equipment sales).

These **upper-house paragons of slyness and deceit** also brushed aside the needed curtailment of unrestricted lobby-paid travel; and to **top off their "do-nothingism" refused to set up an independent (oversight) "Office of Public Integrity"** to keep tabs on free-wheeling Senate lawmakers.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS?

Let's look at what our Senators actually did accomplish - by their overwhelming 90-8 non-partisan vote.

First, they proved that both parties are equally to blame for their lack of a "reform-minded" backbone.

Then they proudly voted to stop accepting free meals and special gifts. **Wow - turn down meals, but continue accepting all expense paid trips to exotic places on board corporate jets.**

Now that's a trade old-style lawmakers can understand. As a "post mortem" idea, they set up an in-house committee to "scrutinize" (and naturally approve) all lobby paid travel expenses (**The old fox-watching-the-henhouse ploy**).

Later, these **dynamos of minimal reformation** set up a study-course for newly elected Senators, on how to behave ethically while a member of the once highly venerated upper-house.

Old Senate-hands will not be required to go back to school since they either couldn't pass the ethics course; or they'd snatched some "crib" notes, thus making attendance an even greater joke.

And finally, Senators slowed down the revolving door to two years from the time they retire to become a lobbyist; and also told former members to take their influence-seeking off the Senate floor and do it in the "cloak-room" (better arm-twisting place

Off the Record
by Ken Clapp



BENEFITS OF AGING

"OLD FRIENDS ARE THE BEST" THEY

KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU - BUT

CAN'T REMEMBER IT!

BORROWED
(WE FORGET WHO FROM)

anyway).

TEXAS SENATORS VOTE AYE

Texas Senators Kay Hutchison and John Cornyn voted for this "reform" joke and will no doubt be bragging to those of us at home about all they'd done to stop "vote and favor peddling."

The Senate plan is closely attuned to the House measure and to no-one's surprise - neither one does anything to halt the power of the lobby. Both Houses firmly believe (apparently) that they must **"dance with the folks who brung 'em," or more precisely with those who quietly contribute to their perpetual well-being.**

TERM LIMITS MIGHT HELP

There's apparently only one way to effectively reform Congress and that's through term limits. Even when voters send the very best to Washington - all-too-many eventually succumb to the evils of the power-for-sale temptations present throughout the governing process.

At least if we limit their time in office - we'll get a few years of service that's not tainted by corruption and influence peddling.

There's another way (sneaky - of course) to keep from developing a professional class of politicians with lifetime sinecures. Stop offering members of congress a "full pay" retirement benefit, which encourages the inept to linger "forever" in public office.

Some folks say our government is too complicated for these simplistic ideas. Perhaps, but in the final analysis what's really best - "term limits" or allowing elected officials to remain so long at the public feeding trough, that they begin serving themselves rather than those who elected them?

Look for more scandals as things return to what passes for political "normalcy" along the Potomac.

WHERE'S CLINTON WHEN YOU NEED HIM?

The current zany weather patterns in recent weeks have us bumfuzzled. We had a disturbingly brief Winter with cold mornings followed by hot evenings; heavy rain followed by drought; frozen streets followed (in a few hours) by 90 degree swimming weather; followed by wind; followed by raging grass fires. Truly a "Bah-Humbug" season.

It also has many Republicans bemoaning the fact that Bill Clinton is not President these days. How's that? Well it would be great to blame Clinton for the crazy weather (as they blamed everything else on him). And they certainly can't (or won't) fault "their man" George II.

And why not? **Because that would be unpatriotic and certainly not up to the standards of the Homeland Security Code.**

Besides - you want your wires tapped? Or have the IRS come tapping on the door to check your 1962 tax return?

Hence the plaintive cry in the wilderness: **"Where's old Bill when you really need him?"** We'll tell you - he's out running around with George The First, and having a great time - that's where!

That's -30-

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It's time to get to work - we can do it

School finance special session begins April 17;

On April 17 the Texas Legislature will return to Austin to draft a school finance reform plan that will satisfy the constitutional deficiency cited by the Texas Supreme Court. Legislators are obligated to create a means where local school boards have "meaningful discretion" to set a tax rate below the current \$1.50 property tax cap. The Supreme Court ruled that not having discretion to set a lower rate, while still having to satisfy mandated education standards, created a funding method which was indistinguishable from a statewide property tax. A statewide property tax is prohibited by our Texas Constitution.

My goals for school finance reform have been and remain substantial local property tax reduction and an increase of the share of public education costs paid by the State of Texas. I have been willing to look at multiple alternatives to reach this goal. The only option I have emphatically ruled out from the start is a state income tax.

The latest plan that lawmakers are evaluating is the one proposed by Gov. Rick Perry and the Texas Tax Reform Commission, led by former Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts John Sharp. I have been soliciting feedback from the residents of House District 55 on all of the school finance reform options and I would welcome input on what the governor has proposed.

The Perry/Sharp proposal calls for lowering the amount of local property taxes paid to support public school maintenance and operation by 1/3rd through replacement revenue. By the 2006-2007 school year no school district in the state may set a property tax rate above \$1.06 per \$100 of property value without voter

Capitol Update

by State Representative Dianne White Delisi



approval. The absolute limit on local property taxes that school districts may not exceed would be lowered from the current \$1.50 to \$1.30.

The revenue to replace the property taxes would come from three sources. First, the Perry/Sharp plan calls for eliminating the current business franchise tax system and replacing it with a tax on gross business margins. Sharp states that just one business in 16 pays under the current system and that the goal of the commission was a lowered rate spread among more payers. The tax rate under the proposed plan would be set at 1 percent for most businesses and one-half percent for retailers and wholesalers. Businesses generating less than \$300,000 in gross sales would be exempt from the tax. Businesses subject to the tax would be able to deduct either employee compensation costs (up to \$300,00 per employee) or purchased goods.

Loopholes in the existing business tax structure that facilitated avoiding the franchise tax would be closed under the proposed gross business margins tax.

The Perry/Sharp proposal also calls for a \$1 increase in the cigarette tax and using the presumptive (blue book) value of a used vehicle as the basis for calculating motor vehicle sales taxes.

The current sales tax rate for all other goods is not proposed to change, nor would other products or services be subjected to sales taxation.

As I review this and other proposals, I will give strong consideration to the

input I receive from Central Texans. There exists now an historic chance to make major improvements in our current school finance system and I am looking forward to getting back to work.

We need, as a state, to move towards a system of funding for school finance

that is fair to all payers, meshes with our modern economy, and provides a steady revenue stream to educate young Texans.

This has to be done not just to satisfy the Texas Supreme Court. Rather, it must be accomplished because the generation going through our school system today will determine what kind of state we live in tomorrow. Children are 20 percent of our population, but they are 100 percent of our future.

Let's get to work. We can get this done.

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TXU

cess, the map can also be viewed at the *Salado Village Voice* office, 213 Mill Creek Dr., Suite 125.

None of the possible routes will run through Salado proper. However, one possible route from the

Salado switching station may run east to parallel Sulphur Wells Road before beginning south on either Armstrong

Road or Romberg Road. Another possible route from the Salado switching station will run west, crossing I-35 before turning south running briefly parallel to Kuykendall Branch Rd. before crossing I-35 again and heading south.

The routes offer countless combinations, which will be narrowed into a preferred route and alternative routes over the summer.

TXU representative Charles Jasper told *Salado Village Voice* that the route selection process will continue over the next several months.

A preferred route, with at least one alternate route, will be presented to the Public Utility Commission by the end of 2006, Jasper said.

The PUC will have one year to conduct public hearings on the proposed routes before certifying a final route, after which time the right-of-way acquisition process will begin. Notices of the PUC hearings will be published in newspapers of general circulation in the proposed areas for the transmission line.

According to Gordon

Hood, a right-of-way consultant contracting with TXU Electric Delivery for the project, the right-of-way easement will be 160 feet wide to allow room for the towers that will be placed every 1,000 to 1,200 feet.

Hood said that a market study will be conducted by a local real estate appraisal firm to determine the market value of property on which the easement will be acquired.

Hood added that the easement will be purchase for "80 to 90 percent of the value of the property," since the property owner will still have some use of the property.

As a utility company, TXU Electric Delivery does have the power of eminent domain to acquire easements.

"So they're going to pay my neighbor so that I have the privilege of looking at their 170 foot towers," one resident along Armstrong

Road said.

The 345 kV double circuit towers are typically 110 feet to 170 feet tall, according to documents handed out at the meeting. The towers are typically 73'8" in width. A drawing of a typical double circuit tower can also be found at www.saladovillagevoice.com.

Once easements have been acquired and designs finalized, construction of the transmission line will take 9 months to a year, according to Mike McWilliams, with TXU Electric Delivery.

The expansion of the Salado substation to be a switching station will take approximately three months, McWilliams said.

Without final design documents, McWilliams said he did not feel comfortable estimating a cost for the total project. However, a rule of thumb for projects like this is \$700,000 per mile or more, depending upon variables.

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sites, natural resources, endangered species, archaeological areas, water issues and topography, as well as the cost of acquiring real estate.

TTC-35 is expected to acquire a right-of-way of 1,200 feet, although it may take less. A citizen's advisory committee has recommended that the state acquire the right-of-way only for the roads and rail lines. "Utilities can get the same use of land by acquiring easements," said Bell County Commissioner Tim Brown. "This would allow the agricultural lands to continue to be used that way, as well as reducing the cost of acquiring and maintaining right-of-way."

"This is definitely going to have an impact on east Bell County," Brown said shortly after a TXDOT press conference announcing the study area.

Brown said that small communities such as Salado, Holland and Bartlett have "been assured that all existing state highways, including Farm-to-Market roads would have access of some kind."

What that access may be is unclear. "Interfaces will be designed in a later process," Brown said, adding that "We're still looking at 10 years down the road. There is

still the possibility that in some sections of the corridor there will be a No Build Option.

"Today's announcement validates the strength of this concept. Our next big opportunity is rapidly taking shape, and that's Trans-Texas Corridor 69," Commissioner John W. Johnson said. In December 2005, Governor Perry instructed TxDOT to partner with the private sector to develop an interstate-quality highway corridor with additional rail freight capacity that connects the Lower Rio Grande River Valley to I-37 and continues along the south and east portions of Texas from Corpus Christi through Houston all the way to northeast Texas.

In March 2005, TXDOT and Cintra-Zachry signed a comprehensive development agreement for TTC-35. The agreement authorized a \$3.5 million planning effort only.

The complete draft environmental impact statement for TTC-35 is available on www.keeptexasmoving.org.

To view the map of the narrowed study area, click on www.saladovillagevoice.com.

Announcements of public meetings concerning the TTC-35 will be made in the print version of the *Salado Village Voice*, whenever possible, or online at www.saladovillagevoice.com.

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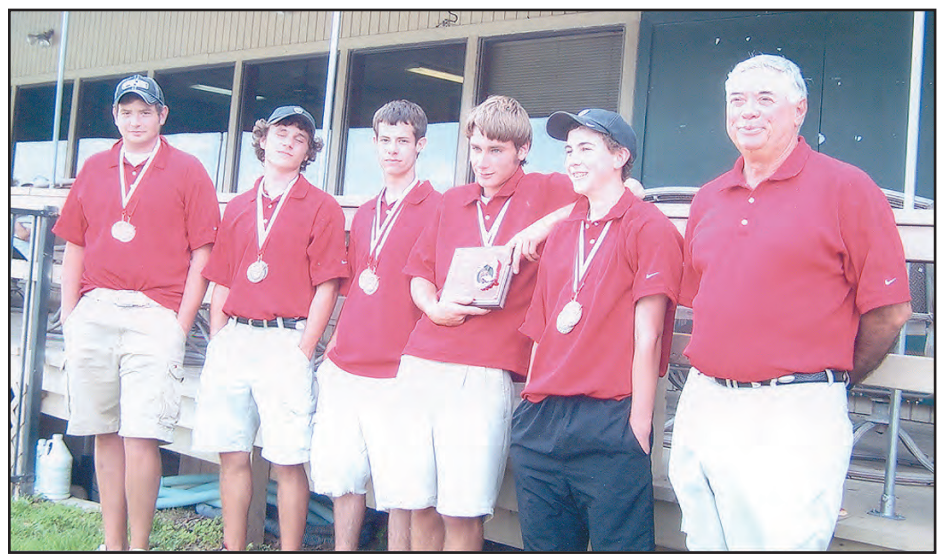
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Salado High School Lady Eagles golf team won its tournament March 30. Shown above are members (from left) Katie Harris, Julie Hajda, Sarah Dowell, Veronica Patochkova, Lacey Bartlett and Coach Bobby Peschel.



Salado High School Eagles golf team won its tournament March 30. Shown above are members (from left) Lucas Martin, Travis Kemp, Clint Permenter, Wes Dowell, Ryan O'Rear and Coach Bobby Peschel.

SHS golf teams sweep their own tournament

While the March 30 Salado golf tournament was an invitational, neither the Salado High School boys nor the girls teams were too welcoming to the opposition as they swept both brackets and dominated the top spots.

In preparation for District competition, which started in Lago Vista April 5, the Eagles golfers took five of the top six spots in their own tournament to turn in 35-stroke win with a 305.

Wes Dowell led the

Salado squad with a 74 over the 18 holes at the Robert Trent Jones II designed Mill Creek Golf Course.

Only three strokes separate first and third place. Salado's Travis Kemp was second place with a 75, followed by teammate Clint Permenter with a 78.

Comfort's Courtney Behred led the second-place team to a 340 by placing fourth with a 78.

SHS Junior Varsity player Jared Hahn turned in a fifth-place score of 78, though it didn't count

toward Salado's team total.

Ryan O'Rear earned a sixth place finish with a 79, followed by Lago Vista's Jimmie Jackson, who also shot a 79. Lago Vista, which is in Salado's district, was the third place team with a 352.

Lucas Martin shot an 81 for Salado, good enough for eighth place overall.

Temple JV's Dustin Hernandez was ninth place with an 84 and Lago Vista's Joseph Anderson was 10th with an 85.

Salado JV players Trevor Radcliffe shot an 89 and Rob Little shot a 105.

The Invitational Tournament had seven schools in the field: Salado, Comfort, Lago Vista, Rogers, Thorndale, Belton JV and Temple JV.

Lady Eagles earn 76-stroke win

Salado Lady Eagles were just as dominate as the boys outpacing second-place Belton JV by 76 strokes.

Sarah Dowell shot an

86 to lead the Lady Eagles to a score of 364.

Katie Harris was second place with an 89 over the 18 holes.

Comfort's Amy Chamberlain shot a 91 for the third place medal.

Lacey Bartlett also shot a 91 for fourth place, followed by teammate Veronica Patochkova, who had a 98. Belton's Sarah Sykes shot a 98 for sixth place, followed by teammate Courtney Wiese, who had a 101.

Jenny Kunze, of Lago Vista, shot a 102; Anna

Buchanan, of Belton, shot a 103 and Toni Thurmond, of Lago Vista, shot a 104 to round out the top ten finishers in the field of 31 golfers.

Julie Hajda was the fifth Lady Eagle golfer with a score of 119.

The top four scores for a team are taken for the overall score.

Belton was second place with a 440, while Lago Vista was third place with a 445 team score.

Five teams competed in the tournament: Salado, Belton JV, Lago Vista, Comfort and Rogers.

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The Bell County Blaze a 10 & under major baseball team won the April Fool's Day Tournament in Round Rock April 1-2. The Blaze went 4-0 in the tournament. Pictured are: (front, from left) Dallas Hankamer, Mason Marinik, Mark Herrington, Andrew Paysse, Chase Cryer, Braden Pearson, Braxton Pearson; (middle, from left) Jared Janczak, Drew Van Winkle, Casey Frazier, Zach Behr, Dane Hankamer; (back row, from left) Ron Van Winkle, Ty Hankamer, Johnny Marinik, Michael Janczak.

Rooney sets 2 records as Lady Eagles take 3rd at Lorena Meet

With help from senior Molly Rooney, who set two records April 1, the Salado High School Lady Eagles track team placed third at the Lorena Leopard Relays in a field of 12 predominantly 3A schools.

Cameron was first with 82.3 points, followed by Waco Connally, 81 points and Salado, 73.6 points.

Rooney placed first in the 300 Meter Hurdles, setting a Lorena meet record of 45.85. She was second place in the 100 Meter Hurdles, with a time of 15.54. In prelims, however, Rooney set a new SHS record with a 15.12, which was faster than the first place time of 15.25 by Robinson's Villareal in the finals.

Rooney had a remarkable day at the meet, also earning gold in the Triple Jump, with a mark of 34 feet, fifth place in the High Jump with a 4'10" height and running on the second place 1600 Meter Relay team.

The 1600 Meter Relay team of Rooney, Amanda Mattson, Keelie Mims and Tamra Stanish trailed Waco Connally with a time of 4:16.04 for the silver medal.

Leigh Martin had a great day for the Salado girls, as well, earning points in three competitions. She was second place in polce vault, with a 9'6" height; third place in the triple jump with a mark of 33'2.5" and fifth place in the long jump with a 15' 11.5" leap.

Other girls earning points for the team were these:

Chelsea Ervi, third place in 800 Meter Run, 2: 28.33.

Tamra Stanish, fourth in pole vault, 8'0".

Mary Runyon, sixth place in shotput, 32'3.5".

LeAnn Ingalsbe, tied

for sixth in High Jump, 4'8".

Sarah Cleveland, tied for sixth in Pole Vault, 7'6".

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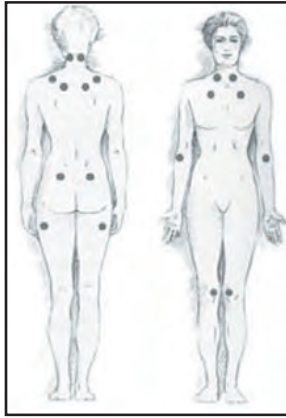
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Salado's scheduled March 28 baseball game ended up being rained out. Though it had to be rescheduled for the following, it was still nearly a wash-out for the Eagles.

Salado committed two errors in each of the first three innings, accounting for six Yegua runs, five of which were unearned.

With the Eagles down 6-1 after two-and-a-half innings, an electrical problem with the lights caused a 30 minute delay.

Perhaps it was for the best, as a totally different Salado squad took the field when the game resumed, sparked by Matt Fritsch's solo shot.

Jesse Rodriguez then reached on an error, while a walk to Justin Schiller and a single by Kevin Jackson loaded the bases. A fielder's choice off the bat of Johnny Nix scored one run to cut the deficit to 6-3.

Josh Shaw, Wesley Ruth and Tannery Myers then followed with consecutive RBI hits. Myers would eventually score Salado's seventh run of the inning on a passed

ball, giving the Eagles an 8-6 advantage.

The boys kept on rolling in the fourth. Singles by Rodriguez, Shaw, Ruth and a double by Nix, along with three walks issued by Somerville, accounted for five additional Eagle runs.

Salado ended the game in the fifth inning by scoring three more runs. That final rally started with consecutive walks to Jackson and Schiller. Nix then loaded the bases with an infield single, followed by a two-RBI single from Shaw. Pinch hitter Rudy Torres drove in the Eagles' final run that gave Salado its 16-6 victory.

The 14-hit offensive attack was led by Shaw's 3-4, three RBI effort. Rodriguez, Nix and Ruth contributed two hits each.

Brian Bates tossed the first three innings and was the beneficiary of the seven-run third. He picked up the win, moving his season record to 4-0. Justin Pruitt pitched superbly over the final two innings to record a save.

On March 31 Salado followed its victory over

the Yeguas by riding the pitching arm of Kevin Jackson to an important district win against Lago Vista. Jackson allowed only two hits and one walk over seven innings of work. He struck out 14 batsmen in running his record to 5-0.

The Eagles plated their first run in the top of the second. Jesse Rodriguez reached base with a one-out single, followed by singles from Josh Shaw and Seth Collins.

Tanner Myers gave the Eagles another run in the third, slapping a two-out single and then stealing second. Schiller then singled Myers home to give Salado a 2-0 lead.

The Eagles afforded themselves some breathing room by adding three runs in the fourth. Johnny Nix and Shaw had singles to set the table for Wes Ruth, who came through with a homerun over the left-centerfield fence.

The lead grew to 6-0 with another Eagle run in the sixth. Collins started things by singling and stealing second. He would score on a Matt Fritsch

single.

As Jackson continued to mow down the Viking hitters, Salado kept adding to the lead. In the top of the seventh Schiller reached on an error, and then moved to second on a fielder's choice and scored on a Rodriguez single. Rodriguez himself would move up on a single by Nix, followed by a Josh Shaw single to drive in Rodriguez. Collins then stepped to the plate and delivered a line shot over the right field fence, bringing the score to its 11-0 final.

Shaw and Collins were both 3-4 in the game, and Collins collected four RBI's. Rodriguez, Nix and Ruth all added two hits.


With the wins Salado improved to 14-4 on the year and 5-2 in district play. After one round of district in the books, the Eagles sit in second place, trailing Rogers.

Over the weekend, the Salado JV won its second consecutive tournament, defeating Granger, Riesel and Rogers.

--REPORTED BY MELVIN BATES

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Back in the mix

Softballers post 2 straight

With back-to-back district wins in the books, the Lady Eagles softballers have clawed their way back into the playoff race with a 4-4 district mark.

By dispatching both Somerville and Lago Vista, Salado moved back into the mid-pack logjam that is the district standings, holding down fifth place.

Making the long bus trip to Somerville March 30, the girls showed little sign of lag as they promptly went on top 1-0 in the

top of the first. After the first two batters of the game were retired, Heather Winters stepped in the box and lined a single. Winters would eventually plate Salado's first run as Shae Janda followed with a double and Lauren Culver reached on an error.

As pitcher Shawna McPherson kept the Lady Yeguas off the bases, the Salado offense came through with another run in the top of the second, as Rachel Stemmer reached on an error and was

brought in on a Karleigh Goodnight double, making the score 2-0.

Not much would change over the next few innings, with neither team putting together a scoring threat in the third or the fourth.

In the fifth however, three consecutive one-out singles from Janda, Culver and Keelie Mims, respectively, accounted for the third and final run of the game.

In relief of McPherson, who tossed five strong

innings, Janda pitched a perfect sixth and seventh to ice the win.

Though the Lady Eagles would score just three runs, they did bang out 11 hits, led by Janda (3-4, 3 SB's), Winters (2-4) and Culver (2-3, 2 RBI'S).

McPherson allowed only two hits in picking up the win.

Following that decision, the Lady Eagles took the field the following day, March 31, to face Lago Vista, and came away with an 8-2 win.

The Lady Eagles once again put themselves in a commanding position early on, as Salado pushed across five runs in the first two frames, with two in the first and three in the second.

That would be more than enough for Janda, who took the mound and kept the Lago hitters in check for the first three innings. Lago Vista would scratch out two runs off Janda in the fourth, but would not threaten again. Single runs by Salado in the fourth, fifth and seventh innings put the game out of reach.

Janda moved her season record to 5-6, working all seven innings and surrendering just three hits and one earned run while striking out five.

At the plate, Rachel Coffey, Winters, Culver, Justine Ferrell-Raborn, Larissa Ingalsbe and Goodnight all collected hits. Coffey also scored two runs and stole a pair of bases.

The Lady Eagles are 7-7 on the year.

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Teams commit early for Salado tournament

Salado Athletic Boosters have announced the dates of the 2006 Coach Smith Memorial Basketball Tournament, Dec. 7-9.

Early commitments have already come from several premier basketball programs in the state in both brackets.

"This year's tournament could be the best ever," said Booster member Jerry Smith.

Teams to look for on the girls side are Brock, with state championships in 2002, 2003, and 2005; Nazareth, with 1A state championships in 2001, 2002 and 2005 and powerhouse McGregor.

On the boys side, tournament runner-up for two years Brock is returning in hopes of capturing the gold. Also committing early is Hitchcock (which defeated Salado in the playoffs in 2004) and Liberty Hill, a perennially excellent basketball program which ended the regular season in the top ten in 3A.

"Our sponsors are the key to our hosting a top-quality tournament," Smith said. "Their support lets us bring in some of the best teams in the state."

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Salado's Annual Easter Sunrise Service will begin 7 a.m. April 16 at the Pace Park Pavilion.

The Cedar Valley Singers, under the direction of Donny Jackson, will provide the music.

Rev. Joe Bentley, of Salado, will bring the message. He ministered at the Salado United Methodist Church for more than 20 years. He was Fire Chief in Salado before he was selected to serve as Bell County Fire Marshal. He is currently a Field Deputy with the Bell County Sheriff's Department.

Welcome, invocation and benediction will be given by Rev. Grady Brittain, of Salado United Methodist Church.

Those attending should bring their lawn chairs and dress for cool weather in the morning.

Marief Street receives honorary award

Marief Street, a University of Texas student majoring in General Education has been listed in the 29th Annual Edition of The National Dean's List 2005-2006. Only one half of one percent of the nation's college students receive this award.

Marief is the daughter of Gene and Eddie Street of Dallas. She is the granddaughter of Billye Fuller of Salado.



Marief Street

St. Stephen's schedule for Holy Week planned

Next week begins the Season of Holy Week at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Salado. St. Stephen's Catholic Church celebrates this as the holiest week of the church year.

On Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday, April 9, palms are distributed to celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem shortly before His Last Supper with the Apostles. The Triduum is the name given for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Holy Thursday, April 13, the church celebrates the Last Supper of Jesus. During this meal, Jesus begins the celebration of the Eucharist. He also washes the feet of the Apostles, emphasizing that He has come to serve and not to be served. This service will be followed by Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament until midnight.

Good Friday, April 14, the death by crucifixion of Our Lord Jesus Christ with the Reading of the Passion of Jesus Christ will be celebrated. The Veneration of the Cross and the Reception of Holy Communion. All of these services will begin at 7 p.m. in the Church.

Holy Saturday, April 15, they celebrate the first Mass of Easter with the Lighting of the New Fire, Special Readings and Prayers followed by Mass.

Easter Sunday, April 16 a Sunrise Mass will be held at 6:30 a.m., an English, Mass at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. in Spanish and 11 a.m. in English. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt after the 11 a.m. Mass, so bring your Easter Baskets. The Salado community is invited and welcomed to attend these services.

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Prince of Peace Lutheran worship services announced

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church will have a series of worship services and special activities during the Easter Holy Week, beginning with a Palm Sunday service.

On Palm Sunday, the Lutheran service will address "A Glorious Death" beginning at 10:15 a.m. April 9 with confirmation and communion. Rev. Greg Knippa will elaborate on believers rejoicing and those with faith seeing the glory of God.

The service on Maundy Thursday (7 p.m. April 13) will include communion and the theme "Genuine Love Gives and Serves," focusing on how Jesus served us and how Christians serve Jesus.

The emphasis for the

Good Friday service at 7 p.m. April 14 will be on the response of the Centurion at the foot of the cross and his statement: "Truly, this is the Son of God."

Prince of Peace will host an Easter Egg Hunt at noon April 14. A hot dog lunch will be provided and special prizes will be presented. Special awards will include a tricycle for ages three to six and a bicycle for ages seven to 11. All are welcome to bring their Easter baskets.

The church will also have an Easter Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. April 16 with the theme, "The Passover Feast of Victory." Rev. Knippa will make clear how the resurrection was the victory Passover feast. Communion will be

conducted.

Breakfast will be served at 8 a.m. to offer church-goers a chance to east, visit and relax.

A family Sunday school class will be held at 9 a.m. April 16.

Rev. Knippa will conduct an Easter Festival

Service at 10:15 a.m. April 16 with communion offered. The theme of the services will be how humility, not glory, saves

sinner.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is located at 1512 Wall Street in Belton, phone 254-939-0824.

Mary Hardin Baylor presents 67th annual Christian Passion Week

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor announces the production of the 67th annual Easter Pageant April 12, at 12:30 p.m., 3 p.m., and again at 5:30 p.m., on campus at the Luther Memorial arches on Vann Circle Drive.

The outdoor reproduction of the Christian Passion Week is free and open to the public. It is a student production - produced, directed, costumed and performed by university students.

According to Mike McCarthy, director of student activities, "The Easter Pageant is one of UMHB's time-honored traditions that our students look forward to performing for the community each year. We encourage school teachers and retirement communities to bring their groups to the 12:30 or 3 p.m. performance and for folks who cannot attend until after work, we have a third performance at 5:30 p.m."

More than 90 UMHB students, as well as many children from the community, will be participating in the pageant. The production includes scenes from the

life of Christ, such as His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, His trial and crucifixion and His resurrection and ascension.

Dr. Jerry Bawcom, president of UMHB, chooses an outstanding student each year for the high honor of portraying Jesus. The recipient of this tribute for 2006 is David Griffin of Spring.

Courtney Cooksey of Angleton will be the narrator, portraying Mary, the mother of Jesus. She will narrate the pageant from Mary's perspective of Jesus' life.

Portraying the disciples will be Terence Waldron of Bay City as Peter; Andy Wayland of Houston as James; Eric Harry of Mesquite as John; Les Williams of Dickinson as Andrew; Weston Savell of Madisonville as Bartholomew; Jeff Sutton of Dallas as James son of Zebedee; Kevin Davis of Forney as Matthew; Bear Garza of Belton as Thomas; Scott Cheek of Oklahoma City as Thaddeus; Dave Horner of Belton as Philip; John Bean of San Antonio as Simon the Zealot; Joshua Jones of Wimberley as Judas Iscariot.

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Artist Troy Kelley was on hand to present P.A.L.S. awards to student artists.
 PHOTO BY MARILYN FLEISCHER

Education Foundation Art competition results

Third Annual Salado Education Foundation Student Art Exhibit and Competition Results:

2-D Black & White

- Pre K-2ND
- 1st-Trace Chitwood \$20
3rd & 4th
- 1st James Svadlenak \$20
2nd Caden Eary \$10
5th & 6th
- 1st Jacob Svadlenak \$40
2nd Peyton Best & 20
7th & 8th
- 1st Lindsay Martin \$50
2nd Logan Jackson \$20
9th-12th
- 1st Clayton Weatherly \$100
2nd Lindsay Hora \$50
3rd Daniel Ruiz \$30

2-D COLOR

- Pre K-2nd1st Alex Soto \$20
- 2nd Adriana Hidrago \$10
3rd & 4th
- 1st Bryant Lisenbe \$20
2nd Jordan Drake \$10
5th & 6th
- 1st Kirstie mcGillick \$40
2nd Amber Monk \$20
7th & 8th
- 1st Courtney Lavadia \$50
2nd Kristin Dunnahoo \$30
9th-12th
- 1st Jackie Drake \$100
2nd Jorge Gonzalez \$50
3rd Veronika Patockova \$30
- 3-D artwork
PK-2
- 1st Alex Soto
2nd Adriana Hidrago
3 & 4

- Bryant Lisenbe
2nd Jordan Drake
5 & 6
- 1st Kirstie McGillick
2nd Amber Monk
7 & 8
- 1st Courtney Lavadia
2nd Kirsten Dunnahoo
9-12
- 1st Jackie Drake
2nd Jorge Gonzalez
3rd Veronika Patockova
- Digital**
- Technology/Photography**
- Pre-K & 2nd
- 1st Erin McBryde \$20
3rd & 4th
- 1st & 2nd Colton Coe \$20, \$10
5th & 6th
- 1st George Romfh \$40
2nd Taylor Cromwell \$20
7th & 8th
- 1st Courtney Wheeler \$50
2nd Scott McBryde \$30
9th-12th
- 1st Alex House \$100
- BEST OF SHOW**
- Jessica Ferrel-Raborn \$250
- Ladies Auxiliary winners:**
- Tyler Dale
Cooper Cox
Andrew Murry
Ben Perrin
Courtney Wheeler

- Village Artist awards were presented to:
- Payton Dreitz,
Brianna Garne,
Kathryn Steck
Colby Priest
Tyler Tischler
Beau Briggs
Tori Belcher
Courtney Lavadia
Grace Buchele
Justin Schiller
Keelie Mims
Crystal Schoellman
Veronika Patockova
- P.A.L.S. awards were presented to:
- Maddie Subline
Morgan Mattson
DaKotah Baker
Austin Silva
Maria Sierra
Cory Langford
Brook Wolfe
Grace Buchele
Maria Perez
Megan Mattson

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ROY T'S OLD SALADO BAKERY

Salado artist's designs chosen for birth, wedding certificates

The Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) has chosen the designs of Joan Mints Hoffman to bring a fresh new look to the state's heirloom birth and commemorative wedding certificates. Hoffman, a Salado resident, was chosen from numerous statewide submissions and will receive a cash prize and substantial recognition for her part in this important project.

Hoffman has been a watercolor artist since her interest was sparked in the late 1980s, and she has attended many workshops by America's top watercolor artists. She is also a guest lecturer on watercolor at Austin Community College. Hoffman was awarded the John Carter Spirit of Central Texas Award in 2002 and won Best of Show in the Temple Federation of Women's Barclay Juried Show in 2005.

Born in San Angelo, Hoffman has lived for 25 years in Salado with her husband Jack.

"I have had many three to five day workshops with some of America's best-known watercolor artists," Hoffman said, "but for the most I'm self-taught."

Hoffman is represented by Griffith Fine Art Gallery in Salado.

"We received many wonderful entries but Joan's work really stood out," said Gaye McElwain, TCA's Director of Marketing and Development. "Joan's pieces are a product of her unique talent and true Texas pride. Her ability to use watercolors to commemorate the state and its heritage is truly remarkable, and we are thrilled to have such a quality design for this project."

Beginning in Jan. 2006, the Texas Commission on the Arts accepted entries for new concepts of both the heirloom birth certificate and commemorative wedding certificate. The certificates are intended to celebrate Texas' heritage and to raise funds for the childhood immunization account, which grants funds to support

childhood immunization and related education programs throughout the state of Texas. They will be available for purchase by the general public at a future date for \$60 through the Department of State Health Services. Visit <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/vs/default.shtm> for more details.

"Texans are renowned for their state pride, and these heirloom certificates are another way for Texans to commemorate our culture," said State Representative Dianne White Delisi, who authored HB 2100 and 2101 that called for the redesign. "Since proceeds will go towards the childhood immunization fund, these certificates will not only make a memorable gift, but should make Texans proud to know their money will help a child in need."

Other sponsors of the program include the Department of State Health Services, St. David's Community Health Foundation, Texas Pediatric Society, Texas Hospital Association,



Salado artist Joan Hoffman's design for commemorative heirloom wedding certificates is shown above.

Representative Delisi and the Children's Hospital Association of Texas (CHAT). For more information on these valuable sponsors please visit www.arts.state.tx.us/certificates.



Texas Commission of the Arts chose Salado artist Joan Hoffman's design for commemorative heirloom birth certificates shown above.



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 <p>Donald Pliner</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$ 120</p> <p>off</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em;">WHEN YOU BUY 3 PAIR</p>
 <p>Stuart Weitzman</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$ 160</p> <p>off</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em;">WHEN YOU BUY 4 PAIR</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em;">All shoes over \$100</p>



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Margrit Chapman

APRIL 7

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

APRIL 7-9

Salado Silver Spur Theater 2006 season opener, "Off and Running!" featuring classic films starring Buster Keaton, Harold Loyd and Monte Banks, set to live musical accompaniment. Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. April 7 and 8 and 2 p.m. April 8 and 9. Info and

tickets: 254-947-3456 or www.saladosilverspur.com.

APRIL 8

Mill Creek MGA golf scramble, 8:30 a.m. start at Mill Creek. Funds generated will benefit the 2006 scholarships.

APRIL 8

2006 Project Graduation fundraising dinner and silent auction, 5-7 p.m. at the Salado Intermediate School. Tickets: \$10 for adults and children 11 and up, \$5 for 10 and under; avail-

able at Village Pharmacy, Subway, Bill Bartlett - Century 21 and the high school.

APRIL 8

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

APRIL 9

Community Easter Egg Hunt 3 p.m. at the Civic Center.

APRIL 11

Bell County runoff election, voting 7 a.m.-7 p.m. at Salado Church of Christ Activities Center.

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.fbcsalado.org.

APRIL 14-16

Salado Silver Spur Theater 2006 season opener, "Off and Running!" featuring classic films starring Buster Keaton, Harold Loyd and Monte Banks, set to live musical accompaniment. Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. April 14 and 15 and 2 p.m. April 15 and 16. Info and tickets: 254-947-3456 or www.saladosilverspur.com.

APRIL 16

Easter Sunrise Service, 7 a.m. in Pace Park. Public is invited to attend. Bring lawn chair.

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 18

Village of Salado Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas meeting, 1 p.m. in the Salado Civic Center. Members will meet 11:45 a.m. at Stagecoach Inn for lunch. Program: "The Life and Times of Edmund T. Estes," presented by Margaret Neves. Estes was a veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto.

APRIL 21-23

Salado Silver Spur Theater 2006 season opener, "Off and Running!" featuring classic films starring Buster Keaton, Harold Loyd and Monte Banks, set to live musical accompaniment. Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. April 21 and 22 and 2 p.m. April 22 and 23. Info and tickets: 254-947-3456 or www.saladosilverspur.com.

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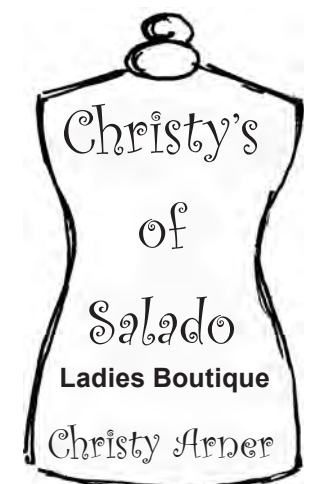
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Village of Salado?

APRIL 22

St. Stephen's Knights of Columbus Casino Night, 7-11 p.m. at Tenroc Ranch. Evening will feature dinner, casino activities and a silent auction. \$30 ticket buys \$30,000 in casino chips. Proceeds to benefit St. Stephen's Building Fund. Info: 254-939-3901.

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.

APRIL 27

Salado School Board Candidate forum, tentatively set for 7 p.m. at Civic Center.

APRIL 29

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

MAY 1

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

MAY 1

Early voting begins at 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 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center.

MAY 13

Second Annual Salado Fine Art Trail. Salado's seven galleries

invite visitors to join them for an after-hours special event. There will be door prizes, drawings, refreshments and an opportunity to meet the artists in a relaxed atmosphere. Galleries will be open until 9 p.m.

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 21

Salado High School Class of 2005-06 baccalaureate service, 7 p.m. at Salado United Methodist Church.

MAY 25

Salado High School Class of 2005-06 graduation ceremony, 7 p.m. at Bell County Expo Center. Info: Salado High School, 254-947-5429.

MAY 29

Annual Memorial Day Service, 9:30 a.m. at the Salado Cemetery. Public invited; bring lawn chair.

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:



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.

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 meet-

ing, 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 harryesweet@sbcglobal.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 Stagecoach Inn Longhorn Room. Info: 254-947-3617.

OCTOBER 21

Annual Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament, 8 a.m. start at

Mill Creek. Info: Salado Chamber, 254-947-5040.

OCTOBER 21

Salado Education Foundation Cattleman's Ball at Tenroc Ranch. For tickets call 947-1958

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 Community 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.

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

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Wells set to speak at Ladies Auxiliary meeting

The Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary will meet 10 a.m. April 13 at the Salado Civic Center. Speaker for the occasion will be Salado artist Ronnie Wells, who will pre

Wells received a degree in fine arts from Louisiana Tech University in 1968. He has been a full-time professional artist for over 20 years, and has earned an outstanding reputation as both a painter and a sculptor.

Ronnie and his wife, Patricia, reside in Salado, where they own and operate Wells Gallery.

He has received much recognition in both aspects of his career. An avid fisherman and duck hunter most of his life, Wells has become a mainstay at wildlife exhibitions across the country. He has also become one of North America's top monumental bronze sculptors. In 2001, a monumental bronze (a seven foot piece of

two mallards landing) was installed and can be viewed at the Ducks Unlimited corporate headquarters in Memphis, TN.

He was selected by the 71st Texas Legislature as Texas State Sculptor (1990-91), was 2000 Sculptor of the Year for the Southeastern Wildlife Expo, and most recently, the Monumental Commission, Tulsa, OK (2005).

Wells has received



Salado artist Ronnie Wells at work on one of his renowned monumental bronze sculptures.

many awards throughout his career, along with exhibiting many one-man shows in both galleries and museums across the United States.

The pursuit of

perfection and constant desire to seek realism has cemented his foothold as one of the nation's

premiere wildlife artists. Social for this meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

UMHB's Fredenburg addresses Rotary Club

Pete Fredenburg, head football coach at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, addressed the Rotary Club of Salado March 28 about the evolution of the Crusaders' football program, from fledgling upstarts to national title contenders.

Over the course of his long career, Fredenburg has coached over 20 NFL players, including Hall of Famer Mike Singletary. He has also been named Coach of the Year at several levels, and in just four seasons after initiating UMHB's program, took the team to NCAA Division III title game.

He described the evolution of football at UMHB, starting in 1998 with only wins wins, to the current streak of four consecutive seasons with only one loss. He attributes his

success largely to what he thinks is the largest talent pool in the country, here in Central Texas. UMHB has achieved this success with the constraints of a program which does not allow any athletic scholarships.

Coach Fredenburg says he expects to have another contender in 2006 because most of the team's best players are returning, including almost the entire defense. He also announced that one of Texas' blue chip players, Quincy Daniels, a running back from Belton and national power lifting champion, is committed to UMHB. Attendance records were set last fall and he encouraged listeners to be part of what is expected to be a record year in 2006.

--REPORTED BY GERRY REIHSEN

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Does milk do a body good?

A recent study printed by the *Washington Post* says that people are not losing weight as they drink more milk. Actually, it's just the opposite as there are now studies coming out that show that the more milk you drink, the more weight you will gain.

That seems to be quite contrary to what we have heard in the past; it is literally speaking against conventional wisdom. Why? Well, a large part of it might be that the National Dairy Council has spent over 200 million dollars since 2003 on a campaign that says milk helps people lose weight. And remember, this is a campaign that follows the campaign of saying 2% milk is a low-fat food, which it is not. Well, if you are drinking conventionally farmed milk, weight gain is the least of your problems. Let me explain.

My question is this? When a food has little to no food value, why are we in America doing a study on it? Pasteurized and Homogenized milk is a dead food and it is a changed food. Milk is a food that is loaded with sugar (over 50% in skim milk) and is unrecognizable as a food to many (highly allergenic to some and intolerant to others). It is in reality: A convenience food.

Take a look at the long list of what you may be ingesting every time you drink milk from non-organic, non-grass fed dairy cow: Pasteurized, Homogenized, Grain Fed, Hormones, Antibiotics, Pesticides, Fungicides and Herbicides.

The challenges on the human body while drinking commercially farmed milk are diverse. You would be surprised to know how little nutrition

LIFESTYLE AND WELLNESS

By KEVIN McCAULEY



you are receiving when drinking a cup of milk.

First of all, the staples to most peoples' diets in America, 2% and non-fat milk, are loaded with sugar. Non-fat milk is over 50% sugar and 2% milk is nearly 37% sugar making it terribly difficult to control one's insulin levels. If you are not controlling your sugar and insulin levels, you are not controlling your weight. Diabetics will be known to use dairy when struggling with blood sugar levels.

Commercially farmed milk comes from cow's that have been feed grain instead of grass. There is little to no nutrition passed on from the cow to you when the diet of the cow is so feeble. Then, once we understand the number of herbicides, fungicides, and pesticides that were used on the grain that the cow has ingested and how that is passed on to us we begin to really see the problem is beyond empty calories. These cows, because they are not well, because the stress put on them to produce such a high amount of milk, are stock full of antibiotics. It is believed one cup of milk can contain up to 100 strains of antibiotics. These unhealthy cows have been enabled to produce the high amounts of milk by injected with all sort of hormones. Yes, these hormones are passed on to us.

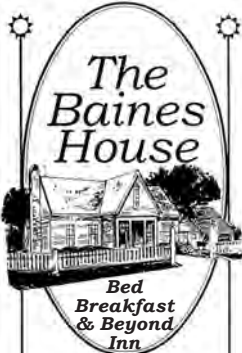
It gets worse. This milk is pasteurized and homogenized, leaving this milk to not only be "dead" but also "denatured". Let me explain. When

anything is pasteurized it has been heated to the point that the food, and everything in it (good and bad), is killed. So our pasteurized milk has little to no nutritional value, as well as no enzymes and proper bacteria for our gut. Then the milk is pressurized to create homogenization so the milk fats will not solidify. This denaturing changes the milk to the point where our body cannot recognize it. Experts now debate which is worse for us, "pasteurization" or "homogenization"? Well, it is a close race and I won't be around to see the

finish.

So, if you are interested in dairy, even if you have lactose intolerance, find a goat ranch that sells "certified" raw goat milk. Why? The goats eat grass so the milk is nutritious. The milk is organic so it has no pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, antibiotics, or hormones in it. Then, because it is not pasteurized or homogenized it is full of health enhancing nutrients, including enzymes and bacteria.

Kevin McCauley, MA, is a Lifestyle and Wellness Coach serving the Greater Salado Area.



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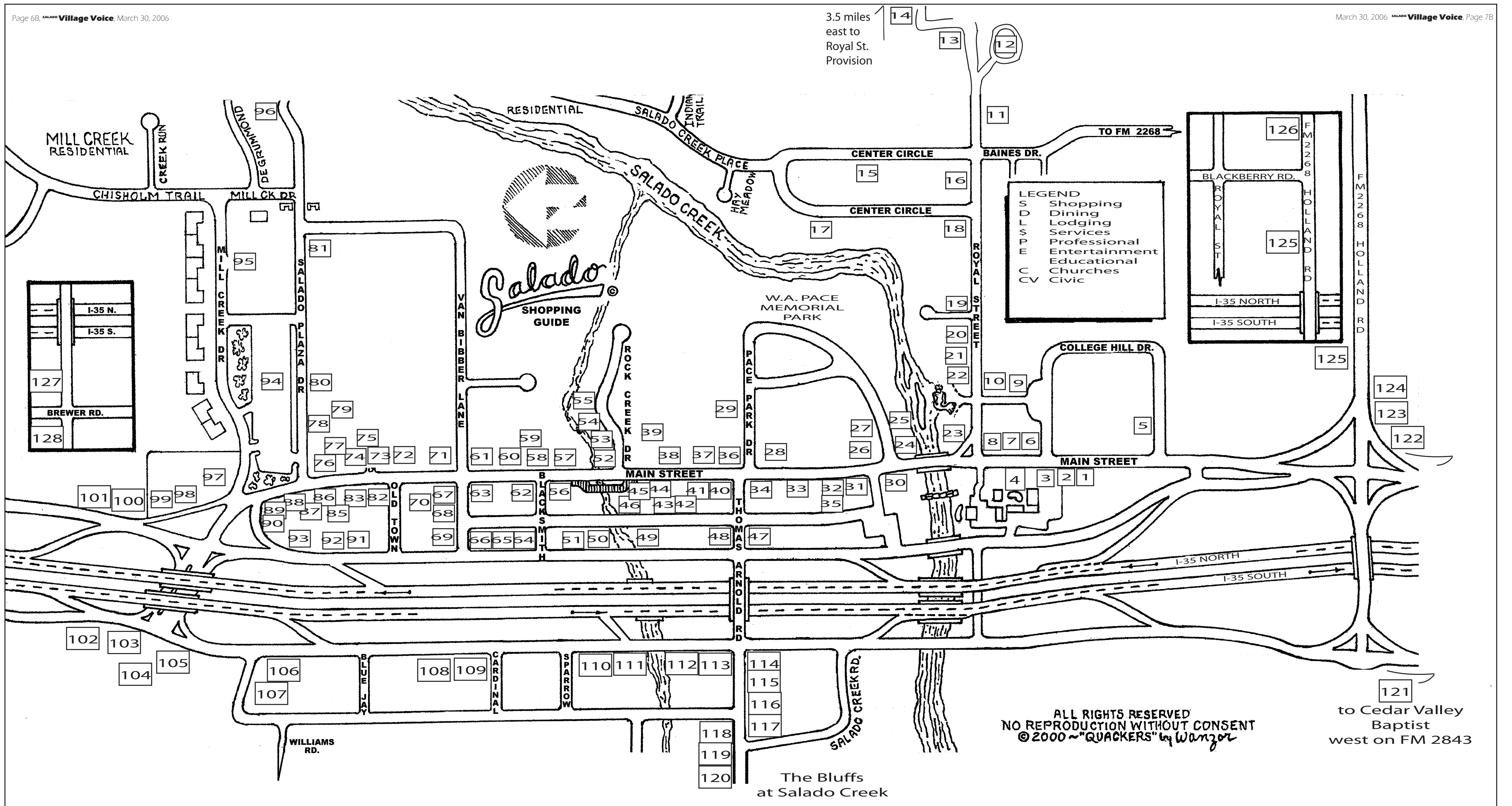
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5. Stone Creek Settlements	254/947-9099 888/777-8844	L	24. Accents of Salado	254/947-5908	S	40. Family Dentistry Dr. Douglas B. Willingham	254/947-5242	P	Joe Read State Farm Agency	254/947-3599	\$	108. Scissors Hair and Nails	254/947-9001	\$	111. Super 8 Motel	254/947-5000	L
6. Central Texas Area Museum	254/947-5232	E	25. Leigh's Necessities and Floral Creations	254/947-0128	S, \$	42. Mud Pies Pottery	254/947-0281	S	Properties by Larry Sands	254/947-5580	\$	115. Johnny's Steaks & Bar-Be-Que	254/947-4663	D	116. Johnny's Texas Banquet Hall	254/947-4663	D
7. Salado Galleries	254/947-5110	S	26. CREEKSIDE CENTER			43. Southern Comforts	254/947-0595	S	Uncommon Grounds Cafe	254/947-3354	D	117. The Barber Barn	254/421-5173	\$	118. Thomas Arnold	254/947-5191	E
8. SHADY VILLA			Prellop Fine Art Gallery	254/947-3930	S	Margrit's Shoe Chateau	254/947-0595	S	62. Heirlooms	254/947-0336	S	119. Salado Intermediate	254/947-1700	E	120. Salado High	254/947-5429	E
Gregory's	254/947-5703	S	Susan Marie's	254/947-5239	S	Roy T's Old Salado Bakery	254/947-1868	S	65. The Village of Salado	254/947-5060	CV	121. Cedar Valley Baptist Church	254/947-0148	C	122. Eagle Rock Ranch	254/947-5369	\$
Sweet Nut Things	254/947-8088	S	Levi Tenney House B&B	254/947-1003	L	44. Salado Haus	254/947-9200	S	68. Serenity Spa	254/947-8833	\$	127. Grace Baptist Church of Salado	254/947-5917	C	128. Janelle's	254/947-3584	S
Shyenne's of Salado	254/947-9215	S	First Baptist Church	254/947-5465	C	45. Sweet Dreams	254/947-9200	S				Not shown on map					
Tablerock Amphitheatre	254/947-9205	E	Salado Mansion	254/947-5157	D	48. A Touch of Heaven	254/947-5543	\$	70. STAGESTOP RETAIL CENTER			The Event Center at Tenroc Ranch					
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Tennille's Place	254/947-3811	S	First State Bank	254/947-5852	\$	50. Salado Fire Department	254/947-8961	CV	71. SALADO CIVIC CENTER								
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Royal Street Provision	254/947-3350	L	Alice's	254/947-9000	S				Chamber of Commerce	254/947-5040	CV	Salado Village Voice	254/947-5321	\$			
Country Inn			Chameleon Clothier	254/947-7104	S	ROCK CREEK			Historical Society	254/947-5040	CV	Edward D. Jones	254/947-5128	\$			
(3.5 miles east on Royal)			First Community Title	254/947-8480	\$	Splendors of Salado	254/947-3630	S	SISD Administration	254/947-5479	E	Monteith Abstract & Title Co.	254/947-3922	\$			
Friendship House B&B	254/947-3136	L	Salado Masonic Lodge #296		CV	54. Charlotte's of Salado	254/947-0240	S	Village Art Center			Salado Chiropractic	254/947-BACK	P			
The Baines House B&B	254/947-5260	L	Christy's of Salado	254/947-0561	S				(on the grounds of Salado Civic Center)			Salado Eye Care	254/947-LENS	P			
Inn on the Creek B&B	254/947-5554	D,L	Inn at Salado	254/947-0027	L	56. OLD CHURCH PLACE			The Halley House	254/947-1000	L	Village Pharmacy	254/947-3185	\$			
CELEBRATION CENTER			SALADO SQUARE			The Front Row Emporium	254/947-5831	S	72. The Halley House	254/947-1000	L	Mill Creek Golf & Country Club	254/947-5144	D,L			
Botangles	254/947-4747	\$	Browning's Courtyard Cafe	254/947-8666	D	57. THE COLONY			73. CARRIAGE PLACE SQUARE			Salado Public Library	254/947-9191	E			
Old Salado Springs Celebration Center and Retreat	254/947-5933	\$	Carden's	254/947-0300	S	Griffith Fine Art	254/947-3177	S	Before & After	254/947-5814	\$	Salado Cleaners	254/947-7299	\$			
Old Salado Springs			Linda Rountree Pritchard	254/947-4263	P	58. Lori's	254/947-8350	S	74. ARCHANGEL ON MAIN			Village Realty	254/947-0342	\$			
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I Stand in Awe

FBC to present Easter pageant April 14-16

With more than 100 cast and crewmembers, the Music Ministry of the First Baptist Church in Salado will present its Ninth Annual Easter Pageant, "I Stand in Awe," 7:15 p.m. nightly, April 14-16, at Salado's Tablerock Amphitheater. Admission is free.

This musical, written by David T. Clydesdale



(PHOTO BY BEVERLY WALLACE; IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHY)
Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

and directed by Minister of Music, Randy Carder, is a presentation of the last earthly days of Jesus Christ. This dramatic musical presentation, with the cast in biblical period costumes in the setting of Tablerock Amphitheater, traces Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the Last Supper with the 12 disciples, His crucifixion,

resurrection and heavenly ascension.

The story is told by the Apostle John, portrayed by Frank Wallace, the Minister of Education and Administration at First Baptist. The role of Jesus is played by Pastor Brian Dunks.

The opening medley combines two songs of worship and adoration,

"I Stand in Awe," with soloist Ferral Quiroz and "Thou Art Worthy." The show will then move into an arrangement of "Hosanna" with soloist Larry Sands and a song for the Lord's Supper, "At the King's Table," with soloist Maurice Carson. The scene in the Garden of Gethsemane with Christ and a few of his disciples is portrayed with the background music of "As the Deer."


Next is the crucifixion, with a Graham Kendrick classic, "Amazing Love." Soloist Melinda Dunnahoo sings to the crucified Christ, the stirring song, "Lamb of God." A brand new arrangement of the classic hymn, "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" with soloist Kathleen Deal brings the impact of the crucifixion to focus.

The final section begins with a song of the resurrection, "Arise My Love," with soloist Joey Agee, then moving to the timeless classic, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today." The show will close with "He is Lord," "Alleluia! Alleluia!" and "I Stand in Awe." It will end with the ascension of Jesus Christ.

For more information, contact the church office at 947-5465, or visit www.fbcsalado.org.

Those attending the pageant should bring a blanket or lawn chairs and arrive early. Some permanent seating is available. A barbeque sandwich supper is available at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall beginning at 5 p.m. each evening of the pageant. The cost is \$6 per person. Dine in or take-out plates will be available.

All proceeds from the supper will help fund the Xtreme4Christ Student Choir summer mission tour to the New Orleans area.



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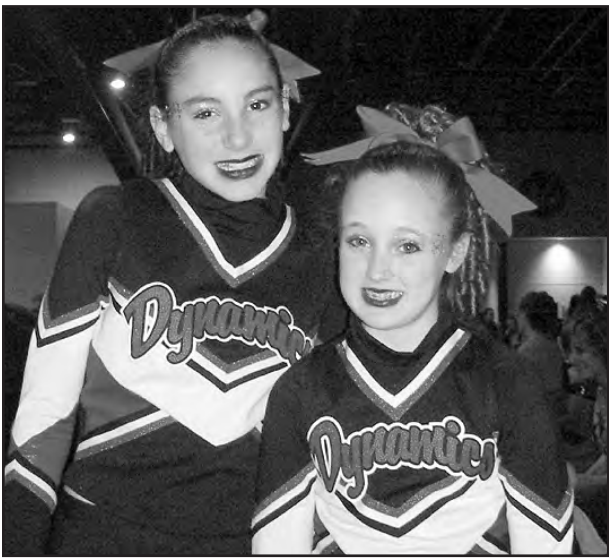


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Stephanie Lastovica and Hannah Seaton, both of Salado and members of Gabrielle's Dynamics Plus Competitive Cheerleading Squad, participated in several competitions for the 2005-2006 season. Their squad received first place medals at the United Cheer Competition in Austin, the United Cheer Competition in Corpus Christi, medalled at the Cheer America Competition in Frisco, and were sixth place overall in the Cheer America Nationals in Houston. Their training includes extensive work in gymnastics, tumbling, cheer, and dance. Both girls are in the sixth grade at Salado Intermediate School, where they are on the A-B Honor Roll. They are also active members of St. Stephen Catholic Church and the Salado 4-H Club. Stephanie is the daughter of Steven and Sandra Lastovica of Salado, and Hannah is the daughter of Chris and Terri Seaton of Salado.

Wine & Food Fest sets Sunday Fair at San Gabriel

The Texas Hill Country Wine & Food Festival has announced Georgetown's San Gabriel Park as the new venue for one of the festival's most popular events, Sunday Fair noon-5 p.m. April 9.



The Sunday Fair of the Texas Hill Country Wine and Food Festival will be at Georgetown's San Gabriel Park this year.

The banks of the San Gabriel River, running through the heart of Georgetown will be the backdrop for the 21st Annual Texas Hill Country Wine & Food Festival's (THCW&FF) Sunday Fair. In keeping with the festival's theme, this year's Sunday Fair returns to its roots and promises to an old-fashioned, family-friendly outdoor party where guests can continuously sample a staggering array of Lone Star edibles from gourmet food producers, local growers and Texas restaurants, as well as wines from Texas winemakers and visiting wineries from around the world. In addition, festival-goers enjoy one wine and food seminars and cooking demonstrations from such celebrity chefs as David Bull of the Driskill Grill, Sue Torres of Sueños in New York City, Rebecca Rather of Rather Sweet Bakery in Fredericksburg, James Beard Award-Winner John Ash, and Susana Trilling of Seasons of My Heart cooking school in Oaxaca, Mexico. A highlight of Sunday Fair is the "Circle of Chuckwagons," sponsored by the Texas Beef Council. Cooking over open campfires, authentic cowboy cooks prepare traditional trail fare from their rustic chuckwagons.

Sunday Fair opens from noon until 5 p.m. on April 9. Food tastings continue until 5 p.m., and the alcohol booths close at 4 p.m. Tickets for the fair are \$45.

Among the long-time sponsors of this festival are Central Market, Texas Department of Agriculture, Twin Liquors, Republic Beverage, Glazer's Distributing, the Texas Beef Council, Texas Disposal Systems, The Four Seasons Austin

Hotel, St. Arnold's Brewery and the Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The City of Georgetown also comes onboard this year as a sponsor of Sunday Fair.

Georgetown is a community of more than 40,000 located approximately 26 miles north of Austin. Georgetown has over 180 homes and buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as being the home of Southwestern University. The 2000 Census reports that the city of Georgetown was at a population of 28,000 in year 2000 and has climbed to 41,000 in the past five years. In addition, the city has one of the lowest crime rates in the state for a city of its size, drawing more and more families to the Georgetown Independent School District.

For online tickets and a complete schedule of events, visit the Festival website at www.texaswineandfood.org; or call 512-249-6300.

Special travel packages, including discount hotel rates and festival tickets, are available online at the Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau website, www.austintexas.org.

Theater and lodging packages are also available at the Georgetown Convention and Visitors Bureau website at www.visitgeorgetown.com.

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 Ad copy must be approved by
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 Sauce
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Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Yankee Jorge
 - 7 Pool shot
 - 12 Dictates
 - 16 Make cheddar better
 - 19 Diverted
 - 20 Cara or Castle
 - 21 Tennis pro
 - 22 New Deal agcy.
 - 23 SLOT MACHINES
 - 25 Traces
 - 27 Paleozoic
 - 28 Aye opponent
 - 29 Remove
 - 31 Artist
 - 32 Prepare pancakes
 - 34 Sewed a toe
 - 37 Ruhr Valley city
 - 39 Victorian ornaments
 - 42 Capitol gang?
 - 43 Loyal
 - 44 Maine town
 - 45 HMS PINAFORE
 - 47 Drill sergeant's shout
 - 50 "O Sole —"
 - 51 Advantage
 - 53 Drainpipe part
 - 54 New Haven collegian
 - 55 Prohibits
 - 57 Coup d'—
 - 58 Opening remark?
 - 61 Automaton
 - 63 Halloween decoration
 - 65 Content completely
 - 66 Let out the lava
 - 67 Comic Laurel
 - 68 DORMITORY
 - 72 Philosopher
 - 73 Got wind of
 - 74 Comanded
 - 75 Lions and tigers and bears
 - 77 Concur
 - 78 Con-descend
 - 80 Finish filming
 - 81 "Good gracious!"
 - 84 Woody herb
 - 85 Fiber source
 - 87 Connected
 - 89 "— pro nobis"
 - 90 Part of MPH
 - 91 ENDEARMENTS
 - 95 Snowy fisherman
 - 97 — vu
 - 98 Stilted
 - 99 Singer Stratats
 - 100 Garden tool
 - 102 Last name in fashion
 - 103 Act catty?
 - 104 Put on a happy face
 - 105 Hold fast
 - 107 Clerical garb
 - 108 Luau neckwear
 - 111 Siberian monk
 - 113 THE MORSE CODE
 - 119 Qty.
 - 120 Goffer
 - 121 A great composer?
 - 122 Lacking principles
 - 123 Salon supply
 - 124 Paradise
 - 125 TV exec
 - 126 Bean
 - 8 White House spokesman
 - 9 Stimp's pal
 - 10 "Johnny — Note" ('37 song)
 - 11 Keepsake
 - 12 Enraged
 - 13 One of the Waughs
 - 14 Showy shrub
 - 15 Jell
 - 16 Actress Harmon
 - 17 Word with tea or pepper
 - 18 — India Company
 - 24 Fool
 - 26 "— dixit"
 - 30 Swerve
 - 32 Marsh
 - 33 Crochet unit
 - 34 Resign
 - 35 Without — (daringly)
 - 36 Brit. fliers
 - 38 Hold back
 - 39 Fowl feature
 - 40 "Turandot" tune
 - 41 ASTRONOMER
 - 42 Pay hike?
 - 43 "Comin' — the Rye"
 - 45 Prominent
 - 46 Missouri airport abbr.
 - 47 GEORGE BUSH
 - 48 Take the honey and run
 - 49 See 104
 - 52 Chianti color
 - 56 Show mercy
 - 58 "Surprise Symphony" composer
 - 59 Raison d'—
 - 60 August one?
 - 62 Spout like Cicero
 - 64 Beholden
 - 65 Forest father
 - 67 Smooth transition
 - 69 Slugger's stat
 - 70 Edmond of "The Barefoot Contessa"
 - 71 Capital
 - 73 — seal
 - 76 "Tarzan" extra
 - 78 Actor Ashbrook
 - 79 Complete
 - 80 Lawrence's "— in Love"
 - 82 Olympic warmonger
 - 83 Base stuff?
 - 86 Tossed aside
 - 87 Jewelry material
 - 88 "The — Hunter" ('78 film)
 - 92 Actor McGregor
 - 93 More turbulent
 - 94 Scand. nation
 - 96 Weimaraner's warning
 - 97 Clammy
 - 99 Abolitionist Harriet
 - 100 Disreputable
 - 101 Ersatz emerald
 - 102 It may suit you
 - 103 Arafat's grp.
 - 104 With 49 Down, "Spy Game" star
 - 106 Reside
 - 107 43,560 square feet
 - 108 Feudal superior
 - 109 List ender
 - 110 Vacation location
 - 112 Manipulate
 - 114 Ike's domain
 - 115 Sweater letter
 - 116 Sundown, to Shelley
 - 117 Comic Philips
 - 118 TV's "Scooby- —"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
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123																		

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

5		3		6			7	
	9		1				6	
1					4		9	5
4				7				6
	7		8				5	
		2			3		1	
	1				2			3
8				4		1		
	3	6			5		8	


Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★ ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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THE OBSERVATION DECK



I have not loved the world, nor the world me; I have not flattered its rank breath, nor bow'd to its idolatries a patient knee...

LORD BYRON

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2	8	7	5	1	7	9	6	3
7	9	1	6	4	3	5	2	8
3	5	6	2	8	9	4	7	1
8	1	7	3	6	4	5	2	9
6	5	9	2	8	7	3	4	1
9	2	3	1	7	1	5	6	8
5	6	8	4	3	2	7	1	9
4	3	9	7	5	1	8	6	2
1	4	3	9	7	5	1	8	6

Answer

— Weekly SUDOKU —
 SUPER CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108
109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126

West dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ 10 7 5 4 3 2
 ♥ 10
 ♦ 10 5
 ♣ J 5 2

WEST
 ♠ K Q 8
 ♥ A 9 5 2
 ♦ A 9 6 2
 ♣ 9 3

EAST
 ♠ A J 6
 ♥ 7 3
 ♦ K Q J 8 4 3
 ♣ K 1

SOUTH
 ♠ 9
 ♥ K Q J 8 6 4
 ♦ A Q 10 7 5
 ♣ —

The bidding:
 West North East South
 1♦ — — —
 1♠ — — —
 2♠ — — —
 3♠ — — —
 4♠ — — —

One play makes all the difference

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

One play -- even an innocent-looking one -- sometimes makes a world of difference.

Consider this deal from the Vanderbilt team championship many years ago, where West (Harry Harkavy) opened the bidding with one diamond, which his partner raised to three. South bid three hearts, and Harkavy was faced with a difficult problem. He could pass to show a minimum opening bid; he could bid three notrump; or he could double.

After giving due weight to East's game-forcing raise to three diamonds, Harkavy elected to double, and everybody passed. As it turned out, South would have done much better to run to four clubs, but his pass of three hearts doubled was certainly reasonable.

Harkavy led the ace and another diamond, following the usual procedure of trying to shorten declarer in trumps. Declarer ruffed and returned a low trump, whereupon Harkavy made the key play of the ace! He then led another diamond, which South ruffed, leaving West and declarer with only three trumps each.

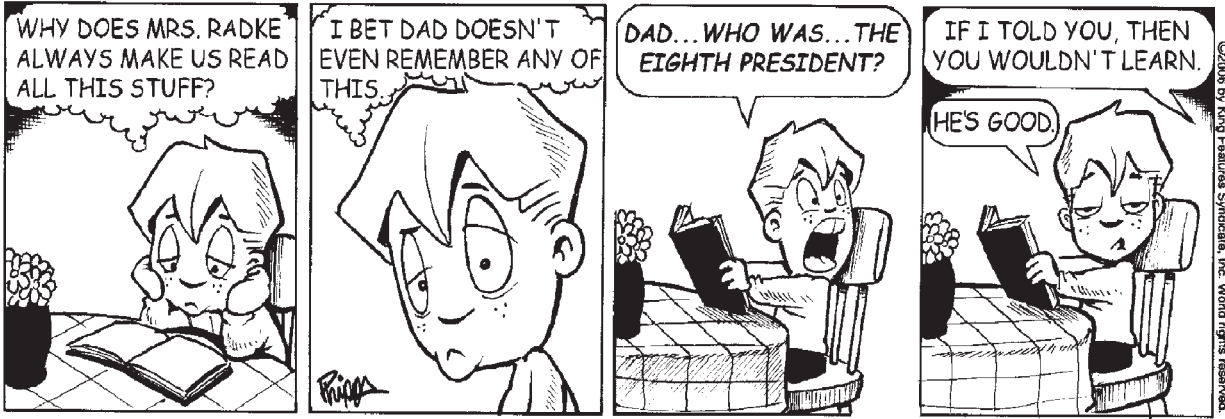
Declarer could then do no better than cash the K-Q-J of hearts and ace of clubs, after which he had to concede the remaining tricks to go down three -- 800 points.

The outcome would have been altogether different if Harkavy had followed low on declarer's trump lead to dummy at trick three. Had he ducked, as many players might have done, he would have had ample cause to rue the day. Declarer would next have taken a club finesse and made the contract with an overtrick for a score of 930 points.

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Amber Waves

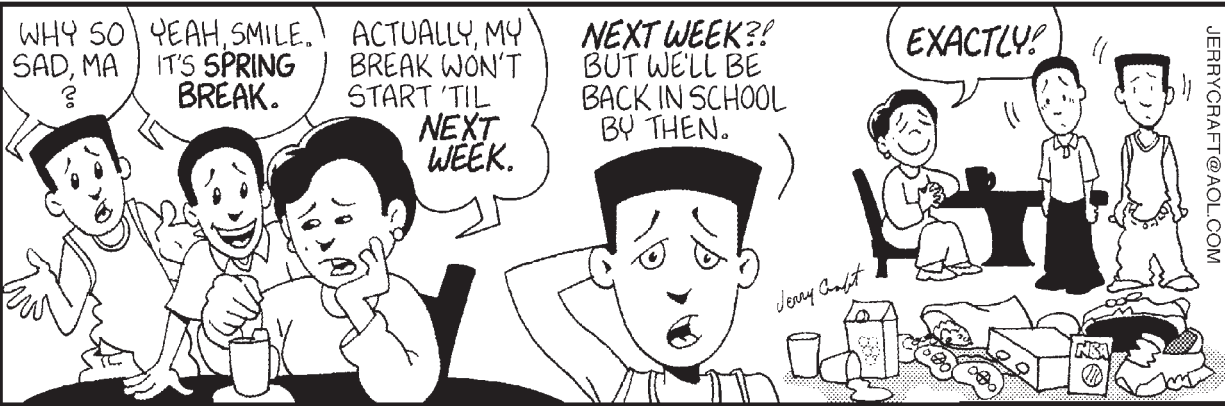
by Dave T. Phipps



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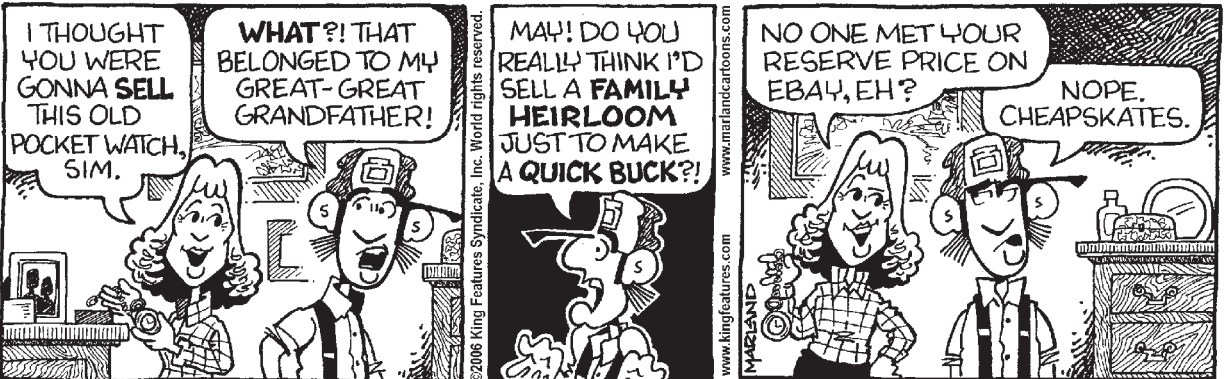
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



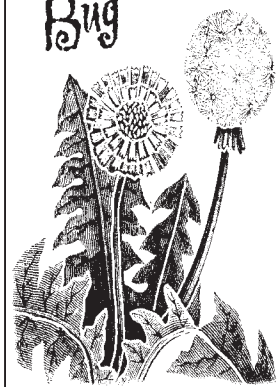
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



The Garden Bug

Named *dent-de-lion* (French for "lion's tooth") for its jagged leaves, the **dandelion** was brought from Europe as food for honeybees. Its hardiness and pervasiveness gives it a bad reputation among gardeners, but many praise its flowers, leaves and roots for their culinary, nutritional and medicinal value.



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

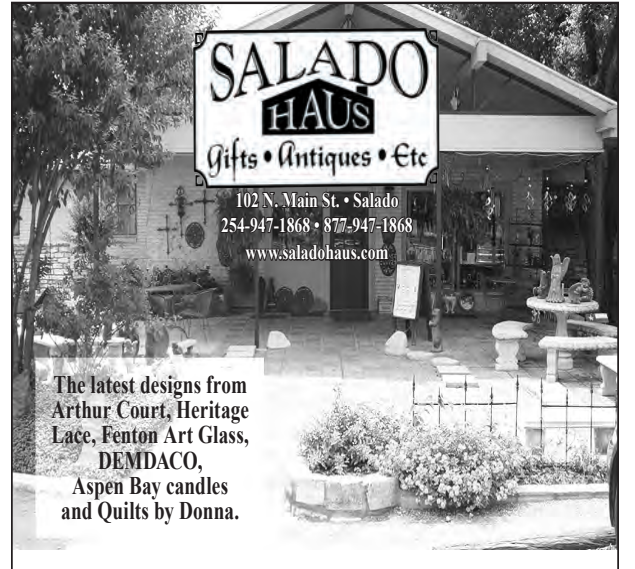


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Walking uphill in San Francisco

by
Tumbleweed
Smith



One of the benefits of being out of high school for a while is you get to go back to reunions. Our class is closer than ever and has get-togethers twice a year, one in the fall and one in the spring.

At one of our reunions a couple of years ago I got re-acquainted with Ed Phillips. He's a city planner who lives in Oakland, California. His hobby is historical architecture. When I told him I had a son in San Francisco, he said "Call me sometime and I'll take you on a walking tour of some interesting residential neighborhoods."

I called Ed a couple of times on various visits to see our son, but we never got to do the tour. After all, my son BZ and his wife Margaret have two little boys: three-year-old Max and four-month-old Aiden and they have their hands full. Before the

youngsters came, we used to do all sorts of running around in the bay area, but we enjoy being with the babies more than we enjoy sightseeing.

In March Susan and I headed for the city by the bay. We took our 15-year-old grandson Jackson with us. Our daughter-in-law Margaret was going to be out of town for 3 days on a business trip and was taking Aiden with her (she's nursing), so we decided to take up Ed on his offer. We loaded everybody in BZ's van and headed for downtown San Francisco. We met Ed around 10 AM. It was a perfect day;

warm, clear and sunny with practically no wind. He got in the van with us and we took off, Ed navigating and BZ driving.

Ed told BZ to go up a steep driveway that drivers would miss unless they were familiar with the territory. It led to an overlook with a fantastic view of the city and the bay. The Golden Gate Bridge looked stunning. Small sidewalks took people to homes tucked away in unique hideaways covered over with sculptured trees, bushes and ground covers. Ivy was everywhere.

Our second stop was near a restaurant in a cas-

tle-like building that offers diners a super view of the water. We parked and headed up small wooden staircases that took us uphill to Coit Tower. Walking up the steep stairs we passed flora that looked like a jungle. At a couple of landings, sidewalks appeared with street signs on them. These are real streets, but only foot traffic can get on them. There are street signs and fire hydrants, but no vehicles.

After climbing the steps to the base of Coit Tower, we took the elevator 21 stories to the top. The clear day gave us perfect 360-degree views of the beautiful city.

We toured some more neighborhoods with unique homes. Everywhere we went we saw people with notebooks and guide sheets taking architectural tours. We did see some interesting neighborhoods, which we certainly would have missed had Ed not been with us. We finished the tour with a visit to the de Young museum, a world-class museum that rivals any museum anywhere. Thanks, Ed

Stardust to host April 8 dance in Temple

Hollywood veteran Gary Lee brings his Dallas ballroom dance orchestra to Temple's Cultural Activities Center 8-11:30 p.m. April 8 for the monthly Stardust gala.

The nonprofit Stardust dance club has a \$10 per person gate, enforcing a dress code of coat and tie for men and after-five attire for women. Singles are welcomed to the smoke-free venue.

Dancing on the second Saturday of each month in Strasburger Hall at the CAC, Stardust attracts dancers from a wide sector of Central Texas.

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The General Store Collection

The Salado Sawmill, an artisan's workshop and gallery, carries a unique line of custom furniture, "The General Store Collection." This bold and chunky design contains many elements of the furnishings you would have found in stores and homes at the turn of the last century. The bead-board detailing and glass front door take you back to a simpler time. Bob Pascoe, owner of The Salado Sawmill, has created several pieces in this line.

Pascoe uses traditional construction techniques, using only solid woods. "There is no press board or fiber board in my work," Pascoe says. "I use mortise and tenon glue joints and a minimum of mechanical fasteners." The General Store design is very flexible, allowing for the creation of cabinet bases, tables, bookcases and the breakfront pictured here. The entire collection can be seen at saladosawmill.com/generalstore.html.

Pascoe says he can design to your specification. "Just bring in a picture or sketch of something you're interested in and your specific requirements, like dimensions and wood type. I'll provide you with a bid and we can go from there. Pascoe has several other lines, including Arts and Crafts and Country Pine.

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\$399,800: A private 6.38 acres for horses and room to roam with finely crafted Austin stone home. Enter the "Texas" iron gate into your own Ranchette complete with 32x60 barn as well as a 20x30 stable. Home includes real hardwood floors, interior stone accents & premium fixtures throughout.



\$549,000: 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 as you enter the formal living and dining. Brass door knobs, Jenn-Air appliances.



\$379,000: Custom home on 2.16 acres with all the extras. Tile entryway takes you into a wonderful living area with built-in bookshelves and fireplace. Large open kitchen with island, granite countertops, breakfast bar. Master suite has double vanity sinks, garden tub, separate shower and walk-in closet.



\$339,900: What dreams are made of! Gorgeous kidney shaped pool with waterfall accents the fenced back yard. A 14X24 insulated shop/studio with French doors provides extra space for work area or studio. Two living, two dining, 4 bedroom home with an open kitchen for easy entertaining.



\$319,900: Belton address, Salado area and schools. Custom 4 BR/3.5 BA country home on 5.5 acres. Mother-in-law plan. Awesome wood flooring in entry, living and dining. Stately custom red oak cabinetry and lots of crown molding. Master has separate sitting area and spacious bath.



\$281,800: Only 2 years old, this nicely landscaped brick/stone 4 BR home has 3 full baths and is walking distance to Mill Creek golf course. Irrigated gardens. Large backyard with covered patio and arbor. Stone fireplace in family room, large kitchen with granite counters.



\$229,000: Completely and totally updated, this home is breathtaking. Walk in on hardwood to an open living, dining ideal for entertaining. Corian countertops compliment double oven and other new appliances. Large master bedroom. Reading room could be office or extra BR. Sits on .848 acre.



\$154,900: This home is in GREAT shape. 4 BR/2 BA with open floor-plan. Kitchen is large and opens to the dining area, which flows into the living area. Front yard and half of backyard has sprinkler system. Large one acre lot. Master BR has a garden tub, separate shower and his/her closets.



Bill Bartlett

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\$175,000: 3 BR/2 BA home in Wild Rose Subdivision. Two dining, one living, split bedrooms. Separate shower and tub in Master Bath. Fenced backyard. Open kitchen and breakfast area. Wood floors through part of home.



\$124,500: Only 3 years old and so close to Scott and White and VA Native trees at back of lot for shade. Nice privacy fence, covered patio and total yard sprinkler system. Pretty corner fireplace. Raised ceilings. Custom tile backsplash in kitchen. Split floor plan.

Acreage Available

- 780 acs. with nice home, several ponds, large metal building.
- 439 acs. on FM 487, Florence. Oaks, grasslands.
- 70 acs. with large trees & possible home sites with lakeviews. Very private.
- 5 wooded acres on Blackberry Rd.

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- Mill Creek Springs IV
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

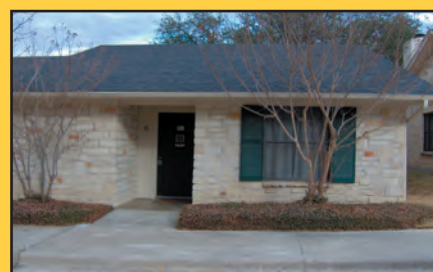
- Live Oak Rd. Lots 21 A&B \$70,000

Other Lots

- Windy Hill Ranch: 2 acre lots - \$35,000-\$45,000.
- Heritage: 1 to 3 acre wooded, near Salado. Restricted.
- Eagle Rock Ranch, Lot 15, 3.19 acres, \$59,500.
- Hidden Springs: Lot 2.
- 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.



\$69,500: One of the most requested units in Mill Creek rental pool this unit can be kept in the pool or used for permanent residence. Well maintained overlooking Old Mill Road.



\$154,500: Great country setting. Two car garage has been enclosed for fourth bedroom. This can easily be converted back to full garage. Horses allowed.




\$107,500: Minutes from Scott and White and the Temple Mall, this recently updated home is ready for occupancy. Updates include fresh paint, carpeting, flooring, appliances, A/C unit (inside).

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 555 County Road 307
 Jarrell, Texas 76537
 Easy Access 1/4 Mile Off I-35 On Corner of CR305 & CR307

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 3 Sizes to choose from
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 (Dial Area Code & Phone # Only No Need To Dial 1+)

SALADO CREEK FRONT LOT
 One-of-a-kind and the last one left. Beautiful secluded 1.82 acres in Salado Creek Place. Creek runs year round.
\$199,900. Call 254-338-5083.

Services

Clearing Cedar & Brush, with hydraulic shears. Dept. of AG Certified. Also dirt work. Free Estimates. References. Toby 254 681 8148 or Levi 512 565 1598 4/6tfnb

Stevens Yard Equipment Repair. A local repairman for your equipment. 947-7249 3/23-3/30p

"I buy houses" Cash - Ronnie. "I sell Houses" -List It- Liz, Realtor, Keller Williams 1(888) 612-8490 3/16-4/6p

Mendoza's Painting and House leveling. Level brick homes with concrete slabs also pier and beam house. Remodeling, additions, painting, interior and exterior, sheet rock, tape and float, texture, floors, decks, porches, plumbing and electrical. Reasonable prices. Call 254-770-4548 or cell

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Area Remodeling and Masonry. Retaining walls, mail boxes, sidewalks, patios, etc. Handy service. Free estimates. Call 254-947-8533 12/1tfnb

J. W. Knauth Construction - New home construction, framing, remodeling, add-ons, decks, regular and overhead doors, metal buildings, trim, siding, handyman, concrete work- Quality construction from A-Z phone 512-508-9955 Jerry Knauth, Owner. tfnb

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

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

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

J&N Painting and Houseleveling (all homes) Interior, Exterior painting (custom, if requested). Tape & float, texture, also level mobile homes. Carpenter work if needed. Call Now, for free estimates! 254-493-8285 or 947-0455 6/2/05tfnb

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

Basic Electrical Services Residential • Commercial (including old homes & buildings) Industrial, Installation, Repairs & Troubleshooting Motors & Motor Controls Licensed & Insured (254) 534-1405 (254) 947-8337 Emergency after-hours service available TECL 17712 8/11tfnb

Perfect drywall patches & texture matching. Painting and carpentry .Scott Mettenbrink Member BBB 254-718-1831 or 512-658-6006 2/2/06tfnb

Housekeeping

Ed's Cleaning Service Window washing, carpet cleaning, Commercial and Residential. European job - American prices. 254-771-2240 4/6-4/27b

Beware of Dust!!! Is dust carrying your business away? We're hard on DUST Call Gidley's cleaning 760-7642 tfn

Granny's House Cleaning. Free estimates/ discounts. Move outs. References. Call 254-947-8533 Salado. tfn

Storage

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

Storage space in Salado 8X12, 16X24 and up. Some have drive-in doors. Salado Storage 9 4 7 - 5 5 7 5 tfnb

For Sale

Queen \$150 Pillowtop Mattress set New! 963-0796 406-4/27b

King Pillowtop mattress set. Brand new w/warranty.

Must sell \$250 963-0796 406-4/27b

Mattress set - Queen New in plastic. Can del. Sell \$125 963-0796 406-4/27b

Brand new full size mattress set Must sell \$100 Can del. 963-0796 406-4/27b

Greenhouse 3 large trays "15 1/2 inches by 46 1/2" Still in packing box 48 1/4 wide 15 1/4 height by 17 inches depth. designed and built by Gardners Supply. Call Madeline 254-947-8128 0406b

For Sale: 10x12ft fully insulated, air conditioned semi-portable workshop with 60 AMP rated breaker system. Includes Router table/workbench. \$850.00 or nearest offer. 254.947.0666 4/06-4/13b

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

Garage & Estate Sale

GARAGE SALE Saturday ONLY 7AM at 124 Prairie Lane--exit 283; down 2268 two miles on right; furniture, extended size clothing; electronics; tools 04/06b

Employment

Schwertner State Bank has full time Teller positions available. Schwertner State Bank has a full time loan processor/clerk position available. Previous experience in banking is preferred. Please send Resume to: Schwertner State Bank Attn: Gary Nowlin PO Box 25 Schwertner, TX 76573 or fax to 254-527-4567. 0420b

CLASSIFIED CONTINUED ON PAGE 3C

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HOMES
Salado Home with Acreage on FM 2484. Two story plantation design with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 half baths and 2 car garage. High ceilings, formal living and dining in mint condition. A bonus with detached 900 square foot guest house with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and kitchen. Enjoy Central Texas evening in the gazebo. All located on 36+ acres. **\$544,500.** Additional acreage available.

LAND
Beautiful Building sites with numerous oak trees and scattered cedars. **Kuykendall Mountain Road** just west of Moffat Community Center. **Three 33 acre tracts at \$4,200 per acre** with paved road frontage and community water. Some restrictions required for harmonious neighborhood.

COMMERCIAL
Over 5,000 sq. ft. of free standing commercial office/warehouse space near downtown Temple with 20 parking spaces. Very flexible space. Quick conversion to your intended use. **\$180,000.**
1.3 acre building site zoned C-2 on Sparta Road in Belton - west of new Super Wal-Mart. **\$215,500.**

Now Hiring. Tues-Friday 9:30-2:30 Old Mill Pizza 947-0700

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

Now accepting applications for waitperson. Apply in person at Johnny's Steak and BBQ. 2/23tfnb

Part time employment Susan Marie's ladies boutique in Salado Sat. or Sun or both 947-5239 or drop by. 1/26tfnb

Homes For Sale

"0" Move-in New home Jarrell, free washer, dryer. Call James 512-789-7494 or 254-220-0576 Agent 3/2-5/4p

Hidden Springs. 4 BR, 2 BA, 2 Car garage on 2 acres. Fireplace., laundry room, office. Beautiful home. \$219,000 254-760-4486 0209tfnb

Private ranch estate! Austin stone home on over 11 tree-covered acres located southwest of Salado. Thermador appliances, hardwood floors, covered porches, 3 fireplaces. \$699,900. 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

Belton - Spacious master suite is the highlight of this 4 BR home. Wood, tile and carpet flooring, gas log fireplace, granite countertops in kitchen and dining areas, separate shower and jetted tub in master,

large covered patio. Side entry garage. Complete in early Summer. \$229,900 Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050 6/16/tfnf

Take a step out of the city and enjoy this peaceful 2 acre setting. Granite counter tops. Huge family room and bonus room with great location. Convenient to Georgetown, Temple or Killeen. \$316,900. Call First Texas Brokerage, (254) 947-5577

Only 2 years old, this nicely landscaped brick/stone 4 BR home has 3 full bats and is walking distance to the new Mill Creek Springs golf course. Irrigated rose garden, flower garden and vegetable garden. Entertain in the large back yard with covered patio and an arbor. Extensive crown molding, stone fireplace in family room, skylight in kitchen. Large kitchen with granite countertops, island and garden window. Large walk-in pantry \$281,800 Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050 tfnf

Private ranch estate! Austin stone home on over 11 tree covered acres. located southwest of Salado. Thermador appliances, hardwood floors, covered porches. 3 fireplaces. \$725,000. Call First Texas Brokerage at 254-947-5577 tfnf

Grand Home on Estate Lot in Salado. 3/3/2.5. Hardwood floors, raised celinings, gas fireplace, spacious kitchen and large master suite. All over 2 acres. Priced at \$315,000. Call First Texas Brokerage at 254-947-5577

Custom home on 2.16 ac. with all the extras. Tile entryway takes you into a wonderful living area with built-in bookshelves and fireplace. Large open kitchen with island, granite counter-tops, breakfast bar and under counter lighting. Master suite has a double vanity sink, garden tub, separate shower and walk-in closet. a 20' X 13" office upstairs. Four car garage \$389,000. Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050

Land for Sale

Salado land! Huge oak trees. Buy this 3.79 acres located on Brewer Rd. and build your dream house. City water & utilities available. Beverly Hamby Realty. 254-721-1784 3/30b

30 acres for sale. Salado Creek runs through it! 100 plus large pecans and oaks. Spring. Wildlife tax exemp-

tion. Bordered on 3 sides by large ranch. 5 miles west of Jarrell. \$139,000 254-291-8888 3/9-3/30p

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/appt's call Lorraine Goode, Realtor, Covington Real Estate 254-780-3668 2/23-3/30

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 tfnf

CLASSIFIEDS CONTINUE ON PAGE 4C

Your service can be on these pages for as little as \$10 each week Call Marilyn for more information. 254-947-5321 (minimum 26 weeks)

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NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN 200 FEET OF San Jose Rd, Santa Maria, & College Street

The Village of Salado government has received a zoning change request for a 14 acre tract of land at the above stated property. The owner of the 14 acre tract is asking for a zoning change from Single Family Residential to Multi-Family.

A public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at 1:00PM** at the Municipal Building.

The zoning change request will be considered by the Planning & Zoning Commission at this hearing. This is your opportunity to voice any concerns you might have as a neighbor to this property.

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 Brand New, all brick, 3/2 homes with great amenities featuring tile & crown molding. Seller will pay \$1000 of Buyers closing costs. Holland; 1258 SF for \$99,000, 1296 SF for \$109,000, and 1350 SF for \$112,500.
 Great Location!
 Great Neighborhood! Great Belton Schools!
 All brick, 4 BR/2BA homes. A number of spacious floor plans w/ 1800+ to over 2400SF. Many upgrades available. Many lots still to choose from, simply the perfect location; cul-de-sac with native trees. Mid \$130s to Mid \$180's
 Call Now! **254-541-1100** Paula Golden OPENING DOORS.

THE LOFTS of Carriage Place
 The LOFTS of Carriage Place, can be your NEW address in the "heart of historic Salado." The Post Office, Civic Center, Public Library, restaurants, churches, grocery store and Salado's quaint shops are ONLY steps away from the LOFTS!!!
 Two bedrooms, two baths, spacious walk-in closets, skylights in kitchens and living areas, fully equipped kitchens and elevator entry to the LOFTS!!!
 Call Properties By Larry Sands, 947-5580 for LEASING information.

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COMMERCIAL



227 N. Main St.
Prime location in the historical district on Main Street. Three buildings approximately 1200 square feet each with room to expand. Call Anna Lou or Mike for more information. \$485,000



1617 Chaparral
Great price for this custom home. Must see inside to appreciate all the features, including views, screened-in porch, master BR balcony, open kitchen and many more! 4 generous BRs, 3 full baths, large great room, formal dining room, breakfast room and great outdoor living. \$250,000.



515 Indian Trail
Gorgeous stone home, landscaped with two-tiered pond in backyard. Large rooms throughout. Two great rooms, two fireplaces, plus separate formals, library. Four bedrooms and unbelievable storage. Approximately 5,000 sq. ft. \$499,000.



701 Indian Trail
Price reduced to \$274,000. Motivated seller will consider any reasonable offer. Secluded home on 1.3 acres in Beautiful Salado Creek Place. Rooms with soaring ceilings and large irregular room sizes. Three bedrooms and three full baths, large living area, formal dining room and a study.



5055 Elm Grove Rd.
Beautiful 30.03 acre Belton property that borders the Lampasas River. Huge hybrid and native pecan trees. Well-maintained home with large living room, dining room with hardwoods, den, 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. Amenities include greenhouse, haybarn, equip shed, 6 traps and decks. Must see! \$620,000



900 DeGrummond
Salado's hidden treasure. Not a typical home! This totally updated 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home includes a new master suite with a private patio. There is a large great room plus a family room. Beautiful views of oak trees and a pond. A very warm and welcoming home! \$350,000



3901 Chisholm Trail #5
Great location - close
SOLD
ideas. This townhome offers 3 BR/2 BA, large living, formal dining, 2 car garage. \$122,500.



716 Whispering Oaks
Located in Mill Creek on a beautiful treed street. One-story has 3 BRs/ 2.5 BAs, study, formal living and dining areas, large kitchen with breakfast room. Great room with wood-burning fireplace. Great floorplan, large deck, storage building, a greenhouse and a hot tub. \$249,900. Call Mike Bowles, 254-913-0469



2105 Smith Bluff
Immaculate native limestone
SOLD
dining, 3 bedrooms, two baths and a wonderful kitchen. Many updates and great drive-up appeal. Don't miss this one! \$207,577. Price Reduced to \$188,000.

Mill Creek Homesites

Premier Half-Acre Lots in restricted Mill Creek Golf course subdivision. Underground utilities, ready for custom homes with only 2,000 sq. ft minimum. 1801 Kevlin Trail 1901 Kevlin Trail
1900 Kevlin Trail 1808 Kevlin Trail

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 3/3tfn

Commercial Rental

Retail space available on Main Street next to the Stagecoach Inn May 1. 947-3351 0406tfnb

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 tfnb

For Rent or Lease

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

Charming, spacious, 2/2/1, townhome for rent, \$825. 6 closets, vaulted ceiling, w/d closet inside, Walk to shopping center. Lawn care provided. 254-338-5083. 12/15tfnb

For more information about display advertising in the Salado Village Voice, call Marilyn at 254-947-5321.

Your business card can run for 26 weeks (6 months) of advertising for just \$260. This includes the option to change to a larger ad at any time and get the discounted rate on that too.

Sample sizes can be found at

www.saladovillagevoice.com



For information about purchasing a lot or building your dream home call:

Chris Alexander, Builder

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Take care of your septic system, it will take care of you

By CAROL STEINFELD
MOTHER EARTH NEWS

This is the second part of an article on septic system care and maintenance that originally appeared in Mother Earth News. It is reprinted with permission.

Septic Care

A properly designed and well-sited system that's also maintained well can be effective and environmentally responsible, says Joe. "We live in different times, and we can't take wastewater management for granted. It's important that we respect our septic systems as the living machinery that they are. It's not hard, but like any living thing, it needs daily awareness and effort." Paying attention to these simple septic tips can significantly extend the life of your system.

Keep It Clean.

Take a load off your septic system whenever you can by composting kitchen scraps and using biodegradable and nontoxic cleaning products. Many toilet bowl cleaners, antibacterial agents and drain cleaners can kill beneficial bacteria in your system. Dispose of all solvents, paints, antifreeze and other chemicals through local recycling and hazardous waste centers. Never let wash water from latex paint on brushes or rollers go down the drain and into the septic system. Use phosphate-free liquid detergents instead of powders, which can clog your leach field, or switch to liquid soap instead. Although small amounts of chlorine appear to have little effect on septic systems, use hydrogen peroxide-based bleaches to keep this potential carcinogen out of the watershed.

Filter Out Fibers. Keep fibers and particles out of the septic system. Many of today's fabrics are made of recycled plastic soda bottles and other nondegradable fibers that can clog your leach field. The Septic Protector (\$150) attaches to your

washing machine drain to remove these fibers. Septic tank filters also can be added to the outlet of your septic tank to keep fibers and particles out of the leach field. (See "Septic System Sources")

Don't Go with the Flow. Prevent large volumes of water from entering your system all at once. A flood of water reduces the time wastewater is retained in the tank, leaving fewer opportunities for solids to settle out and for anaerobic bacteria to start the breakdown process. It also can stir up sediment and flush it into the leach field, causing clogs. Route roof drains and basement drainage-tile water outside of the septic system and away from the leach field. Drain water from pools, hot tubs and roof drains to a ditch or separate dry well.

To reduce water consumption further, install faucet aerators and low-flow shower-heads, which give more force to less water. Take shorter showers and use shower-heads that allow you to easily turn them off when you're lathering up. And shut off water while you're shaving or brushing your teeth. Wash only full loads in the dishwasher, or handwash dishes with a basin of soapy water and a basin of clear rinse water.

Front-loading washing machines use almost half the water of top-loading washers. Wash only full loads, and adjust load level settings for small loads. Distribute wash loads evenly throughout the week to avoid overloading the system with large volumes of water.

Consider installing a graywater system to use shower and wash water for irrigation. Your local health agency may permit a system that is properly sized, self-contained and allows no graywater to come to the surface.

If you have a water softener system, use potassium-ion exchange resins instead of sodium-ion exchange resins. They're a little more expensive, but they are much easier on your system. Recharge your water softener as infrequently as possible

to reduce water use, and re-route the water softener recharge water outside the septic system. It does not need to be treated, and the salts can damage your leach field.

About 60 percent of the water used in most American homes is used in the bathroom, and most of it goes to flushing toilets. To conserve water and increase the life of your septic system, consider installing a low-flush toilet. Most low-flush or ultra-low-flush toilets use 1.6 gallons per flush; some flush with less than

a gallon. (See "Water-Wise Toilets," June/July 2002.) Don't flush paper towels, feminine sanitary products and other slow-to-degrade materials, like cat litter, in the toilet.

Finally: Don't Flush that Fertilizer! Consider buying a composting toilet to keep blackwater, which contains the most potential pathogens, out of wastewater entirely. In some states, installing a composting toilet allows you to construct a smaller, less expensive leach field.

If your state doesn't yet permit composting toilets,

instead of flushing urine down the drain, where it pollutes waterways and chokes off ponds and lakes, you easily can capture urine's valuable nutrients to enrich garden growth and boost backyard compost-bin activity.

All you need is a funnel, a container for collection, like a plastic gallon milk jug, and some plants or a compost pile to water. Or you can just pee into a bucket, then use the urine immediately. For vegetables, fruit trees or anything else on which you

want to encourage rapid, green growth, dilute urine with water at about a 1-10 ratio and pour it around the plant roots. Dilute urine also is an excellent addition to a compost pile that is carbon-rich, but nitrogen-poor. The urea in urine helps break down lignin, accelerating the decomposition of woody materials.

Urine constitutes the bulk of human excrement and also contains most of the nutrients. The nitrogen, phosphorous

SEE SEPTIC, PAGE 6A

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Look out your windows and see this view of Salado Creek! This home is priced to sell! 4 BR/3.5 BA, large den with additional sitting area. Sit on the deck and watch the creek flow. Two additional wood creek-view lots available next to home. \$249,900.



Salado country home on 1.3 acres. Lots of sq. footage. 600 SF hobby/office building behind home. Two living areas. 3 BR/2 BA, \$164,900.



New Listing! Salado 2003 brick home on .94 acres, large open great room with roomy kitchen, breakfast bar and dining area. Vaulted ceilings and lots of windows make this home bright. 3 BR/2 BA, attached car garage, nicely landscaped with covered patio. \$146,000.

Executive home in Timber Ridge Subdivision, Temple. Two story home that has three living rooms, four bedrooms, and three-and-a-half baths. Master suite is downstairs. Informal and formal dining. Raised ceilings, Romeo balcony, wide open spacious kitchen with lots of storage. \$398,900.

Just like a model! Morgan's Point home with flexible floor plan. Fireplace with custom mantle. Wood-like blinds, high ceiling, fenced backyard. 3 BR/2 BA. \$117,900.

VILLAGE REALTY OF SALADO

Sales & Property Management
1313 N. Stagecoach • Salado
www.villagerealtysalado.com
(254) 947-0342



REALTORS®:
Peggy Bush,
Lynette McCain,
Mary Kite,
TerryLynn Schrimsher

Property Management
Marsha Kumm



Your own private park! Lovely Salado home has a beautiful wooded yard. Lots of privacy with two decks in the backyard. Country kitchen with lots of cabinets, huge closets, breakfast bar and dining room. 2 BR/2 BA, \$144,500. Reduced to \$141,900.



Great country views! Wonderful home is on 3/4-acre lot, fenced and on a cul-de-sac. Separate formal dining and breakfast nook. Academy schools. 3 BR/2-1/2BA, \$179,900.



Ranch-style home with lots of room and trees! Metal roof, spa, playground, fenced backyard with pet pen, two storage buildings. Updates include limestone flooring, carpet, kitchen appliances, countertops, painting and many extras. 4 BR/2 BA for \$145,000. Price reduced to \$139,900.



Magnificent country dream home on 2.14 acres in Salado. Many amenities with tile throughout home. Approx. 3,588 SF with attached garage. Custom built-in shelving in kitchen and study. 3 BR/2 BA. \$435,000.



Temple brick home on pecan tree-covered lot! 3 BR/2 BA, covered patio and storage shed in shaded backyard. Neighborhood near Midway Drive, so close to everything! \$97,000.



Mill Creek Golf Course just across the street. Open living and kitchen area with fireplace. Three bedroom, two bath with a great master layout. Kitchen has breakfast area with island/bar. Formal living room. Attached garage, separate laundry room. Privacy fenced. \$189,000.



20 Acres in Salado! 5 BR/3.5 BA with two living and two dining rooms! Easy access to I-35 and Killeen area. Lots of windows with great views. Open bright kitchen with island. Fireplace in den and master suite. Small horse shed with enclosed feed room. Huge chainlink backyard. \$350,000.



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Septic FROM PAGE 5C

and potassium found in urine are available in ideal chemical forms for plants. And urine is virtually free from the heavy metals that may be found in many commercial fertilizers.

Unlike feces, urine is commonly sterile. Pathogens that may be transmitted through urine, says Caroline Schönning of the Swedish Institute for Disease Control, are rarely sufficient to cause a significant public health problem. When urine is used in temperate climates, she says, it is not considered a health risk.

Carol Steinfeld is projects director for the Center for Ecological Pollution Prevention in Concord, Massachusetts, and co-author of The Composting Toilet Systems Book, on Mother's Bookshelf. She most recently co-authored "Water-Wise Toilets," in Mother Earth News, June/July 2002.

Septic System Sources
Most states publish septic system maintenance guides as well as handy records for keeping track of septic pump-outs. Contact your state department of environmental protection.

Guides & Organizations
National Small Flows Clearinghouse
West Virginia University
P.O. Box 6064
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CPAs offer top 10 tax tips

Texas Society of CPAs recommends the following "Top Ten" tax suggestions:

1. Consider filing your tax returns electronically. Why file electronically? How about a refund within two weeks and fewer errors? Your Texas CPA can e-file for you or if you're a do-it-yourselfer, you need to do your taxes with software or online.

Free file The IRS has partnered with a few dozen commercial preparers to offer free online tax prep as well as e-filing (go to [irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) <<http://www.irs.gov>>). The program is limited to those with an adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$50,000 or less.

2. Retirees: Save money and save

You still have time to plump up your nest egg. The IRA limit for 2005 is \$1,000 higher than it was in '04.

If you qualify for a deduction (income limits apply), funding an IRA will lower your tax bill. You can make Roth or traditional IRA deposits as late as April 17.

3. Hurricane relief for all After the devastating fall hurricanes, Congress passed a tax bill that benefits those who live in the affected areas -- and all Americans who helped.

For hurricane victims only You can fully deduct your casualty losses, which normally must exceed 10 percent of your adjusted gross income and \$100 per loss to qualify. You can also make penalty-free IRA withdrawals, and you have more time -- three years -- to pay tax on the earnings.

For everyone Hurricane volunteers who drove can deduct 34 cents a mile (vs. the typical 14 cents); if you housed victims for at least 60 days in a row, you can deduct

\$500 per person (four-person max); and gifts made to any charity after Aug. 28, 2005 are fully deductible, even if they exceed 50 percent of your adjusted gross income.

4. Kids count more than you think

What's a child? Any parent would consider that an easy question. Now the IRS thinks so too. This year there's finally a single (but still technical) definition of who qualifies as a child on your tax return.

Even if the new rule doesn't affect you -- it could if you're divorced, for instance, or the parent of an adopted child -- all the old benefits of parenthood still apply.

Child tax credit You can take the full \$1,000 credit for a child under age 17 as long as your adjusted growth income is under \$110,000 for a married couple or \$75,000 for a single parent.

Child- and dependent-care credit If you pay someone to watch children under age 13 -- at home, in day care, at camp -- you may qualify. This credit is for as much as 35 percent of \$3,000 in such costs, or \$6,000 for two or more kids, making it worth up to \$1,050 for one kid, \$2,100 for two or more.

Sleep-away camp, alas, is seen as a luxury by the IRS (if not by some parents), so those fees don't qualify.

5. Help with college costs If you have a student in college, a valuable tax perk is scheduled to disappear after this year: the ability to deduct up to \$4,000 in tuition and fees.

To qualify for the entire deduction, your adjusted gross income can't exceed \$130,000 if you're married, \$65,000 if you're single. You can take a partial deduction with an adjusted gross

income up to \$160,000 (for married couples) or \$80,000 (singles).

Fortunately, two potentially more precious breaks will stick around, and higher-income cutoffs this year increase the chance that you'll qualify for them. You can use the HOPE credit to recoup up to \$1,500 in tuition during the first two years of college (a credit reduces your tax bill dollar for dollar); the lifetime learning credit is worth as much as \$2,000 during college or graduate school (up to 20 percent of \$10,000 in costs).

You cannot take both credits in the same year for the same student. You don't qualify for the full credits when your adjusted gross income hits \$87,000 if you're married, \$43,000 if single. You lose them entirely when your adjusted gross income

hits \$107,000 (\$53,000 for singles).

6. When the sales tax pays

Also due to expire: the option to write off either your state and local income or sales tax. Use the IRS tables to figure your deduction (Publication 600, available at irs.gov).

If you bought a car, boat or plane last year, you can add the tax you paid to the IRS figure in Texas.

7. Profit from self-improvement

Think how much you spend trying to stay healthy, not to mention getting well once you're sick. If a sounder mind and body aren't reward enough, see if your good intentions can win you a break on your taxes too.

Qualified medical costs

SEE TAX TIPS, PAGE 9C

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- Student, Certificate in Ministry, University Mary Hardin-Baylor
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- Director, Salado ISD School Board, 1993-1999
- Child Patient Advocate and Baby Rocker, Scott & White, 1998-1999
- Membership Chairman, Scholarship Chairman Salado Lions Club, 1993-1996
- Member Salado Lions Club, 1992-1997
- Manager/Producer, Christian Music Concerts, 1995-1998
- Chairman, Salado Bluebonnet Parade, 1993
- Chairman, Salado Family Festival, 1994-1995
- Actress, Salado Legends, 1993-1996
- Actress, A Christmas Carol, 1994-1995
- Actress, Salado Living Room Theatre, 2005
- Mentor, Salado ISD Students, 1996-1998
- Member, PTA, 1992-1998
- Treasurer or Secretary, PTA, 1995-1998
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- Speaker, Ladies Ministries, 1993-1995
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Garden tour May 6-7

Picturesque Baines House on tour

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The second stop on the Salado Yard and Garden Tour on May 6-7 is the Baines House, Rod and Sheryl Russell's Bed and Breakfast Garden.

A traditional white painted fence almost flush with the street, a large Texas mountain laurel and an old vitex tree with its gnarled trunk, frame a picturesque view of the enchanting home built in the 1860's. The home, painted the color of the pale pink vitex blooms and listed on the Register



(PHOTO BY MARGARET WILLIAMSON)

A windmill overlooks an explosion of color where the trumpet vine is now in full bloom at the Baines House.



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of Historical Places, was the home of the Reverend George Washington Baines, the great grandfather of Lyndon Baines Johnson. The home, built in the Greek revival style with distinctive front porch with square columns, seems to invite one into the garden. A longhorn bronze by Salado artist Johnny Shipman greets the guests on the front lawn. As one passes the vitex tree, also called the “chaste tree” because of the lore that the fragrance of the lovely flowers reduces passion and that the monks once chewed on the dried berries in an effort to adhere to their vows of celibacy, the sound of doves permeates the air. There are several beautiful aviaries on the grounds housing doves, homing pigeons and a beautiful cherry head parrot named Jack the Nipper; be careful, he tends to bite.

This is a garden of discovery and art. The spacious grounds are filled with structures that have become unique lodgings and multiplying the venues available to the garden. The old stone spring house with cistern has become a quiet grotto chapel with a beautiful statue and illuminated by prayer candles. The wooden windmill looms above the structures with a steel water tank below filled with water iris. The cedar post fence in the spring overflows with brilliant crossvine and there is an iris bed to discover through a passageway on the east side. As one walks toward a lovely statue of Mary Magdalene rimmed with a row of fragrant rosemary, you can take in the view of the expansive back part of the garden.

The back garden of linear walkways and paths and a sharp delineation between the lawn and garden reminds one of a romantic English garden. Brick paths built from brick streets around Baylor University, Waco, divide



(PHOTO BY MARGARET WILLIAMSON)

A beautiful limestone table and benches set among lovely white iris in bloom.

four garden beds with informal plantings; arbors draped with native coral honeysuckle and various seating arrangements invite one to linger, to sit and reflect or rest and look. This garden is filled with sculpture, a wrought iron cross on the fence by Salado artisan, Lonnie Edwards; a magnificent sculpture of a reclining Muse (“a Greek goddess who presides over the arts and sciences and inspire those who excel at these pursuits”) by internationally known sculptor Charles Umlauf and an engaging sculpture by the Russell's son, Todd called Flame.

As you walk from the back garden to the west side of the house a path leads to a lovely stone table and bench with a naturalized clump of white garden iris surrounded by a thicket of wild American plum trees that produce extremely fragrant flowers in the spring and fruit that can be used for jellies.

There are many more discoveries in this spacious garden including a display of Sheryl's garden inspired paintings for you to enjoy. Take advantage of the tour ticket being good for two days and linger in each of the Salado gardens. You will discover your own particular interest and the uniqueness of each garden.

Other featured gardens are the Public Garden at the Green Bridge where one can stroll the historic bridge and enjoy the abundance of native

plants and catch sight of the public art; the private yard and garden of Joe and Dottie Oliver's, a formal setting amongst a canopy of trees and a lovely pool area; the private yard and garden of John and Barbara Robertson, where one can view the fabulous potting house, vegetable garden and wonderful flowering perennials; the private country cottage garden of Les McCollum and Richard Teeler where butterflies will flicker from plant to plant and you can wander down the many paths from garden room to garden room; and the private country estate of Barton and Jeanne Jones that is located at the historic site of Dulaney Mill and landscaped to afford one the natural view and awe of the site.

The tour, sponsored by the Garden Club and the Public Arts League of Salado will be on Saturday from 10 am – 4pm, May 6th and Sunday from 1-4 pm, May 7th. Gardens will be self guided with volunteers helping when needed. Tickets are \$10 and are good for both days. Maps will be available leading to each location with a description of short description of each garden. Tours will be conducted rain or shine. Strollers and pets are not permitted and wheelchair accessibility is limited. Additional information can be found on the Salado Chamber website www.salado.com or by calling the Civic Center at 947-8300.



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Tax tips

FROM PAGE 7C

that exceed 7.5 percent of your Adjusted Growth Income are deductible. That's a high hurdle, but consider what could put you over the top: prescribed weight-loss programs, stop-smoking classes, acupuncture, chiropractic care, therapy, braces, eyeglasses and lead-paint removal if you have a kid at home. See IRS Publication 502 for a full list.

8. Missing a write-off is like donating money to Uncle Sam...

Don't overlook these.

Leftover losses: Each year you can offset investment gains with losses. If your losers add up to more than your winners, you can deduct up to \$3,000 from your regular income and carry forward the rest. Pull out last year's return and look for capital losses that you couldn't use.

Too much tax: If you switched jobs last year, you might have had too much Social Security tax withheld. Check your W-2s. If more than \$5,580 was docked from your paychecks, claim a credit for the overpayment.

Miscellany: Certain costs that top 2 percent of your adjusted growth income are deductible. That includes

what you pay to manage your money: safe-deposit box fees, calls to your broker, tax-prep fees and subscriptions to investment journals.

Old college costs: It's easy to think that only mortgage interest is deductible. Not so. Student loan interest is deductible, even if you don't itemize.

9. New loan? Deduct this.

Last year was the third busiest ever for home loans. If you bought, borrowed or refinanced, don't forget to deduct your origination fees and discount points. When you refinance, you must spread the deduction over the life of the loan; on a second refinance, though, you can deduct all remaining points from the first.

10. Home work, not homework.

Work at home and you may be able to write off your home office. Tread carefully. This deduction is not only one of the trickiest breaks around, it's also one that could get you audited.

The rules: For starters, your home office must be your principal place of business, not a backup for the cubicle your boss provides, and you generally can't use the room for anything else. So it can't be half TV room,

half office. It's all office, all the time.

The math: To calculate the size of the deduction, first determine what percentage of your home your office takes up -- by square footage or number of rooms. Apply that percentage to your housing costs (including mortgage interest, utilities and upkeep) to arrive at your deduction.

The downside: What makes this deduction such a gold mine is that every year you can also write off a portion of what you paid for your house. But when you sell, all that depreciation is treated as a taxable gain.

Bonus: What's new?

Two more months to do your taxes, a way to preview your AMT, and help with higher gas prices

More time to file Can't finish by April 17? Previously, you could automatically get four more months -- until smack in the middle of your August beach vacation. This year the IRS extended the extension to six months. File Form 4868 by mail or at irs.gov/efile.

Stingier rules for car gifts: As of 2005, if a charity sells the car you donate (as most do), you can deduct only the proceeds from the sale, not the full fair market

value.

An AMT fast forecaster An estimated 4 million taxpayers will owe the alternative minimum tax this year, so the least the IRS can do is help you find out if you're one of them. Its new AMT Assistant is a boon if you do taxes by hand -- the agency estimates that the calculator will take five to 10 minutes vs. an hour or more for the paper worksheet. Find it at apps.irs.gov/app/amt.

Gas relief: If you drive your car for business, you're hurting at the gas pump. The IRS, it appears, feels your pain. It raised the standard mileage deduction from 40.5 cents to 48.5 cents a mile as of Sept. 1. For 2006, it'll be 44.5 cents.

Made out in the U.S.A.? Do you run a business that makes widgets, builds homes or develops software on these shores? Then you'll love the new domestic-production deduction: It's worth up to 3 percent of your net income. Looking for additional tax information? Go to the Texas Society of CPAs' web site where feel tools and other resources are available to Texans on personal tax issues. Texas can access the Web site at: www.valueyourmoney.org.



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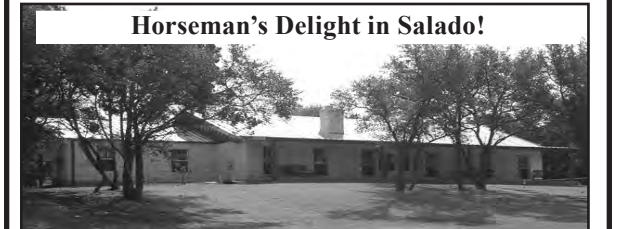
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Can organic farms produce enough food to feed world?

Dear EarthTalk: I've heard some environmental advocates claim that organic farming could produce enough food to feed the world. Is this true? --Gabe Morello, Lynnwood, WA

Advocates of modern agriculture reliant on pesticides and widespread single crop plantings (known as "monoculture") have bragged for decades about the increased productivity their high-tech methods can yield. Indeed, several studies in the U.S., Britain and Australia have shown that such methods produce as much as 40 percent more than the more benign methods that served mankind well for thousands of years.

As a result, seed growers and pesticide makers are now working in poor countries to promote the same "green revolution" there, capable, they say, of growing enough food to feed the desperately hungry.

But a spate of new research has shown that organic farming actually yields better results than modern techniques when evaluated more holistically. A series of peer-reviewed papers published by the international journal, *Nature*, showed that organic methods for growing rice, corn and wheat all produced significantly higher yields--and at less the cost--than monoculture farms. And research at England's Essex University has shown that farmers in India, Kenya, Brazil, Guatemala and Honduras have doubled or tripled their yields by switching to organic agriculture. Cuban farmers, who cannot access fertilizers and pesticides due to the U.S. embargo, have also realized greater yields by taking up



organic farming.

According to Dr. Christos Vasilikiotis of the University of California, Berkeley, a vocal advocate of organic farming, chemically intensive farming is highly undesirable due to the toll it takes on the land and the pollution it generates. "Organic...farming methods continually increase soil fertility and prevent loss of topsoil to erosion, while conventional methods have the opposite effect," he says. He further maintains that "only a conversion to organic farming will allow us to maintain and even increase current crop yields."

Dr. Liz Stockdale of Britain's Institute of Arable Crops Research agrees, and points out that even when organic yields are less than conventional ones, organic farmers make up the financial difference by not having to buy costly pesticides and fertilizers. She adds that improved growing techniques and new natural pest controls could eventually level the playing field, giving organic farmers the economic advantage.

According to the trade group, Organic Consumers Association, only slightly more than two percent of all farms in the U.S. are currently organic. But with sales of domestic organic food growing about 20 percent annually, the organization expects that figure to rise exponentially in years to come.

Still, though, feeding the world is a tall order, and everyone from organic farmers to environmental leaders to human rights workers agrees that ending hunger is dependent more upon political will than agricultural prowess. "Until governments tackle the social and political factors involved in poverty and food distribution, millions of people will continue to go hungry," concludes Stockdale.

CONTACTS: Organic Consumers Association, www.organicconsumers.org; U.S. Department of Agriculture National Organic Program, www.ams.usda.gov/nop.

GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION? Send it to:

EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php.

Dear EarthTalk: How do solar swimming pool heaters work? Are they efficient? How do they compare in cost to conventional pool heaters? --Bob Whelan, Providence, RI

While more efficient swimming pool heaters exist, solar heaters offer the most cost effective option, given that the fuel source, sunshine, is free. According to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Consumer's Guide to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, solar pool heating systems cost more than other common options such as gas heaters or heat pumps, but will usually provide payback within two to seven years of purchase (depending upon local fuel costs) due to fuel savings.

Owners are guaranteed to make back their initial outlay, too, as solar heaters are not dependent upon motorized moving parts, and thus last twice as long as other types of heaters and don't rack-up significant maintenance costs. Of course, solar pool heaters are also the most environmentally benign option, as no fossil fuels need to be burned to maintain the right amount of warmth.

Most solar pool heating systems come with four key interacting components: a flow control valve takes pool water and sends it through a collector; a filter removes debris before the water reaches the collector; the collector itself heats the water that passes through it; and a pump sends that water back into the pool. In warmer climates, the system can be used to cool the pool in summer months by operating only at night.

But such solar technology need not be restricted to warm climates. As long as the sun is shining, it can provide solar energy not to be confused with the sun's heat even when it is cold outside. Indeed, the DOE reports that solar pool heaters are sold in every climatic region of the continental U.S., meaning that solar is a smart choice even for pools in more northern latitudes like Maine or Minnesota.

While solar pool heaters

SEE EARTHTALK, PAGE 11C

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Earthtalk

FROM PAGE 10C

excel at maintaining steady water temperatures over long time periods, they are not nearly as fast as gas heaters for quick last-minute heat-ups. As such, many pool owners install hybrid systems combining the best elements of gas and solar systems. Also, using a pool cover will reduce heat, water and chlorine loss while maintaining efficiency and preventing debris from sullyng the water, regardless of which type of heater system is in place. Even better, "solar blankets" are high-tech covers that use thousands of sealed air pouches to facilitate heat transfer from the sun's ray to the pool water below.

If you are thinking of installing a solar pool heating system, the online version of the DOE's Consumer's Guide provides tips on determining if your pool's location is adequate enough (i.e. does it get enough sunlight?) and on how to choose the system that best suits your needs. The handy website will also show you how to compare competing systems and investigate relevant local pertinent regulations.

Some of the leading manufacturers of solar pool heating system include EZ Heat, Hi-Deluxe, Sungrabber and Suntrek. As always, unless you're familiar with the intricacies of your pool's inner workings, it's best to get a certified installer to work with you to make sure installation goes swimmingly.

CONTACT: Consumer's Guide to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/; EZ Heat, www.harterindustries.com/ezheat.htm; Hi-Deluxe, www.cetsolar.com/hideluxe.htm; Sungrabber, www.sungrabber.net; Suntrek, www.suntreksolar.com.

GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

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TOP OF THE HILL, WHAT A VIEW!! This lovely Mill Creek home is situated on 2 lots overlooking a private pond & comes with an additional wooded lot. Antique doors, sinks, cabinets, are just some of the extras. A spacious workshop comes with this special home!!

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Enjoy morning coffee in a private sunroom overlooking the golf course. This spacious 2810 sq. ft. Mill Creek town home is great for entertaining. The oversized living room has a wet bar and built-in bookcases. A gourmet kitchen includes a butcher block island and is open to another living area with a fireplace! The master bedroom is oversized and boasts of a dressing room with vanity, many closets and more. If you like to entertain then this is a great place for you to be in Mill Creek. **Price reduced to 169,900!**

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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.**



Beautifully Landscape Home in the Prestigious Carriage House Estates. Two living areas, both with stone fireplace, spacious master suite, great room, and sports court all for just **\$369,900.**



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.**



Excellent location in Salado! 3 BR/3 BA home on over 6 acres surrounded by large live oak and pecan trees. Tall ceilings, open floor plan, hardwood floors, etc. Simply a must-see! **Priced at \$400,000.**



4/2.5/2 - Escape to the Country in this Austin Stone home on 2 tree-covered acres! Open & spacious floor plan, large kitchen, stainless steel appliances, beautifully landscaped, & much more! **\$282,900**



Beautiful home on 16+ acres. A restored historic train depot, this home features a large master suite, unbelievable kitchen with granite countertops, great for entertaining, large suite for guests/children and much more. Garage with lots of storage. Horse stables. **\$525,000.**



Enjoy the peaceful setting of this tree-covered lot. 3/2/2 that is close in Salado all for just ~~\$179,900~~. **Price Reduced to \$162,900.**



Spacious Home on Quiet Street: 6/6/1, the possibilities are endless with over 3,500 sq. ft. on approximately 1.4 acres. Home or business. Reduced **\$229,900.**



Great location! 3/2 manufactured home with excellent location in Salado overlooking Salado Creek. Priced at **\$99,900.**



Large live oaks make this 10 acre tract the perfect place for your home! Only 3 tracts available. Act now for First Choice! Prices from **\$125,000.**



UNDER CONTRACT
Clean and Neat on private street. 3/2/2 with open floor plan and fenced yard. **\$144,900.**



SOLD
320 Acres with modern style house west of Jarrell. **SOLD** for more details!
Still available: 230 Hill Country acres priced at **\$2,750** per acre.

Acreage/Lots

300 ac **UNDER CONTRACT**, \$2,500/acre.
340 acres southeast of Salado.
550 acres Hill Country with house west of Jarrell. Excellent commercial rock property.
Lots w/ sewage & water on Shady Lane.
145 acres northwest of Salado. Backs up to Corps of Engineers property. **\$3,500** per acre.
7 acres oak trees, electricity & well, **\$85,000.**
5 acres in Hidden Springs, lot #271, **\$46,900.**
5 acres in Hidden Springs, lot #265, **\$49,900.**
2.7 acres fronting FM 2843. **\$29,900.**
3.018 acres on FM 2843. Large pecans & live water. **\$35,000.**
44 acres off of Firefly Road between Salado and Florence. Great Trees Will divide.
10 Acre Home Sites starting from \$99,900. Live Oak Trees and Views! Lot 290 Hidden Springs, \$49,000. Lot 71 Hiddens Springs creek front, \$69,950.
Lot overlooking Salado Creek, - ~~\$50,000~~ reduced to \$29,900!
Beautiful treed lot, 178' deep, 1219 Indian Trail, Mill Creek, **\$36,000.**
Lot **UNDER CONTRACT** Creek, \$45,000.
Royal **UNDER CONTRACT**, \$900.
Indian Trail at Blaylock, lg corner lot, 90x188 - **\$40,000.**
Indian Trail - 90x188 - **\$38,000.**

Commercial

1.32 acre fronting I-35 with home, **\$350,000**
30 acres fronting I-35, 1 mile south of Stagecoach Inn.
.87 acres off N. Stagecoach Rd. **\$147,408.**
3 acres fronting I-35, Phase 3. **\$120,000.**
Approx 3.5 acres off College Hill with small home for **\$300,000.**
B&B: Great chance to live in Salado.

Bell County

5+ acres fronting SH 190 and Boxer Road. Great commercial location. Belton city water available. **\$299,000.**
2+ acres at **SOLD** of FM 1670 and HWY 190.
Exit 305 North of Temple. .54 acres with existing station. Excellent business opportunity.

Come by our office located in The Veranda
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