

2020

Thank goodness this year is over!

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

2020 will be remembered as the year of cancellation and isolation as Coronavirus spread across the nation and world.

We felt it too in our little hometown. As it spread around the world, COVID-19 began to have its effects in our own hometown beginning in February. Vic and Janice Means were some of the first people in the U.S. to be quarantined, as they were among those on cruise ships in which it broke out in February.

March and April saw the cancellations of events beginning with the Rogue Art and Texas Wine Show, the Wildflower Art Show, Barrow Brewing's anniversary and Northbound and Down. Almost every major event in Salado was canceled. Students who were released for Spring Break never went back to school. (See School Year in Review on page 1C this edition). Then restaurants, bars, salons, gyms and non-essential businesses were closed across the state.

Businesses began to re-open in May, but with severe restrictions. In July, Bell County Judge David Blackburn issued a mask requirement that remains in place at this time.

Despite the closures, sales tax revenues to local governments bucked the downward trends and continued to show increases.

Local churches were closed for a time due to COVID-19 restrictions. Many began streaming their services online and continue to do so. After opening for face-to-face services, many churches again closed for in-person services due to the fall increase in COVID-19 cases.

Gatherings were discouraged and families sought alternate ways to get together, including drive-by showers, outdoor baptisms and more, in 2020.

The Library adapted to COVID-19 by offering Facebook storytime and curbside pickup of books.

The impact of COVID-19 forced local elections across the state to be moved from May to November. The ballot was a full one as the majority of people chose to vote early in November.

Prior to the election, Melinda Luedecke resigned as County Elections Administrator, effective Sept. 8. Matthew Dutton was named Interim Elections Administrator. The County Elections Committee approved a new job description for the position in December and has begun to take applications to permanently fill the position. After 14 years of service, Eldon Miller resigned as Elections Judge for Precinct 203 for the 2020 election. Danney McCort was appointed to replace him just before early voting began in October.

Republican incumbents Sen. John Cornyn, U.S. Rep.

John Carter, State Senator Dawn Buckingham and State Rep. Brad Buckley were all re-elected in November.

Locally, Michael Coggin was elected Mayor. At first, the race was contested by three-term alderman Frank Coachman resigned his position and withdrew from the race to concentrate on his duties with the Texas Music Educators Association. Jason Howard and Paul Cox were elected to the Board of Aldermen. Kim Bird and Troy Smith were re-elected to the Salado ISD Board of Trustees, joined by newly-elected member Savannah Hennig.

Also in the November election, local voters approved the formation of Bell County Emergency Services District #1. Approval of the district also allows for the adoption of a property tax rate not to exceed 10¢ per \$100 valuation. Bell County Commissioners at their Dec. 21 meeting, appointed five members to the new ESD Board of Commissioners: serving an initial two-year term are Ashley Liebig, Allan Dillon and David Matthews; serving an initial one-year term are Don Engleking and Don Hogue.

Voters in JP Precinct 2 approved an initiative to allow for the retail sale of beer and wine for off-premise consumption.

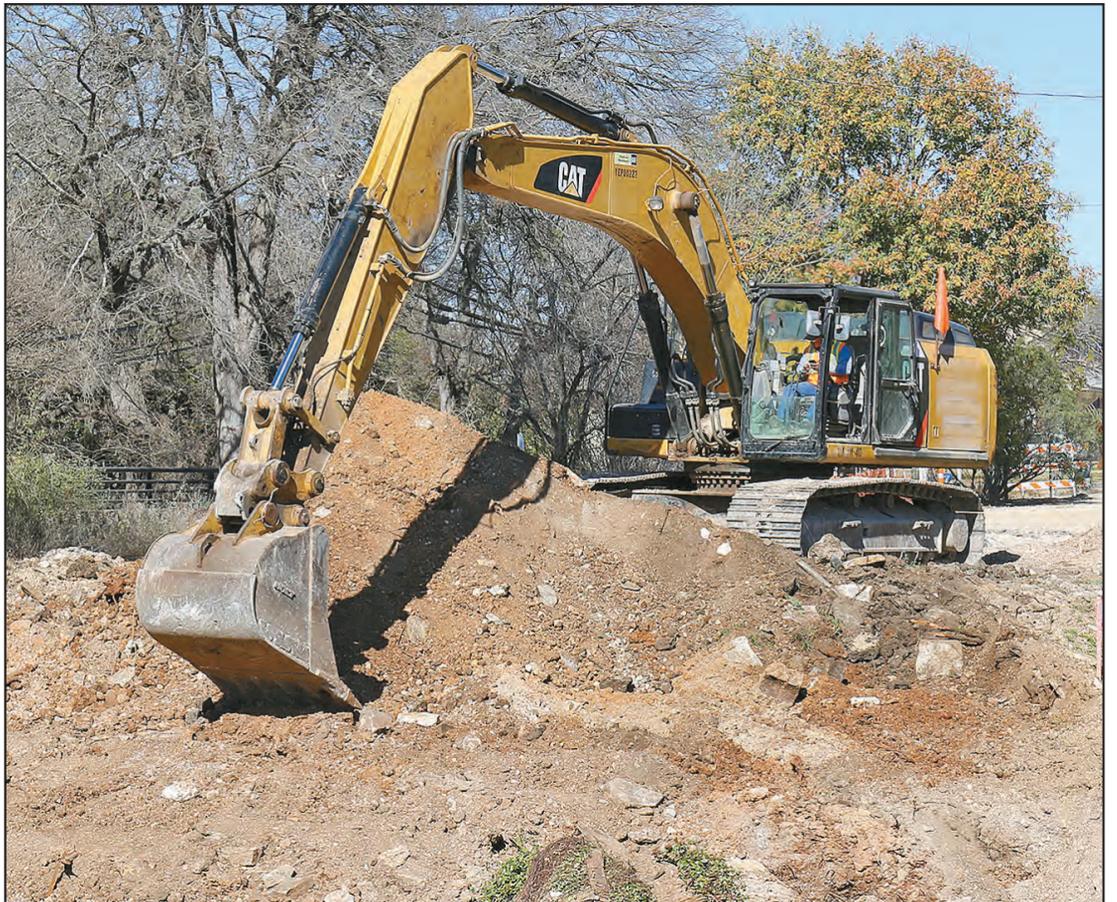
Not on the ballot this year was the issue of disincorporation of the Village of Salado. However, this was not for the lack of trying.

In February, a group circulated a petition to put the issue of abolishing the Village of Salado government on the ballot. It failed to reach the 400 signatures needed to put it on the ballot. The petition was circulated again before the Aug. 17 deadline to place it on the November ballot, but again failed to get the required signatures.

The Main Street sidewalk and lighting project kicked up a lot of dust in Salado in 2020. The Main Street bridge over Campbell's Branch came down to kick off the year in early January and was replaced. The bridge replacement closed that portion of Main Street for about four weeks. Sidewalks were poured and Street lights were turned on just in time for the Holiday Season, marking the near-completion of the \$5 million project. What a difference the street lights made during the Christmas Stroll! Work crews are rewiring the lights to fix intermittent issues and installing the last of safety rails along the sidewalks.

Speaking of safety rails, Keep Salado Beautiful saw the fruition of its \$90,000 grant in the form of decorative safety railing along the I-35 overpass on Salado in late December.

While civil rights protests in large cities erupted into violence, Salado saw a peaceful protest called Change is Coming on the grounds of the Salado Civic Center. **SEE SALADO YEAR IN REVIEW, PAGE 4A**



Bridge no more

2020 in Salado began with the demolition of the Main Street Bridge over Campbell's Branch the first week of January. Texas Department of Transportation closed a portion of Main Street at the Rock Creek intersection for the reconstruction of the bridge. The closure lasted 40 working days while Capital Excavation built a new bridge (and larger culvert) there. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)



(2019 PHOTO COURTESY OF PETE DIAZ)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a proposed critical habitat for the Salado salamander. The Bell County Adaptive Management Coalition has opposed the critical habitat designation.



(PHOTO BY TIM FLEISCHER)

Vic and Janice Means watch the sunset from their front porch. The Means were among the first Americans quarantined when their cruise ship had several cases of the new Coronavirus on-board. They came home in March.

FORUM

An Open Exchange of Ideas

Six Key Challenges for Texas to Overcome in 2021

By MARGARET SPELLINGS AND A.J. RODRIGUEZ

This hard year is almost over. Now it's time to look to our future and imagine what's possible. Texas has six key challenges that we could overcome if our state leaders seek to tackle them.

— Only 30% of Texas fourth graders meet grade-level reading standards.

Wide education achievement gaps separate students from different backgrounds, and data suggests COVID-related school closures are hurting students' progress.

Addressing this challenge starts with measuring existing gaps through student assessments; expanding access to research-based literacy instruction; providing high-quality teaching and tutoring; considering innovative school-year models; and offering more rigorous courses.

— Only 32% of Texas high school graduates earn a postsecondary credential within six years of graduating.

Texas' unemployment rate remains just over 8%, more than double its level a year ago. To meet the needs of an increasingly diverse Texas, the state must better align postsecondary programs with workforce needs and data-driven student outcomes.

Community colleges, private sector credentials, and workforce training are more important than ever; they connect people with the jobs employers need to fill. Higher education programs at all levels should offer clear returns on taxpayer and student investments.

— Nearly 1 million rural Texans lack broadband in-

frastructure, and more than 3 million urban-area households do not subscribe to available high-speed internet.

The pandemic has shown how gaps in digital connectivity choke access to 21st century services like remote learning and telemedicine. Texas can close its digital divide by coordinating local, federal, and private-sector efforts; removing barriers and developing incentives to enhance market dynamics; finding pathways to stable funding; and promoting digital literacy.

— Sixty percent of Texas households skipped needed health care due to cost.

Texas has the nation's highest percentage of residents without health insurance. And many Texans — both insured and uninsured — do not receive necessary care due to cost or the lack of available care options. Before the pandemic, 56% of Texas households with insurance, and 75% of households without insurance, reported skipping or postponing health care because of costs.

Skipping care can have long-term consequences, both for patients and pocketbooks. Texas ranks among the worst large states in key health metrics like death caused by treatable or preventable conditions. The state should explore options to increase federal health care funding, improve price transparency, and support telemedicine, which would expand access for patients and help address rural health challenges.

— Fewer than 20% of state agencies report significant progress in modernizing services.

Too many state agencies lack the technology or per-

sonnel to use data in ways that best serve taxpayers. This costs Texas time and money. In 2020, for example, Texans experienced long wait times for unemployment claims, while public health data was often delayed or confusing. In addition, nearly half of the state's technology agency's employees are eligible to retire in the next three years.

Basic steps, such as establishing a revolving technology investment fund, can help address this problem. Texas can also change processes to improve data-sharing and modernize contracting.

— The state projects a \$4.6 billion budget shortfall, on top of health, education, and pension cost growth.

The pandemic's health and economic crises have set the stage for a potentially difficult budget session in 2021. State leaders must think differently about spending priorities, be clear about what those priorities are, and stick to them with discipline. Legislators will need to acknowledge the structural imbalances Texas faces as the tax base shifts, exemptions grow, and unfunded pension liabilities accumulate.

In 2021, let's work together to take on these challenges to ensure Texas is the best place to live and work for years to come.

MARGARET SPELLINGS, THE FORMER U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, IS TEXAS 2036'S PRESIDENT AND CEO. A.J. RODRIGUEZ, A LONG-TIME BUSINESS AND CIVIC LEADER AND FORMER TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS CHAIR, IS TEXAS 2036'S EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT.



COVID-19 escalation drives down consumer confidence

The Markets

For the Christmas week, shortened by a day and a half as the stock market closed at noon on Christmas Eve, the S&P 500 Stock Index (SPX) fell 0.17% to close at 3703.06. The decline was mild, particularly in light of the announcement that the President had vetoed the Defense Appropriations bill and made demands for the combined coronavirus relief and government funding to be substantially changed. The muted reaction by the stock market suggested that traders were of the opinion that the President's demands and veto would have no practical effect. The same ten or so large capitalization growth stocks continued to dominate the SPX, up 14.62% year-to-date. The CRSP Mid-Cap Value Index turned in a small gain of 0.03%, leaving it down almost 1% for the year.

The yield on the U.S. Treasury ten-year note, the bond market benchmark, fell half a percent to yield 0.936%, higher than it has been during much of the pandemic but still less than half the interest yield it had a year ago. With the yield curve remaining positive, if muted, and the ten-year yield now hovering halfway between its lowest recent yield and what would be considered "normal" if not for the pandemic, the bond market appears to be forecasting an iffy near-term and a full recovery not taking place for several years. The price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil (WTI) slipped over 1% to \$48.54 but remained well above the break-even \$40 price that is critical to the survival of many oil production companies.

The Economy

The economic news in this Christmas week was mostly not good. The Conference Board announced that its index of consumer confidence for December dropped from November's 93.9 to 88.6 in the first two weeks of the month. The survey that generated those numbers indicated that the acceleration in COVID-19 diagnosed infections, hospitalizations, and deaths are substantially depressing the public's estimation of what

Market & Economic Update

By Jeffrey W. McClure



the future holds. A further factor was the increase in layoffs during the period combined with a decline in the number of job openings.

Confirming the Conference Board's report, retail sales, possibly the prime driving factor in the U.S. economy, fell 1.1% in November according to the Commerce Department, the second month in a row that sales have fallen. In another confirmation of the decelerating economic data, household spending fell for the first time in seven months, declining 0.4% in November. The spending cuts fell across a wide spectrum of goods and services from restaurant meals to big-ticket items like cars and appliances. More, for the third time in the last four months household income fell in November as well, again according to the Commerce Department, falling 1.1%. Finally, in our list of less than pleasant news comes the announcement, U.S. home sales declined 2.5% in November after a five-month run of gains.

In a bit of not-as-bad news, the number of new applications for unemployment insurance fell from 892,000 to 803,000 in the latest weekly report by the Labor Department. While the improvement is welcome, it is still four times the number of weekly layoffs reported prior to the pandemic. Another bright spot appeared in the Commerce Department's report on orders for durable goods at factories across the country as orders rose 0.9% in November. The rise appeared to be primarily from business investment as companies took advantage of low interest rates and seem to be anticipating an increase in consumer spending as vaccination becomes widespread and the pandemic clears.

After all those declines, it is important to put things in perspective. The average

American household income has held up remarkably well through this pandemic and recession so far, largely because of the CARES Act early in the year. Many, if not most households appear to have socked away a good amount of savings, in many cases far more than they had a year ago. The situation is fairly clearly divided as a significant percentage of families are struggling and only avoiding homelessness because of the federal prohibition on evictions if the landlord or mortgage holder is receiving any form of federal guarantee or assistance, but those whose jobs remain intact as well as the growing numbers of retirees are thriving. At the same time, even those with ample income and savings appear to be pulling back on spending in the face of rapidly rising COVID-19 numbers and the potential for a government shutdown and the absence of further federal relief money.

The reported numbers suggest that while the fourth quarter is likely to be one of reduced growth, we are at a tipping point as to whether the U.S. economy shrinks or grows in the first quarter. The President's refusal to sign the Omnibus Bill funding both coronavirus relief and federal government shutdown the government just as the existing Congress disbands and the new one is not yet in session. That, combined with his veto of the defense funding bill, could further depress a slowing recovery and give us a second leg of this recession. Only time will tell.

We remain optimistic that in the longer-term, meaning the second half of 2021, we could easily see a recovery that could average as much as a 5% annual growth rate for several years. In the meantime, we hope and pray that the holidays are both joyful and safe for you and your families.



MEMBER 2021

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Editorial policies: Opinions on the editorial pages are those of the writer, not necessarily the owners or employees of the Salado Village Voice. All letters to the editor should be signed and have a phone number and address for verification. The editor reserves the right to reject and/or edit any letter. Letters should be limited to 300 words. We DO NOT publish poems in our Letters to the Editor.

Letters to the editor can be emailed to news@saladovillagevoice.com or mailed to Salado Village Voice, PO Box 587, Salado, TX 76571.
They can be delivered to 213 Mill Creek Dr., Suite #125.

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Speaker Dr. Shelley Cole to address science of COVID-19

The Salado Area Republican Women will be hosting a night meeting 7 p.m. January 14, at the Salado Civic Center.

The featured speaker will be Dr. Shelley Cole, a member of America's Frontline Doctors, a group of doctors who believe more discussion regarding the science of COVID-19 is necessary and essential. Cole has been in practice for 23 years addressing gynecologic problems and prevention of disease. Listening to her patients she saw a need for weight loss services which she now provides. Dr. Cole is taking part in a study on how hydroxychloroquine combined with other medications and supplements can be used as a prevention or treatment for the coronavirus. She offers consultation on COVID-19 during this crisis and that will be her topic.



Dr. Shelley Cole

Dr. Cole completed her residency at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota before establishing her practice here in Central Texas.

There will be limited seating following the county's protocol for distancing with attendees requested to wear a mask. The meeting is open to the public at no charge but they are asking for reservations to be made

because of limited seating. Please respond no later than Monday, January 11, 2021 to Shirley Stephenson at steppnup@embarqmail.com or 254 338-5717.

Central Texas VA begins COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution with Moderna

Temple, Texas — Central Texas Veterans Health Care System is beginning COVID-19 vaccination with the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine today following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Emergency Use Authorization for this vaccine.

of 113 VA Medical Centers across the country to receive the first limited supply of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Sites were identified based on need for the vaccine according to CDC's 1A prioritization and capacity to store the vaccine at -20degrees C.

location of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine the week of December 21.

"Central Texas Veterans Health Care System is eager to offer the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to health care personnel and community living center residents," said Michael L. Kiefer, Director. "Receiving the vaccine is like having hope delivered. As vaccine supplies increase, our ultimate goal is to offer COVID-19 vaccination to all Veterans and staff who want to be vaccinated."

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine was 94 percent effective in clinical trials in preventing COVID-19 disease. The vaccine is administered in two doses, 28 days apart. The side effects appear similar to those of other vaccines and are short-lived.

Even after receiving COVID-19 vaccination, staff and Veterans should continue wearing face coverings, practicing physical distancing and washing hands often.

As vaccines become available for more groups of Veterans, VA care teams will reach out to eligible Veterans to schedule vaccinations. There is no need to preregister or come to a facility to sign up.

Central Texas Veterans Health Care System is one

Thirty-seven medical centers began offering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to health care personnel and Veterans Dec 14. Fifteen additional VA facilities will receive an al-

Veterans can get up-to-date information on VA's VA COVID-19 vaccine webpage, which launched on December 11, 2020, and sign up to receive regular updates on the vaccine on the VA's Stay Informed page.

For more information, Veterans may contact their primary care provider by secure messaging through www.myhealth.va.gov or calling 1-800-423-2111.

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Salado 2020 in Review

Other protests in the county called for the removal of the Confederate statue from in front of the Bell County courthouse. Bell County Commissioners voted 3-1 on Sept. 14 to leave the Confederate Memorial statue at its location at the northwest corner of the courthouse square until such time that the state law changes and allows Commissioners to put the issue before local voters.

The Salado salamander made headlines again in 2020. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Sept. 15 it is revising proposed critical habitat for the Georgetown and Sala-

do salamanders. The two salamanders, found only in parts of Texas, were listed as threatened on February 24, 2014, due to the threat of degradation of their habitat and changes in water flow and quality. The public comment period was open for 60 days starting on September 15, 2020.

For the Salado salamander in Bell and Williamson counties, the proposal includes 787 acres of critical habitat in 10 units. This represents an increase of six units and 415 acres over the previous proposal.

The Bell County Adaptive Management Coalition,

of which the Village of Salado, Salado Water Supply Corporation, Bell County government and Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District are all members, announced in November that it was opposed to the habitat designation and will make comments to the USFWS to that effect.

The Village is trying to finish its sewer project by connecting a handful of initial sewer customers that were sent final warnings in November.

The Village may also extend the sewer to two new developments in 2021. Sanctuary broke ground in



Ruth Farkus, hostess, looks on as bride-to-be Jessica Carmona opens a gift at her drive-by wedding shower on Saturday, May 16. Guests are Aubrey Weinsoft, Hope Sorensen & Jamie Galis, fellow teachers at IGO Elementary School in Jarrell. Drive by showers, anniversaries and birthday parties became a way of dealing with COVID-19 in 2020. (PHOTO COURTESY GRACE CHURCH OF SALADO)



Keep Salado Beautiful announced the completion of the project from its 2018 Governors Community Achievement \$90,000 Award. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) awards the prestigious Governor's Community Achievement Award to Texas communities for their outstanding overall efforts to keep their communities beautiful each year. KSB's 2018 award has been used to install the decorative safety railing on the Thomas Arnold Bridge crossing I-35. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)

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Kim Bired was re-elected to Salado ISD Board.



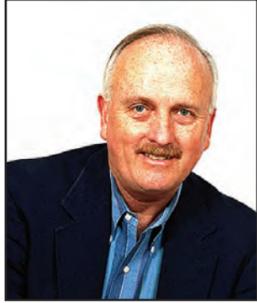
Troy Smith was re-elected to Salado ISD Board.



Savannah Hennig was elected to SISD Board.

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Paul Cox was elected as Alderman



Jason Howard was elected as Alderman



Michael Coggin was elected as Mayor.

March on the first phase of its residential development of Royal Street.

The Village also began the annexation process of Eagle Heights, a residential and commercial development at the intersection of Williams Rd. and West Village Rd., in November.

The two developments may add more than 350 new users when the first phases are built-out.

Village aldermen voted this fall to apply for a

\$75,000 Texas Parks and Wildlife grant for construction of an all abilities playground to replace the playground equipment at Pace Park. The total cost for replacing the equipment is \$250,000.

The Village on Dec. 17 approved a 30-day trial period for use of five license plate cameras followed by a yearly contract of \$12,000 for the continued use of the cameras. Aldermen began discussing the program in

October.

County commissioners prepared for current and future growth in the Salado area by authorizing County Judge David Blackburn to enter into a real estate purchase agreement for a 2.4 acre property and building at 11057 Event drive in Salado for an amount not to exceed \$1.65 million. The property will house the Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace and Constable offices.

The court on Dec. 21 also hired an architectural firm to design an expansion of the Bell County Jail.

The year got a hopeful kick-off with the annual Salado Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet in January. Deanna Whitson was named the 2019 Citizen of the Year. Horizon Bank was named the 2019 Business of the Year. Marilyn Fleischer was named to the Hall of Fame.

As 2020 comes to an end, vaccines for COVID-19 began distribution in Bell County, spurring hopes for a return to normalcy in 2021.

Please be sure to eat plenty of black eyed peas and collared greens to boost good luck and fortune in 2021. A great recipe can be found in page 1B!

ford Prestridge and husband Sean of Rockdale; Amy Cross and husband Will of Azle; Courtney Harris of Round Rock; Miranda Tolle and husband Wes of Garland and Amber Hrometz of Belton.

They shared 16 grandchildren: Sierra, Hannah and husband Curt, Reid, Dylan, Josh, Amissa, Ashlynn, Laynee, Sadie, Tucker, Zeb, Sarah, Trenton, Jordan, Jayden, and Kailynn and four great-grandchildren, Presley, Charlee, Gemma and Wesley.

Wayne dedicated his life to his family and the fire department, his second family. He was a member of the Salado Fire Department from 1983 until 2006. He spent 15 years serving as chief, securing updated equipment and better training for the department. Meanwhile, he served the Killeen Fire Department simultaneously. He retired as the EMS Operations Commander in 2009.

The Rutherfords were long time residents of Salado. But Wayne lived out his final years with his bride of almost four decades in their forever home on Stillhouse Hollow Lake often entertaining neighbors and spoiling grandchildren.

The family is planning a memorial service that will be held in June.



RICHARD WAYNE

RUTHERFORD

SEPTEMBER 2, 1956

DECEMBER 25, 2020

Former Salado VFD Fire Chief Wayne Rutherford passed away on December 25, 2020.

Richard Wayne Rutherford was born on September 2, 1956 in Nuremberg, Germany to Captain William Bert Rutherford and his wife Francis LaRue Hunter, both of the US Army. The Rutherfords returned to the United States when Wayne was a child.

Wayne grew up in Bartlett, Texas with his sister, Anne Walker, and his brothers, Bruce and Paul Rutherford.

He lost his parents at an early age. His father died on May 18, 1968. His mother passed May 21, 1970.

Wayne married Kathy Lou Rutherford on December 18, 1985, joining families in a union that lasted 38 years.

Together they shared five daughters: Tiffany Ruther-

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Salado Village Guide

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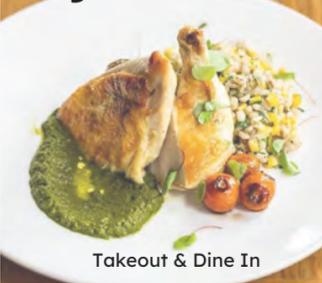
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Lucky Black Eyed Pea and Collard Greens Soup

By TIM FLEISCHER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Clearly, someone didn't eat their black eyed peas or collard greens this time last year, so I offer my adaptation of a Whole Foods Market recipe for a twist on traditional black eyed peas and collard greens.

The tradition of eating black-eyed peas and either cabbage or collard greens can likely be traced to the South during the Civil War period that followed.

Peas were for livestock and unfit for Union soldiers during the Civil War. They were left for the families subsisting in the South during the Civil War.

As war ravaged the South, they may have considered themselves to be lucky to have a pot of peas and a piece of fat back (salt pork) for flavoring.

Cabbage and collard greens represent folding money in the new year, so the more you eat, the more you will financially prosper. But their use may be traced to the fact that the two are late crops in the South and can be harvested as late as January. Fresh greens in the middle of winter are a real treat.

I offer this simple recipe in hopes that we all prosper and have good health in 2021!

LUCKY BLACK-EYED PEA AND COLLARD GREENS SOUP
Serves 6-8
2-2.5 hours if making turkey broth from scratch; 1-1.5 hours with canned broth



(PHOTO COURTESY OF WHOLE FOODS MARKET)

Kick off the New Year with a bowl of Black Eyed Pea and Collard Greens Soup.

I first discovered a recipe for Black-Eyed Pea and Collard Greens Soup on Whole Foods Market, that I have since changed and adapted to incorporate the leftover remains of Christmas dinner. If you roast or smoke a turkey for Christmas, freeze the carcass and bones along with any skin and neck that you may be able to keep. I usually freeze the legs of the bird, if there is any left for a homemade turkey broth.

This soup combines two lucky foods, black-eyed peas and collard greens, with vegetables and turkey or ham, depending on what is left around your house after Christmas.

If you prefer a thicker soup, mash some of the cooked peas against the side of the pot, then stir them back into the broth before adding the collard greens and carrots.

TURKEY BROTH

Leftover carcass from Christmas dinner
Turkey neck and any skin you can salvage
2 Carrots, cut in large chunks
3 Celery ribs, cut in large chunks
2 whole garlic cloves
Sea salt

Put vegetables and carcass in large stock pot, cover with water and bring to a boil.

Simmer covered for half an hour or more

Strain to clear any bones so that you have a nice turkey stock. This is especially good when using a smoked turkey!

BLACK-EYED PEA AND COLLARD GREENS SOUP

Ingredients
2 cups fresh black-eyed peas
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 large yellow onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped

1 lb. turkey (or ham if no leftover turkey) or more, if you want a meatier soup
2 stalks celery, chopped
6-8 cups homemade turkey broth (or low-sodium chicken broth)

1 bunch collard greens, tough stems and ribs removed, leaves thinly sliced
4-6 carrots, chopped
1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
Hot sauce to taste

Method

Place peas in a large bowl and cover by a few inches with water early in the morning. Cover the bowl and let sit at room temperature until ready to make soup; drain and rinse well.

Heat oil in a large pot over medium heat.

Add onion, garlic, turkey or ham and celery and cook, stirring occasionally, until onion is translucent, 5 to 8 minutes.

Add peas and turkey or chicken broth and bring to a boil, skimming off any foam on the surface.

Reduce heat and simmer, partially covered, until peas are tender, about 45 minutes.

While soup is simmering, fold each leaf of collard greens in half and run knife down spine to remove the stem and spine. Slice greens into about half-inch wide pieces.

Add collard greens and carrots and simmer until tender, 15 to 20 minutes more.

Season with salt, pepper and hot sauce and serve.

Nutritional Info: Per serving: about 1 1/2 cups, 220 calories (110 from fat), 13g total fat, 2.5g saturated fat, 40mg cholesterol, 690mg sodium, 19g carbohydrates (5g dietary fiber, 7g sugar), 10g protein.

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Mondays
Bikes & Brews Barrow Brewing Co., 6:30 p.m.
Floor practice at Salado Masonic Lodge #296, 95 S. Church St., 6:30 p.m. except on Stated Meeting nights.
Trivia every Monday at Chupacabra, 7 p.m.

Thursdays
Bikes & Brews Barrow Brewing Co., 6:30 p.m.
Run4Beer at Barrow Brewing Co., 7 p.m.

Fridays
Live Music at Chupacabra Craft Beers, 7 p.m.
Live Music at Barrow Brewing Co. 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays
Bikes & Brews, Barrow Brewing Co., 7:30 a.m.
Live Music at Chupacabra Craft Beer and Kitchen, 7 p.m.
Live Music at Barrow Brewing Co., 7:30 p.m.

Sundays
Live Music at Barrow Brewing Co. 4 p.m.

December 31
Give Cancer the Boot New Year's Eve at The View at The Creek, 1401 South Ridge for the Two-Stepping for Terri fund raiser for the Terri and Eric Raines family. Doors open at 8 p.m., Introductions at 9 p.m. Silent Auction Closes at 11:30 p.m. Western Best Dress, Dancing to the Texas Jamm Band, featuring members of the Ace in the Hole band, which was George Strait's original band. Limited number of tickets at the door still available. 21 and over only. \$100 per couple or \$60 per person. Proceeds from the ticket purchases and silent auction go directly to the Raines Family. Champagne Toast and Auld Lang Syne at midnight.

December 31
Special hours for Happy Pizza and Barrow: 12-9 p.m. Live music at 6 p.m. from The Amanda Brown.

December 31
New Years Eve special Dinner at Alexander's Craft Cocktails & Kitchen. Call 254-947-3828 for reservations. Seatings at 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. \$94.95 per person. \$35 for wine pairing with each course.

December 31
New Years Eve dinner at The Barton House. 5-10 p.m. Dec. 31. Dinner is \$65 per person. Reservations are necessary at 254-947-0441.

December 31
Cedar Valley Baptist Church annual Watch Night service. **CANCELED**

December 31
New Year's Eve Burlesque at the Swanky Sirena Speakeasy at The Barton House, 9 p.m.- midnight. A night full of fun, costumes, frolic, music and more will include hors d'oeuvre, champagne toast and more and a Burlesque performance by artist Brown Burlesque. Cost is \$0 for Swanky Sirena members and \$40 per person for non-members. For advance purchase and reservations call 254-947-0441.

January 18
Salado Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Salado Visitors Center.

January 21
Village of Salado Aldermen meeting, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Link will be posted at saladotx.gov 72 hours before meeting.

January 22
Live Music at Chupacabra, Shady Villa, 7 p.m. Cody Cresswell.

January 22
Fourth Friday Gospel Singing 7 p.m. at First Cedar Valley Baptist Church, FM 2843. Pot luck to follow. Bring a favorite dish or dessert.

January 22-23
Salado Glassworks Valentine's Blow Your Own event. Visit saladoglassworks.com for reservations.

January 22-24
Join The Texas Stagecoach Wine Trail ticket and you will have the opportunity to taste three complimentary wines at each of nine central Texas wineries, including Salado Winery Co., 841 N. Main St. and Axis Winery, 831 N. Main St. You will have three days to visit the wineries and enjoy your tastings, Friday, January 22 - Sunday, January 24. Get your tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/texas-stagecoach-wine-trail-january-2021-weekend-trail-event-tickets-129162178553>.

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January 1
Live Music at Chupacabra, Shady Villa, 7 p.m. Larry Hooper.

January 2
Live Music at Chupacabra, Shady Villa, 8 p.m. Brian Grace.

January 7
Village of Salado Aldermen meeting, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Link will be posted at saladotx.gov 72 hours before meeting.

January 8
Live Music at Chupacabra, Shady Villa, 7 p.m. Dustin Simmons.

January 9
Live Music at Chupacabra, Shady Villa, 8 p.m. Shane Rogers.

January 9-10
Salado Market Days 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Salado Antique Mall 721 Stagecoach Road. Salado's original Market Days event.

January 14
Around the World Dinner Series at Alexander's Craft Cocktails + Kitchen, 6:30-9:30 p.m., featuring the flavors of Hudson Valley New York. Six courses and pairings from Ferndale, West Point, Cornwall on the Hudson, Warwick, Newburgh and Rhinebeck. \$84.95 per guest, limited seating. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/destination-hudson-valley-ny-around-the-world-dinner-series-tickets-126438333459>.

January 15
Live Music at Chupacabra, Shady Villa, 7 p.m. Sean Eddy

January 16
Live Music at Chupacabra, Shady Villa, 8 p.m. Sean Eddy.

January 18
Salado ISD Board of Trustees meeting, 6 p.m., Salado Civic Center.

January 22-24
Date Night Blow Your Own Bowl Together. Visit saladoglassworks.com for reservations.

February 5
Live Music at Chupacabra, Shady Villa, 7 p.m. Britton Ryeatt.

February 6
Live Music at Chupacabra, Shady Villa, 8 p.m. Brandon Kent.

February 5-6
Salado Glassworks Valentine's Blow Your Own event. Visit saladoglassworks.com for reservations.

February 11
Around the World Dinner Series at Alexander's Craft Cocktails + Kitchen, 6:30-9:30 p.m., featuring the flavors of Scandinavia. Five courses and pairings include Lutefisk, Smorrebrod, Meatballs with Lingonberry, Faroe Island salmon and a Dessert of Semla, a Swedish cream bun. \$79.95 per guest, limited seating. Tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/destination-scandinavia-around-the-world-dinner-series-tickets-132163918839>.

February 11-12
Date Night Blow Your Own Bowl Together. Visit saladoglassworks.com for reservations.

February 12
Live Music at Chupacabra, Shady Villa, 7 p.m. Kyle Mathis.

February 12-13
Salado Glassworks Valentine's Blow Your Own event. saladoglassworks.com for reservations.

February 12-13
Salado Market Days 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Salado Antique Mall 721 Stagecoach Road. Salado's original Market Days event.

February 12-14
Valentine's weekend in Salado. Book your favorite Inn and Restaurant now as space will be limited.

February 13
Tour of Gault site, leaving from Bell County Museum on Main St. Belton. Tickets are \$10/person; kids 10 years and under are free. All proceeds go to the Gault School of Archaeological Research. Registration is available on the museum website and payment can be made over the phone with the museum using a credit card.



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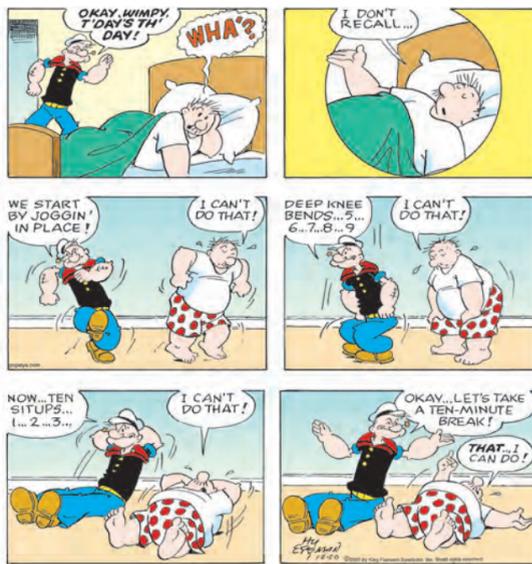
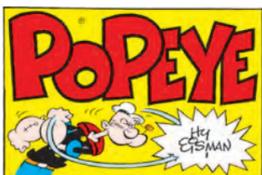


by Mike Marland

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Contract Bridge

FAMOUS HAND

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 7
♥ J 8 6
♦ Q 10 8 6 5 3
♣ 9 5 4

EAST

♠ Q J 8 4 2
♥ 2
♦ K 7 2
♣ J 8 7 3

SOUTH

♠ A 10 9 6 3
♥ A K Q 10 7 4
♦ 9
♣ K

The bidding:

East South West North
2♠ 4♥

Opening lead — king of spades.

This deal from the 1988 Vanderbilt Teams features excellent defensive play by Peter Boyd, winner of several national and international titles over the past four decades.

Boyd held the West hand and wound up defending against four hearts after his partner had opened with an unorthodox weak two-spade bid. South won the opening spade lead with the ace and lost the diamond nine to East's king. East returned a low club, and, after taking the king with the ace, Boyd stopped to think things over.

He judged that declarer might well be in position to score 10 tricks on a crossruff, trumping three spades in dummy to add to the ace of spades and at least six heart tricks in his hand. Accordingly, Boyd made the first of two key plays by shifting to a low trump. This was taken by dummy's six as East followed with the deuce and South the four.

Since only nine tricks were now available on a crossruff, declarer's only remaining hope was to establish dummy's diamonds. So he ruffed a diamond with the queen of hearts and then led the heart seven toward dummy's J-8.

Had Boyd mechanically followed low, South would have gotten home safely by finessing dummy's eight, ruffing another diamond high and then leading the ten of hearts to the jack. This would have yielded 10 tricks in the form of six hearts, a spade and three diamonds.

But Boyd had carefully kept track of all the heart spots played to this point. When the seven of hearts was led, he foiled declarer's plan by playing the nine! This deprived South of the extra entry needed to set up and run the diamonds, so he finished down two, thwarted by the combination of Boyd's heart shift at trick four and his entry-denying play of the heart nine two tricks later.

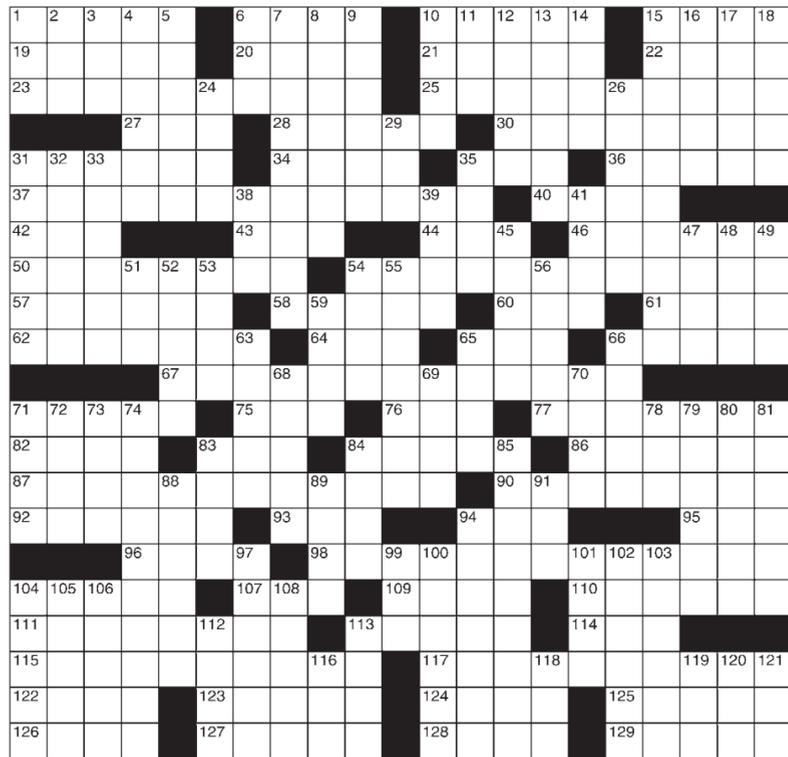
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by Steve Becker

Super Crossword

AUTO SUGGESTION

- ACROSS**
- 1 Halo sporter
 - 6 Nest nuggets
 - 10 Had no being
 - 15 "Vamoose!"
 - 19 "I wanna try!"
 - 20 Cameo, e.g.
 - 21 Lend — (pay attention)
 - 22 Poi source
 - 23 Participants in a guided discussion
 - 25 Longtime kids' nature magazine
 - 27 Spanish for "bear"
 - 28 McDonnell Douglas jet
 - 30 Refuge
 - 31 Thelma's cohort, in film
 - 34 Use an entryway
 - 35 Velvet or Hallow ender
 - 36 — hop (jitterbug)
 - 37 14- to 18-year-old in a British youth association
 - 40 Source copy: Abbr.
 - 42 "BTW" part
 - 43 You, in Berlin
 - 44 Road given a no.
 - 46 Pop-rock singer
 - 50 Kind of sheet metal
 - 54 Border illumination on some smartphones
 - 57 Mini-whirlpools
 - 58 What bran provides, to Brits
 - 60 Grads.-to-be
 - 61 Basso Pinza
 - 62 Outfits anew
 - 64 "No" voter
 - 65 "— culpa!"
 - 66 Slender nails
 - 67 Large cosmological aggregate
 - 71 Imams' God
 - 75 U.S. tax org.
 - 76 Berlin article
 - 77 Ejected lava
 - 82 Waste time
 - 83 Party game
 - 84 "— not lost"
 - 86 1980s TV's Remington
 - 87 1966 Wilson Pickett hit
 - 90 The "I" of 75-Across
 - 92 Show up for
 - 93 Farm female
 - 94 Abbr. for those with only one given name
 - 95 Mil. unit
 - 96 Tooth anchor
 - 98 First extended stay on the International Space Station
 - 104 Spiny plants
 - 107 With 103-Down, didn't know at all
 - 109 Radio knob
 - 110 Loins steaks
 - 111 Put in order
 - 113 Writer Franz Is Always Greener Over the — Tank"
 - 117 New York City fashion-industry agency whose name is apt for this puzzle
 - 122 Shoe fillers
 - 123 Conical tent
 - 124 Comics' Kett
 - 125 "Peachy!"
 - 126 Sommer of Hollywood
 - 127 Lauder of fragrances
 - 128 Asian nation
 - 129 Garish
- DOWN**
- 1 TV title alien
 - 2 Natal lead-in
 - 3 Yukon maker
 - 4 Avian-based skin care product
 - 5 To a smaller degree
 - 6 Boch it up
 - 7 "Sheesh!"
 - 8 Biochemical sugar
 - 9 Erma Bombeck's "The Grass Is Always Greener Over the — Tank"
 - 10 Alert
 - 11 Actress Ortiz
 - 12 Pick up on
 - 13 1998 Winter Olympics city
 - 14 Nonkosher
 - 15 More direct
 - 16 — terrier
 - 17 Curved
 - 18 Sweet white wine
 - 24 Word after film or play
 - 26 Frank topper
 - 29 Musician Brian
 - 31 Vowel, e.g.
 - 32 Bull leather
 - 33 Capsizes
 - 35 Ending for major
 - 38 Conn. hours
 - 39 Compulsion
 - 41 Inferior mags
 - 45 Someone — problem
 - 47 Tony winner
 - 48 Writer Blyton
 - 49 Huge heads
 - 51 More, in music
 - 52 "Psycho" co-star Janet
 - 53 Dog in "The Thin Man"
 - 54 Bidding site
 - 55 Common battery type
 - 56 Infuriated
 - 59 "What You Need" rock band
 - 63 Injured-arm supporter
 - 65 Actor Paul
 - 66 Yahoo
 - 68 Left the bed
 - 69 Kin of a tulip
 - 70 Once, once
 - 71 Mater lead-in
 - 72 Yahoo
 - 73 Rearmost
 - 74 It lingers in the mouth
 - 78 — annum
 - 79 Bodily band
 - 80 Benes on "Seinfeld"
 - 81 Investigates
 - 83 Annuul
 - 84 Author
 - 85 A lot like
 - 88 Rub oil on
 - 89 Wowed
 - 91 Future louse
 - 94 Bismarck is its cap.
 - 97 Realm of Oedipus
 - 99 PalmPilot,
 - 100 — Tower (Paris sight)
 - 101 Agenda part
 - 102 Like an oval or rectangle
 - 103 See
 - 107-Across
 - 104 — latte
 - 105 Disney's "Little Mermaid"
 - 106 Streamlet
 - 108 Become a parent to
 - 112 Fence "door"
 - 113 Swiss painter Paul
 - 116 Really small
 - 118 Berlin article
 - 119 Water, to Somme folks
 - 120 "Inc." cousin
 - 121 — latte



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of the Canadian province British Columbia?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which university or college has sports teams with the nickname "Golden Gophers"?
3. MEASUREMENTS: How many cups equal 1 quart?
4. TELEVISION: What was the name of the mansion in the TV series "Dark Shadows"?
5. ANATOMY: What are the tissues that hold bones together?
6. SCIENCE: What is the study of plants called?
7. MOVIES: What are the main food groups, according to Buddy in the movie "Elf"?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the scientific adjective used to describe fish?
9. CURRENCY: What is the basic currency of Haiti?
10. INVENTIONS: Who is credited with the invention of vaccines?

Answers

1. Victoria
2. University of Minnesota
3. Four
4. Collinwood
5. Ligaments
6. Botany
7. Candy, candy canes, candy corns and syrup
8. Piscine
9. Gourde
10. Edward Jenner

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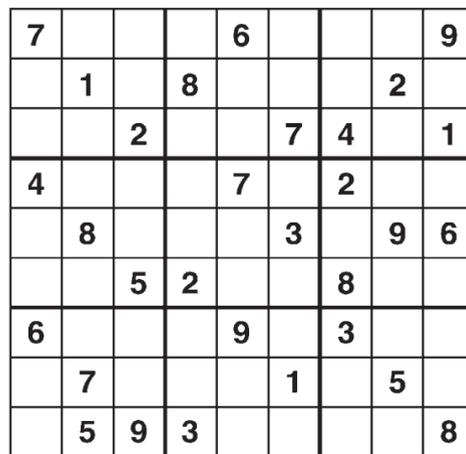


Answer



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

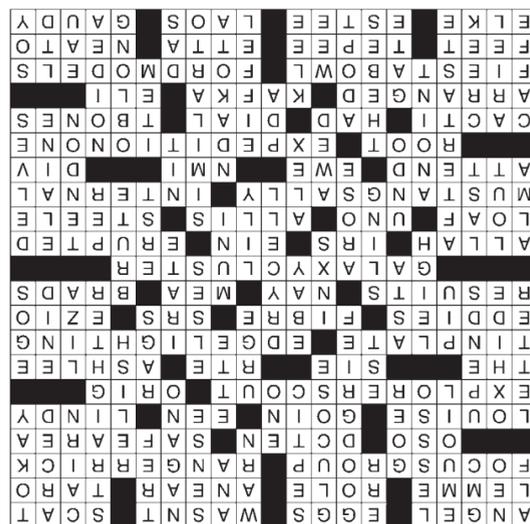


Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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If you enjoy the Puzzle page, try our interactive crossword and sudoku puzzles online at: saladovillagevoice.com

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



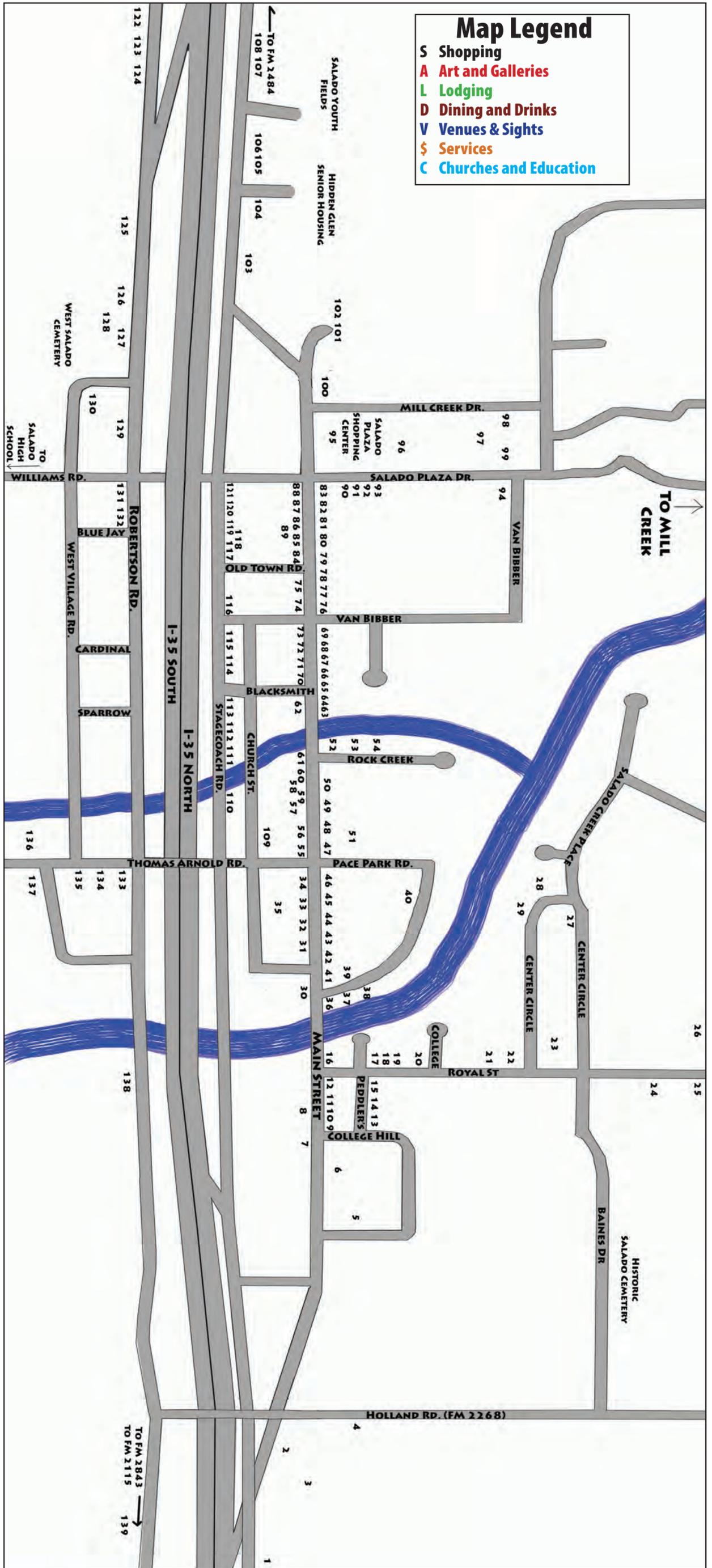
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sign on shovel is different. 2. Window on door is missing. 3. Door knob is added. 4. Man's hat is different. 5. Tree trunk is wider. 6. Man's nose is shorter.

Shopping Map of Salado

#	Business Name	Type
4	St. Stephen Catholic Church 254-947-8037	C
6	Salado College Park 254-947-5232	V
7	Raney & Associates 254-913-1215	\$
9	Salado Museum 254-947-5232	V
	Salado Visitors Center 254-947-8634	\$
	Salado Chamber of Commerce 254-947-5040	\$
	Village of Salado Tourism Office 254-947-8634	\$
10	Sofi's 254-947-4336	S
11	Chupacabra Craft Beer and Winery (512) 576-0123	D
	Chupacabra Kitchen (254) 308-2019	D
14	Salado Glassworks 254-947-0339	A
15	Rio Salado Cocina y Cantina 254-308-2044	D
16	The Sugar Shack 254-947-8840	S/D
17	Barrow Brewing Co. 254-947-3544	D
	Happy Pizza 254-226-1684	
21	The Venue 254-947-5554	V
	Village Spa 254-293-6600	S
22	The Shed 254-947-1960	D
24	Tablerock 254-947-9205	V
26	Salado United Methodist Church 254-947-5482	C
29	Inn on the Creek 254-947-5554	L
	Alexanders Craft Cocktails & Kitchen 254-947-3828	D
30	First Baptist Church 254-947-546	C
31	Fairway Mortgage 254-947-3454	\$
32	First Texas Brokerage 254-947-5577	\$
34	First Community Title 254-947-8480	\$
	Farmer's Insurance Zbrank Agency 254-947-0995	\$
40	W.A. Pace Memorial Park 254-947-5060	V
53	Salado Creek Healing 254-308-0242	\$
55	Salado Family Dentistry 254-947-5242	\$
58	The Shoppes on Main The Marketplace Cafe 254-947-0888	S
60	Salado Creek Jewelry 254-855-5538	S
62	The Pizza Place 254-947-0222	D
75	Stage Stop Center Angelic Herbs 254-947-1909	\$
	Bruce Bollick, CPA 254-718-7299	\$
	Salado Creek Dental 254-308-2027	\$
	Vista Real Estat3 254-231-0209	\$
76	Salado Civic Center 254-947-5479	\$
81	Salado Wine Seller and Salado Winery Co. 254-947-8011	D
82	St. Joseph's Episcopal Church 254-947-3160	C
85	Salado Post Office 254-947-5322	\$
86	Bill Bartlett - Century 21 254-947-5050	\$
87	The Personal Wealth Coach 254-947-1111	\$
89	Stamp Salado 254-947-8848	S
90	Presbyterian Church of Salado 254-947-8106	C
91	Troy Smith Financial Services 254-947-0376	\$
92	Salado Sculpture Garden 254-947-4222	A
96	Salado Plaza Ace Pest Control 254-947-4222	\$
	Anytime Fitness Salado 254-947-1063	\$
	Integrity Rehab 254-699-3933	\$
	Monteith Abstract 254-947-3922	\$
	Salado's Hair Shop 254-421-5173	\$
	Salado Village Voice 254-947-5321	\$
97	Brookshire Brothers 254-947-8922	S
100	Salado Public Library 254-947-9191	C
101	Salado Cleaners 254-947-7299	S
110	Mel's Gourmet Delights & Pastry 254-935-7080	D
113	Salado Church of Christ 254-947-5241	C
126	Cowboy's Barbecue 254-947-5700	D
130	Village Spirits 254-947-7117	S
132	Broecker Funeral Home 254-947-0066	\$
134	The Dog Spot 254-947-3647	\$
135	Carus Dental 254-947-8067	\$
136	Salado Schools & Stadium Village Church of Salado 972-978-2239	C
139	Cedar Valley Baptist Church 254-947-0148	C
Not Shown on the Shopping Map		
3C	Cowboy Fellowship 254-947-7211	C
	Grace Church 254-947-5917	C
	Mill Creek Country Club 254-947-5698	V
	JD's Truck Stop and Grill 254-947-5228	S/D



Historical Markers in Salado

6.	Salado Historic College Hill	25.	The A.J. Rose Mansion	35.	Salado Masonic Lodge #296	61.	Historic Lenticular Bridge
8.	Shady Villa Hotel (Stagecoach Inn)	26.	Old Methodist Chapel	45.	The Anderson House	49.	The Vickrey House
8.	Main Street Bridge	27.	Caskey-Hendricks House	46.	Old Saloon	76.	Boles-Aiken & Denman Cabins
16.	Barber-Berry Mercantile	28.	Dr. McKie Place (Twelve Oaks)	48.	The Norton-Orgain House	77.	The Robert B. Halley House
23.	The Baines House	29.	Alexander's Distillery	50.	The Barton House	79.	The Reed Cabin
24.	Historic Dipping Vats	30.	First Baptist Church	51.	The Levi Tenney House	100.	The Josiah Fowler House
		31.	The Tyler House	55.	The Armstrong Adams House		



The photo above best illustrates 2020 as third grader Clayton Olson attends a Zoom class meeting. He is the son of David and Chelsea Olson. Salado students, parents, teachers and administrators had to pivot to remote learning and teaching in 2020 with no forewarning. (Courtesy photo)

Students, teachers, parents prove resilient

By TIM FLEISCHER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

2020 will be remembered as the year first graders learned to Zoom, as the year the kids went on Spring Break and never came back, as the year teachers, administrators, parents and most importantly, kids, pivoted from traditional face-to-face classes to virtual learning with no forewarning at all.

Resilient is the word that comes to my mind, when I think about our Salado students, teachers, parents and administrators. Agile, too. And giving!

We started the year normally with Salado basketball teams in the hunt for the playoffs. The girls ended up as the Regional Finalists, losing to Fredericksburg. Fairfield ended up State Champions.

The boys basketball team had to play a playoff to earn the fourth place spot in district. They were knocked out in the bi-district round of the playoffs by the Boerne Greyhounds.

Track just got started and Salado was able to hold its track meet, which both teams won, before Spring Break.

The soccer season was coming to a close and both teams were playoff ready, but there would be no playoffs after Spring Break for either team.

The Eagles baseball and softball team got to play one game on the new fields on Williams Rd. before games were canceled for the remainder of the season. Both teams were talent- and experience-packed and looked forward to deep playoff runs in 2020.

UIL Academic and One

Act Play seasons were canceled due to COVID-19.

Students left in early March for a one-week Spring Break. Local school administrators postponed coming back for a week, before Governor Greg Abbott closed schools for in-person learning until April. He later closed in-person schools for the remainder of the school year.

With their final months as Salado Eagles canceled, Salado seniors and their parents adapted to the unique situation by using social media for an Adopt-a-Senior program. *Salado Village Voice* featured photo: SEE KIDS, TEACHERS RESILIENT, 2C



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photos of locals who selflessly spoiled their adopted seniors with gifts and goodies.

It looked as if they would not be able to have a graduation ceremony, but Salado ISD pivoted and held an outdoor ceremony in June for the graduates with a very tight limit on the number in attendance and masks for those taking part.

Charity Pryor, the daughter of David and Delese Pryor was named Valedictorian, graduating with a final grade point average of 113.33939. Averie Piatt was the 2020 Salado High School Salutatorian, graduating with a final GPA of 112.58387. She is the daughter of Robert and Rebecca Piatt, Jr.

Parents banded together and placed signs of their seniors along Williams Dr. Seniors also participated in a Graduation parade from the High School to the elementary school to mark the end of their careers. Likewise, kindergartners and their parents had a Kindergarten graduation parade on the same route.



King and Queen

Amy Manning is the 2020 Salado High School Homecoming Queen. Noah Mescher is the 2020 Salado High School Homecoming King. The two were crowned during the halftime ceremony of the Salado Eagles football game against the Gatesville Hornets on Oct. 2. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)

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2020 SHS Valedictorian
Charity Pryor



2020 SHS Salutatorian
Averie Piatt



Salado High 2020 Seniors were honored with a Parade in May. (PHOTO BY TIM FLEISCHER)

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During the summer months, Salado had two under 10 teams in the State Tournament in Belton. Jaxon Simmons hit a walk-off double late on July 31 to give the 10U Salado Eagles the state championship in the Texas Teenage Baseball Association Open Baseball tournament. The double gave Salado a 16-15 win over the Temple Thunder, who Salado faced three times in the multi-day tournament. The Salado Bats

SEE STUDENTS RETURN, PAGE 4C



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Salado students return to school during pandemic

FROM PAGE 2C

also qualified for the State Baseball Tournament.

As the day to open school was fluid and how schools could reopen was fluid, Salado students returned to class on Sept. 8. Salado ISD offered remote learning as an option for parents to take for the return to school. For High School students, the face-to-face option was done in a hybrid way in order to keep classroom populations smaller on the campus. In preparation for the remote learning, Salado ISD purchased 1,000 Google Chromebooks and dozens of mobile hotspots for students with limited internet access.

Throughout the summer, Salado cafeteria staff offered meals for pickup to Salado students and families.

Salado Middle School opened this fall. The Grand Lodge of Texas conducted a Cornerstone Leveling Dedication ceremony on Aug. 15. Walter W. Rogers, Past Grand Master of Texas Masons, conducted the Ceremony.

Things got back to some

sense of normalcy this fall as Friday Night Lights returned! However, they returned with limitations on crowd sizes and requirements to wear masks. This did not deter Alan Haire's Salado Eagles from a near-perfect season. The Eagles won a District Championship with a 9-1 regular season record. Their only loss came to the Grandview Zebras, defending State Champions in 3A-Div. 1. The Eagles ended up with an 11-2 season, losing to powerhouse Carthage in the third round of the Playoffs. The Carthage Bulldogs earned their third straight State Championship moving down from 4A Div 1 to 4A Div. 2. The last three losses the Salado Eagles have suffered have come at the hands of a defending and/or repeating State Champion. Their 2019 season was ended by defending and repeating State Champion Pleasant Grove. Their only loss in the regular season was to Grandview and their season-ending loss was to the dynastic Carthage Bulldogs.



Wrook Brown gets past a Gatesville defender on the first play of scrimmage for the Eagles, a touchdown run of 41 yards. He followed it shortly with a 61-yard touchdown run on the next play from scrimmage. Brown was named the District 9-4A MVP. (PHOTO BY ROYCE WIGGIN)

The volleyball team shared the District Championship this year. The girls lost in the Area Round of the playoffs to China Spring in three sets.

Both cross country teams made it to the State Meet this year, running at Old Settlers Reunion Park in Round Rock. The girls placed 11th overall and

Jaci McGregor placed 10th overall. McGregor has run in the state meet all four years of her career. The boys team placed ninth overall at State. Logan Rickey was 11th overall in the race for Salado

Salado ISD has closely monitored COVID-19 situation this fall. The latest report this week is that



Jaci McGregor placed 10th overall at the State Cross Country Meet on Nov 24. She has run in the state meet all four years in high school. (PHOTO BY LEE SCHWEGER)

there are seven active cases among Thomas Arnold Elementary students and staff, zero active cases among Salado Middle School students and staff and seven active cases among Salado High School students and staff. Since March, there have been 22 cases reported among Thomas Arnold Elementary School Students

and Employees, 13 cases reported among Salado Middle School Students and Employees and 38 cases reported among Salado High School Students and Employees and three cases among Staff not assigned to a campus. A total of 76 cases have been reported among Salado ISD Students and Staff since March.



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Superintendent's Corner



by Dr. Michael Novotny

The Salado ISD School Board met on Monday, December 14. The following is a summary of that meeting:

- The Board approved the hiring of a teacher.
- The Board discussed our three year enrollment comparison. We currently have 2,112 students, as compared to 2,049 students in December 2019 and 1,935 students in December 2018.
- The Board reviewed our monthly financial reports.
- The Board approved the minutes from the November 16 school board meeting.
- The Board approved budget amendments.
- The Board approved a Resolution of the Board Regarding Extension of Leave for Employee Quarantine.
- The Board reviewed Review Local Pol-

icy CDA: Other Revenues: Investments.

- The Board discussed possible changes to Local Policy FNG: Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student and Parent Complaints/Grievances and then tabled this agenda item.
 - The Board appointed BA White as the school board member representative to the Salado ISD Safety and Security Committee.
 - The Board directed Superintendent Michael Novotny to negotiate the purchase of land on behalf of the school district.
 - The Board and Superintendent Michael Novotny completed the annual Team of Eight Training.
- Our next regular school board meeting will be held on Monday, January 25, at 6:00 p.m. at the Salado ISD Civic Center, located at 601 North Main Street.



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12-22-2020:

A Criminal Mischief report was taken in the 200 block of Mill Creek where a vehicle drove past clearly marked areas and drove through the freshly sealed asphalt parking area. No known suspects at this time.

12-22-2020:

Responded to an address on Hester way to investigate several Welfare Concern reports that were filed for the same address. A state agency was contacted and they followed up on the complaints as well.

12-26-2020:

Responded to the 400 block of N Main in reference to a Welfare Concern with the SVFD. One individual was transported to Baylor Scott & White for evaluation.

Call Type Description	Number of Calls
Alarm Business	3
Alarm Residential	1
Assist another agency	6
Calls for Service	41
Citizen Contact	1
Citations	27
House Watch/Security Check	36
Medical/FD Assist	5
Reckless Driving	1
Stranded Motorist	3
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Person	2
Traffic Control	1
Traffic Hazard	3
Welfare Concern	2

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Legal Notice

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Restaurant Permit with Food and Beverage Certificate by Stagecoach 1943 Beverages, LLC d/b/a Stagecoach Inn located at 401 S Stagecoach Road, Salado, Bell County, Texas 76571. Clark Lyda - Manager.



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FROM, PG. 2D

There is a high-fenced area ready for a garden. Back of the property borders the Creeks of Salado. 1621 Sulphur Wells, Salado. \$1,500,000. Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050.

Charming home with 3 bedrooms, 2 and 1/2 baths in a beautiful established Mill Creek neighborhood on a cul-de-sac. Homeowner dues \$175 monthly include water inside and out plus lawn mowing once a week. Great kitchen with center island, large pantry and breakfast room. The living room features a fireplace and French doors opening to large patio with views of a seasonal creek. Master bedroom room is downstairs, 2 bedrooms and a bath upstairs. Walk in closet in garage has heat and air. \$295,000.

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PROPERTY FOR SALE
45 acres on FM2268: Directly behind Brazos Valley Equine Hospital, survey and restrictions available. \$675,000 Call Raney and Associates: Jennifer (254) 421-2178

10.1 acre lot, improved pastureland, owner will fence entire property, part of 40 acre parcel. FM 2484 frontage \$275,000 Call Raney and Associates: Jennifer (254) 421-2178

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AUCTIONS

Real Estate Auctions: 10+/- ac w/Office, Home & Warehouse - Jan 21. Public Inspection 11-2 p.m. Fri., Jan 8. Three Rivers, TX, 345 & 349 Highway 72. Just over an hour from San Antonio & Corpus Christi. Auctions: 11am, Thu. Jan, 21, on site or bid live from anywhere at auctionnetwork.com. 800-801-8003, williamsauction.com/TX.

43rd Annual Cattleman Bull & Female Sale Jan. 23, 2021, 12:00 Noon, El Campo Livestock Auction, El Campo, TX. Expecting 100 Bulls. Also selling a group of select females. www.cattlemansale.com Adrian Knight Tx Lic #11102, 903-452-7591; Kelly Conley Tx Lic #9558, 903-850-3449.

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Have you been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma? If you have been diagnosed with the serious medical condition, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, after exposure to Roundup herbicide, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Toll Free: 800-940-8469. The Law Offices of Foster & Houston PLLC, Principal Office: Austin, TX; Co-counsel may be associated.

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Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off and 0% financing for those who qualify. PLUS Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-815-5722.

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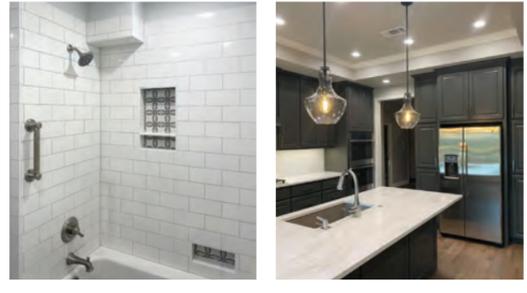
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Salado Fire Department Reports Dec. 20-26

Date	Address	Incident Type
12/20/2020	FM 1670, Bell County	Grass Fire
12/20/2020	ELM GROVE RD, Bell County	Dispatched & Cancelled en route
12/20/2020	HACKBERRY RD, Bell County	Authorized Controlled Burning
12/20/2020	FM 2484, Bell County	No Incident Found
12/20/2020	FM 2268, Bell County	No Incident Found
12/21/2020	MAIN ST, Salado	Sick Person
12/21/2020	ESPERANZA WAY, Bell County	Authorized Controlled Burning
12/22/2020	WALKER CIR, Salado	Dispatched & Cancelled en route
12/22/2020	INTERSTATE 35, Salado	Motor Vehicle Accident
12/22/2020	STINNETT MILL RD, Bell	County Unconscious / Fainting
12/23/2020	SALADO SCHOOL RD, Salado	Lift Assist
12/23/2020	HOMEPLACE LN, Salado	Lift Assist
12/23/2020	FM 2843, Bell County	Dispatched & Cancelled en route
12/23/2020	MAIN ST, Salado	Lift Assist
12/24/2020	ROSE LN, Bell County	Falls
12/24/2020	SOUTHSHORE DR, Bell County	Sick Person
12/24/2020	INTERSTATE 35, Bell County Passenger	Vehicle Fire
12/24/2020	CHISHOLM TRL, Salado	Dispatched & Cancelled en route
12/25/2020	ELIZABETH CIR, Salado	Lift Assist
12/25/2020	ROSE WAY, Salado	Sick Person
12/26/2020	MAIN ST, Salado	Overdose / Poisoning
12/26/2020	THOMAS ARNOLD RD, Bell County	Dispatched & Cancelled en route
12/26/2020	ROSE LN, Bell County	Unconscious / Fainting



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3217 Stratford Dr
View this luxurious home with magnificent trees & a porte-cochre grand entry. Step inside, & you will be welcomed with high ceilings & grand staircase.
\$469,900



121 Eagle Rock
Extraordinary home inside and out, custom all the way from the floors to the hand painted ceilings. Step through these beautiful double doors and into your next piece of Salado countryside, only minutes from downtown!
\$579,900



2821 Sulphur Wells Rd
A very detailed custom home with approx 4,900 sq ft. The property is overlooking 37 beautifully wooded acres including a separate guest house.
\$1,649,900



4102 Joe Bozon Drive
Spectacular four bedroom 2.5 bath home in Amity Estates that sparkles from floor to ceiling! Notice the grand living room as you walk through the front doors with no detail left untouched.
\$389,900



8201 Collins Creek Drive
Come see this new Randy Taylor Home in Spring Creek. Randy brings a beautiful mix of modern flair with traditional warmth inside this home.
\$349,900



300 Royal St.
INCREDIBLE commercial property located in the heart of Salado. Rare opportunity to own commercial real estate in the coveted Salado downtown area, with multiple uses.
\$675,000



128 S Main St
EXCELLENT 1.0 ACRE TRACT ON MAIN STREET WITH LARGE LIVE OAK TREES. MAIN STREET HAS JUST RECENTLY BEEN COMPLETED FROM TWO YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION WHICH WILL ENABLE TRAFFIC COUNT BOTH FOOT AND VEHICLES TO INCREASE.
\$575,000



53 W Creek Drive
Unique opportunity to own acreage in the heart of Salado. Come see this stunning custom Hill Country styled home nestled in hardwood trees.
\$599,900



8425 Anna's Spring Drive
Randy Taylor brings a beautiful mix of modern flair with traditional warmth inside this modern farmhouse.
\$515,000



903 Rose Way, Salado
Your chance to own this picturesque Bed and breakfast in the heart of downtown Salado
\$950,000



605 Newberry Court
SPARKLING home from floor to ceiling! Walk into this beautifully fully upgraded home and be impressed with the herringbone tile and upgraded wood ceiling detail immediately in the foyer.
\$320,000



Royal Ridge Subdivision
10+ Acre tracts of Hill Country acreage minutes from downtown Salado & Mill Creek Golf Course. An abundance of options: Live Oaks, small creek, beautiful bottom land, coastal pastures, hill top views



1152 W FM 218
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9121 Bell Meadow Blvd
The home has approx 4,000 sq ft living area including 4 bedroom 3 and half bath. This home features two master suites, one upstairs master with expansive views and one downstairs master with a large master walk-in closet
\$999,648



10002 Hartrick Bluff Road
AS IS/WHERE IS - Calling all investors! This home and acreage has huge potential and incredible views overlooking the river and valley!
\$229,000



1039 Ferguson Mill Rd
Another incredible David Foust Custom Home available in 2020. Located in the beautiful Salado Mills Subdivision offering golf cart access to Salado as well as a beautiful community pool.
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Mystic River - Lots overlooking the Leon River. Neighborhood shaded by a canopy of Live Oak and Pecan trees, walk from your back door to your personal dock at the river bank.

ACREAGE

10 Acres along I-35 frontage, sewage available \$1,750,000
30 Acres on the Leon River, Belton
107 Acres with 4,500 feet on Leon River
5 Acres 2251 County Road 234 Georgetown, TX 78633
300 Acres 0000 CR 212 Coolidge, TX 76635
37.2 Acres 2821 Sulphur Wells Rd Woods of Salado (Starts @ \$99,900)
15 Acres Vilas Rd. Holland
14 Acres Vilas Rd. Holland



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