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Tim and Marilyn Fleischer, publishers of Salado Village Voice newspaper and Salado: A Jewel in the Crown of Texas magazine, at the annual Cattlemen's Ball for the Salado Education Foundation.

Salado Village Voice: always independent, family-owned

While the *Salado Village Voice* is not the first newspaper in Salado, it has had the longest life-span since being founded in 1979. The Fleischer family bought the newspaper in 1988, marking 33 years in Salado in Spring 2020.

When historian Dayton Kelley published the first edition of the *Salado Village Voice* on February 17, 1979, it was the first time in more than 100 years that the village had a newspaper.

The first newspaper known to be published in the village was the *Salado Newsletter*. Published by E.W. Billings, the first edition came out on August 25, 1874. Only one copy of the newspaper exists at the newspaper collection of the University of Texas at Austin.

The Grange published another newspaper, *The Texas Farmer* in Salado, but it was later moved to Dallas.

Reference to a third Salado newspaper has been found on a letterhead in the Rose Papers at the University of Texas at Austin. The *Salado Sentinel* was published by A.S. Hornbeck. No copies of the Salado Sentinel are known to exist today.

Salado Village Voice founder Dayton Kelley was a native of Bell County, a journalist and a historian. He taught journalism at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor for 12 years before accepting a position as Director of the Texas Collection at Baylor University in Waco. After Dayton passed away, his sons Dennis and Bill ran the Salado Village Voice, selling it to the Fleischer family in 1988.

Since the Fleischer family purchased the newspaper, a week has not passed that the newspaper has not published. *Salado Village Voice* has published the quarterly magazine Salado: A Jewel in the Crown of Texas for more than 25 years.

Cisit saladovillagevoice.com for breaking news, the latest Calendar of Events and information on many of the events in Salado.

Salado Village Voice was named the first Business of the Year by the Salado Chamber of Commerce in 2002. Marilyn Fleischer was named to the Hall of Fame by the Chamber for 2019.

See You in Salado

Advertise in the next edition of Salado: A Jewel in the Crown of Texas advertising@saladovillagevoice.com

(254) 947-5321

Second Quarter 2021 deadline is Feb. 4 Third Quarter 2021 deadline is May 6 Fourth Quarter 2021 deadline is Aug. 7

SaladoVillageVoice.com

Salado: A Jewel in the Crown of Texas

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advertising advertising@saladovillagevoice.com

Salado: A Jewel in the Crown of Texas magazine is a quarterly publication of Salado Village Voice Inc., publisher of the weekly Salado Village Voice newspaper., P.O. Box 587, Salado, Texas 76571 Distributed in Salado and all Texas Visitor Centers



Cover photo courtesy Inn on the Creek by Mike Bartoszek

Calendar of Events

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-tick-ets-126438333459.

January 22-23

Salado Glassworks Valentine's Blow Your Own event. Visit saladoglassworks.com for reservations.

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 22-24

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.

January 28-29

Date Night Blow Your Own Bowl Together. Visit saladoglassworks.com for reservations.

January 29-30

Salado Glassworks Valentine's Blow Your Own event. Visit saladoglassworks.com for reservations.

February 4-5

Date Night Blow Your Own Bowl Together. Visit saladoglassworks.com for reservations.

February 5-6

Salado Glassworks Valentine's Blow Your Own event. saladoglassworks.com for reservations.

February 11

Around the World Dinner Series at Alexander's Craft Cocktails + Kitchen, 6:30-9:30 p.m., featur-

ing 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 12-13

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.

February 14

Special Valentine's Day menu at The Barton House Restaurant in Salado. Menu of Aphrodisiacs will include Oysters and Tuna Avocado appetizer; entree choice of Lobster; Rack of Lamb, Fillet of Beef or Chicken Ballotine with Foie Gras and Dessert of Dessert Checkers or Chocolate Strawberry Truffles. \$75 per person. Reservations at 254-947-0441.

February 19-20

Blow Your Own beer mugs, glassware for Saint Patrick's Day. Reservations at saladoglassworks. com.

February 26

Royal Street Art Walk (RAW) 6-9 p.m. along Royal Street.

February 26

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.

February 26-27

Blow Your Own beer mugs,

glassware for Saint Patrick's Day. Reservations at saladoglassworks. com.

March 5-6

Blow Your Own beer mugs, glassware for Saint Patrick's Day. Reservations at saladoglassworks.

March 12-13

Blow Your Own beer mugs, glassware for Saint Patrick's Day. Reservations at saladoglassworks.

March 13-14

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

March 15

Denver Mills 26th Annual Golf Tournament to Benefit Tablerock. Mill Creek Golf Course, Salado, Texas. \$100 entry fee. Shotgun start at 1 p.m.. For reservations call Denver Mills 254-541-4830 or Tablerock at 254-947-9205.

March 19-20

Blow Your Own Easter eggs. Reservations at saladoglassworks.

March 26

Royal Street Art Walk (RAW) 6-9 p.m. along Royal Street.

March 26

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.

March 26-27

Blow Your Own Easter eggs. Reservations at saladoglassworks. com.

March 27-28

Salado Chamber of Commerce will be celebrating its 20th Annual Wildflower Arts & Crafts Festival on the grounds of the Salado Civic Center at 601 N. Main Street

March 27-28

Annual Texas Rogue Art and Wine Festival, grounds of Salado Winery Co. Admission is free and wine will be available for purchase. Wine tastings will be seated.

April 2-3

Blow Your Own Easter eggs. Reservations at saladoglassworks. com.

April 3

MerDash and Splash, kickoff at entry table at 7 a.m. Races start at 8 a.m. Three awesome trails that will begin and end on the north banks of Salado Creek. Trophies by Salado Saw Mill for Top two times and one for Best Dressed. Benefits all abilities playground in Pace Park.

April 3

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.

April 3

Barrow Brewing Co. Fifth Anniversary. Live music, food trucks, family events and more.

April 4

Special Easter at fine dining restaurants in Salado. Book early!

- Alexander's Distillery. Reservations:(254) 947-5554.
- The Barton House, reservations, (254) 947-0441.
 - Stagecoach Inn, reservations

April 8-11

Texas Packard gathering in Salado.

April 10-11

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

April 16-17

Blow Your Own flowers, bowls for Mother's Day. Reservations at saladoglassworks.com.

April 17

The Children's Advocacy Center of Central Texas will be hosting Divine Desserts at Tenroc Ranch at 7 p.m. April 17. Tickets to Divine Desserts are \$175 for a couple or \$100 per person. For more information or reservations, call 254-939-2946.

April 23

Royal Street Art Walk (RAW) 6-9 p.m. along Royal Street.

April 23

Fourth Friday Gospel Singing 7 p.m. at First Cedar Valley Baptist Church, FM 2843.

April 23-24

Blow Your Own flowers, bowls for Mother's Day. Reservations at saladoglassworks.com.

April 30-May 1

Blow Your Own flowers, bowls for Mother's Day. Reservations at saladoglassworks.com.

The Village of Carlo Car

stay a while

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Texas Stagecoach Wine Trail

Embark on a memorable journey to the finest wineries in central Texas! Along the way, you'll drive routes that were operated by western stagecoaches for over sixty years. While the stagecoach was rendered obsolete in the 1880s, it survives as a rugged symbol of the West.

"This trail is more than just a group of wineries, it is a nod to the history of our region and the spirit of adventure we all share," said June Ritterbusch, who owns Salado Winery Co. with her husband Sheldon Vickers.

As a holder of a Texas Stagecoach Wine Trail ticket you will have the opportunity to taste three complimentary wines at each winery. You can create a special photographic memory at each of the wineries. This package deal has over a \$95 value.

You will have three days to visit the wineries and enjoy your tastings, Friday, January 22 - Sunday, January 24. Check in to all of the wineries on social media, using #Tx-StagecoachWineTrail & #TxWine. You will receive via email a discount code for the next ticketed event. Business hours vary among wineries so verify their business hours as you



You can enjoy tastings from 10 central Texas wineries, including Salado Winery Co., during the Texas Stagecoach Wine Trail Friday, January 22 - Sunday, January 24.

plan your route.

At each winery, there will be plenty of opportunities to purchase additional wine tastings, and buy cool souvenirs.

You must present your tickets to receive your tastings at each winery. Your tickets can be shown from your smartphone via email or using the Eventbrite app.

Also, you need valid photo ID if you plan to consume alcohol.

Get your tickets at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/texas-stagecoach-wine-trail-january-2021-weekend-trail-event-tickets-129162178553

Participating wineries are 3 Texans Vineyard, Axis Winery, Country Spring Vineyard, Dancing Bee Winery, Kissing Tree Vineyards, Moose and Goose Winery, Red Caboose Winery Clifton, Salado Winery and Valley Mills Vineyards.

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More than 100 wines will be available for tasting March 27-28. (Photo by Marilyn Fleischer)

Texas Wine & Rogue Art Fest March 27-28 at Salado Winery Co.

Celebrate Spring! Enjoy wine, food, art, and the outdoors during the weekend of Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28. You'll find the charming Village of Salado filled with folks sipping wine, browsing art and nibbling on the best food at the Texas Wine and Rogue Art Fest, the biggest and best wine festival between Austin and Grapevine.

The 2021 festival will include 40-50 booths featuring art, delectable foods, and handmade goods. Unlike previous years though, the wine drinking will be seated at tables of up to 6 people, scattered throughout the festival to encourage social distancing.

If you're hungry, the festival is hosting several food trucks, traditionally including Happy Pizza, Hecho en Queso, and Toka Island Grill. Foodies will also enjoy experiencing Texas-based food from Sweet B's Candy, Texas Cheese House, Spicewood Food Company, Haute Goat Creamery, and iJerky Guy. The full list of participants is available at www.saladowinefestival.com.

"I wanted to attract a different type of artist, so I named it 'Rogue' as in the artists are going rogue," June Ritterbusch, owner and winemaker, explains, "We are always searching for unusual artists and this year we have found some. These Texas wineries are rogue entrepreneurs as well, and I think all the wine and art folks are going to create a great experience."

The festival will be held on the grounds of Salado Winery & Salado Wine Seller at 841 N. Main St., Salado, rain or shine. Fam-



You'll find handmade soaps and much more among the vendors at the Texas Wine and Rogue Art Fest. (Photo by Marilyn Fleischer)

ilies are welcome! There will be plenty of kid-friendly space to run around, including our cellar door sandbox! Well-behaved pets on leashes are allowed. Admission is free and wine will be available for purchase.

Texas Wine & Rogue Art Fest is 12-5 p.m. Saturday, March 27 and 12 p.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, March 28.



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(Photo by Mary Hodge)
The Dodd's Creek Bridge was moved to Salado in 1997 where it spans Campbell Branch and is now a beautiful walking bridge.

Dodd's Creek bridge was moved to Salado in 1997

By Charlene Carson Local Historian

Did you know that one of the most historic bridges in Texas is located right here in Salado and that it is over 130 years old?

This historic bridge, commonly referred to as the green bridge on Main Street, was built by the Berlin Iron Bridge Company of East Berlin, Connecticut. It was placed over Cowhouse Creek in Coryell County, Texas in 1889, and then later moved to Dodd's Creek on CR-133 west of Gatesville. In 1955, the bridge was declared functionally obsolete for vehicular traffic. The bridge was replaced but the historic lenticular pony truss bridge was not demolished. Instead, the Texas Department of Transportation decided to renovate and utilize the structure as a pedestrian bridge to be placed over Campbell's Branch in Salado. It was moved

to this location on July 29, 1997, as a part of las of Connecticut in 1878, was the only the Salado Walking Path project. las of Connecticut in 1878, was the only one given for a lenticular truss bridge in the

In 1990 the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas Department of Transportation identified eight lenticular truss bridges surviving in Texas. Four of those bridges were located in San Antonio; the other four were on out-of-service roads. These bridges are recognized as historically significant engineering structures, and are the only remaining examples of this rare bridge type west of the Mississippi.

This 87-foot truss bridge represents an unusual truss type in the United States. The lenticular design features a curved top and bottom chord which forms a lens shape. This type of bridge combines an arch type bridge and suspension type bridge into a single design requiring less steel than more conventional bridges.

The patent, issued to William O. Doug-

las of Connecticut in 1878, was the only one given for a lenticular truss bridge in the United States. Most were constructed in the New England area and in New York state. Through the efforts of William Payson, a salesman for the Berlin Iron Bridge Company, Texas acquired at least a dozen truss bridges in the late 19th century.

It was an exciting day in Salado when this big green structure was brought down Main Street on an "oversize load" truck. A huge heavy-duty crane followed the truck. Those who had an interest in historic bridges and those who were just curious stood along the street to watch the unfolding of this historic event.

Cameras clicked as the crane lifted the bridge gently off the truck and carefully swung the structure toward its destination. Onlookers stood quietly as workers pushed *See Walking Bridge, Page 11*

Dodd's Creek bridge is now walking bridge in Salado

Continued from Page 10

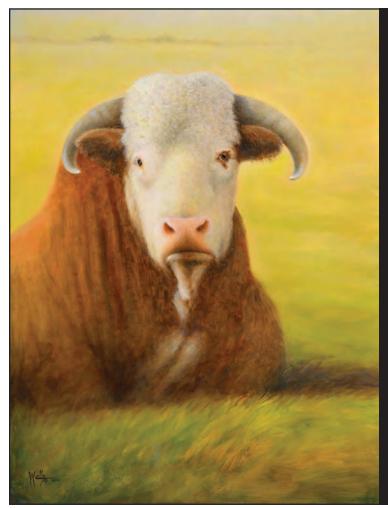
and pulled and carefully guided the bridge to its final resting place over Campbell's Branch, giving walkers a functional and beautiful place to walk.

The Salado Walking Path project was a joint effort between the Salado Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Department of Transportation. In 1998 the Waco District of TX-DOT received the Environmental Achievement Award for the Dodd's Creek Bridge Preservation Project.

When approaching the bridge from the south, be aware of the troll who has made the green bridge his home. The "Troll and Billy Goat Gruff" sculpture, by local artist Troy Kelley, sits at the southernmost end of the bridge, placed there by the Public Arts League of Salado in October 2005.



(Photo by Charlene Carson)
Troy Kelley's Troll and Billy Goat Gruff guard the south entrance to the walking bridge over Campbell's Branch.
It was placed there in 2005 by the Public Arts League of Salado as one of its first projects.



"Range Boss" By Ronnie Wells

The Hereford Bull is owned and oil painting commissioned by friends and collectors

Austin and Sherrie Baker

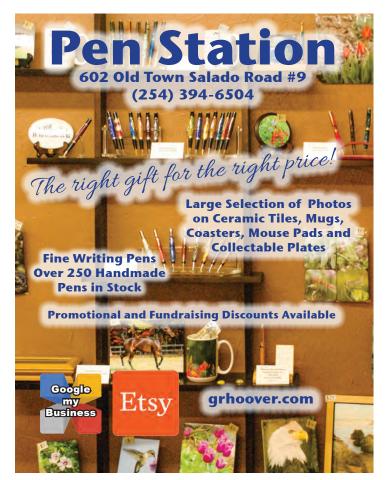
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Springtime event includes arts, crafts, food trucks & live music

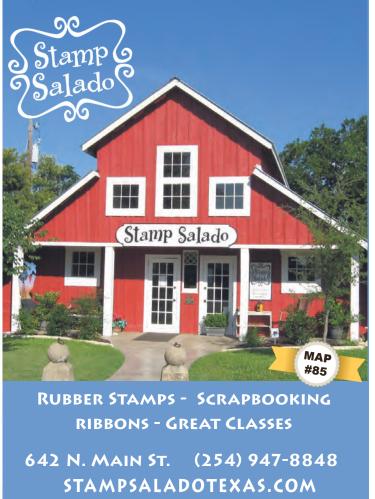
Salado Chamber of Commerce will be celebrating its 20th Annual Wildflower Arts & Crafts Festival March 27-28. The festival will be held on the grounds of the Salado Civic Center at 601 N. Main Street from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days with free admission.

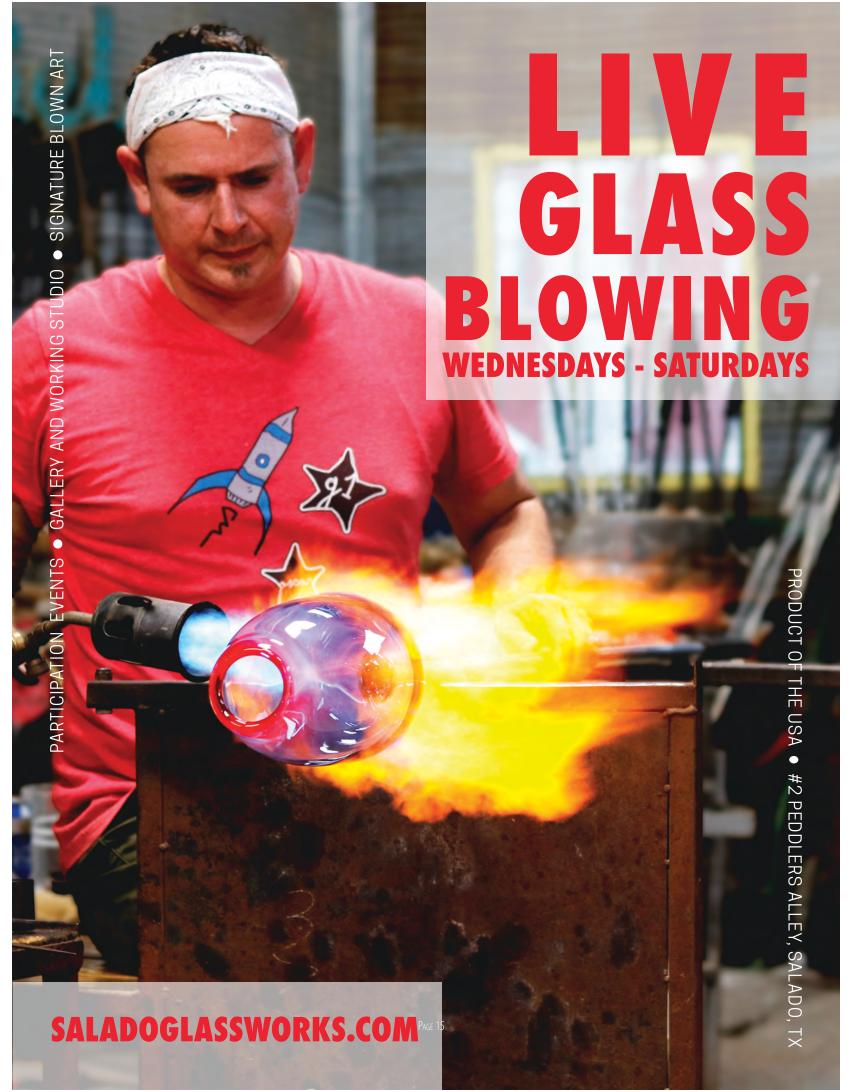
Enjoy this family friendly festival by strolling through the more than 40 arts & crafts vendors selling extraordinary handcrafted items from all over the state. Shop from a large variety of talented crafters including; woodworking, jewelry, original paintings, photography, pottery, toy makers, soap makers, knitting/crochet, embroidery and more!

Wildflower will also be featuring local food trucks and vendors – so grab a blanket and eat a picnic lunch from one of our food vendors and listen to live music in the gazebo.











Sirril **ART** GALLERY

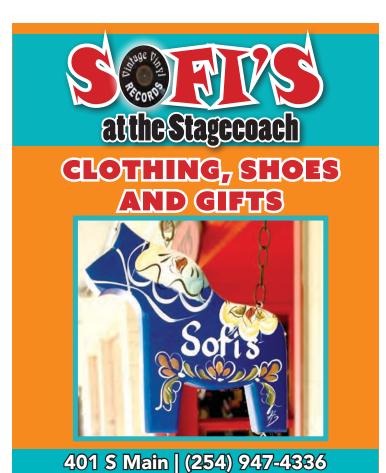
Featuring original artwork by Michael Pritchett along with a collection of original paintings and scupltures by local Central Texas artists.

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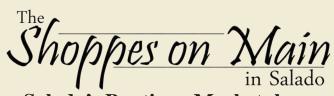
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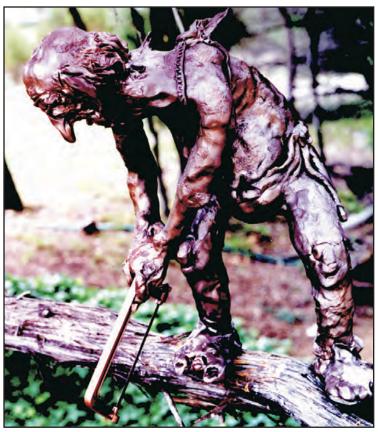






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MerDash & Splash

Aquaman (shown above with the Salado Starlets dance squad) will make an appearance at the MerDash & Splash, slated for the morning of April 3. Kickoff at Entry Table at 7 a.m. Races start at 8 a.m. Three awesome trails that will begin and end on the north banks of Salado Creek. Trophies by Salado Saw Mill for Top two times and one for Best Dressed.

Each racer will be given a souvenir fish, trash collection bag. MerDash will be awarding The Keep Salado Beautiful Award for most litter collected on the trail during the foot race. Official weigh-in and presentation will be on the north shore of Salado Creek at noon. Entertainment includes axe throwing, archery, mini-fishing, duck race, creek landscape painting on canvas, rock painting, music and more The MerDash & Splash is a fund raiser for the all abilities playground that will be built in Salado's Pace Park.

Follow Sirena Fest on Facebook for updates and details.











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Divine Desserts April 17 at Tenroc

The Children's Advocacy Center of Central Texas will be hosting Divine Desserts in the Blue Heron room of Tenroc Ranch at 7 p.m. April 17.

Guests will enjoy a wide array of scrumptious desserts provided by local bakeries, beverages, live music and dancing, and a diverse and fun silent and live auction. Dinner will be catered by Let Us Do the Cooking.

Tickets to Divine Desserts are \$175 for a couple or \$100 per person. The theme for this year's event is Masquerade. Attire is cocktail dress with masks of both kind encouraged!

All the proceeds will benefit the agency and ensure child abuse victims in Central Texas receive the quality services that reduce pain and promote healing.

The mission of the Children's Advocacy Center of Central Texas is to provide comprehensive services which protect, promote healing and enhance the quality of life for abused and neglected children in Central Texas through Children's Advocacy Center and Court Appointed Special Advocates programs. The agency serves 700 children and their families every year.

When children are abused and traumatized they are thrown into a legal and social system that, although well intended, is often not fully equipped to deal with these traumatized children. Children's Advocacy Center provides a safe, neutral place for children to come and tell their experiences to a trained forensic interviewer. This interviewer works with agency personnel through a multidisciplinary approach to child abuse. Child victims receive child focused services



Bakers and confectioners will participate in Divine Desserts on April 17.

during investigation and beyond with the assistance of advocacy center staff and team members.

There are still sponsorships available: Event Sponsor is \$4,000; Premium Sponsors is \$2,500; Supporter Sponsor is \$1,000.

For more information or reservations, call 254-939-2946.



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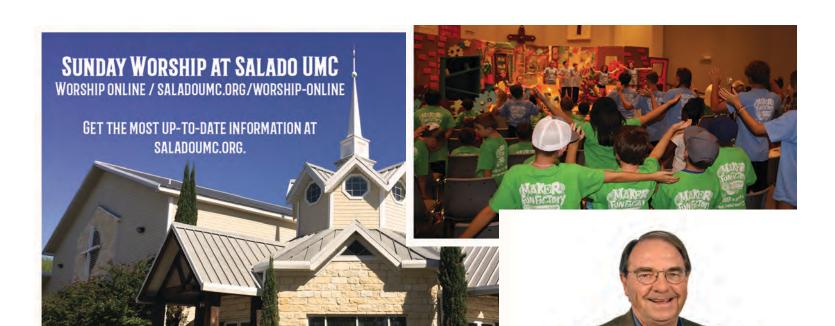


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Activities*

* Contact church office for children's and youth activities schedule





The log cabin at Stagecoach Inn will be part of the next stage of renovations on the complex. (Photo by Charlene Carson)

What's the story with that old cabin on Main in front of Stagecoach Inn

By Charlene Carson Local Historian

Visitors to Salado and locals alike have often wondered, "What is the story behind the log cabin on Main Street in front of the Stagecoach Inn?" Keep reading and you will learn the story of that cabin as told by C.B. and Mary Hodge.

At one time, this log cabin, built in the 1800s, sat on the Claude and Bernice Hodge Ranch, which was about two miles west of Salado on Thomas Arnold Road. In the early 1930s, it was occupied by a Mexican family who worked on the ranch cutting wood.

In about 1934, Claude Hodge gave the cabin to Charles and Eva Stevens who owned the Stagecoach Inn at the time, and the Mexican family moved into another house on the ranch. The Stevens set up a restaurant in the cabin with the intentions of attracting travelers going to the 1936 Centennial in Dallas via old Highway 81. Everyone traveling Highway 81 would pass right in front of the cabin and hopefully stop for lunch.

Eva Stevens served what she called "depression food," which consisted of fresh fish, fried chicken, black-eyed peas, and other homemade dishes. The meals were served family style and cost 35 cents. The cabin served as Salado's restaurant for several years.

The cabin, which had been put together with ashes, was dismantled, hauled by wagon and team to downtown Salado and reassembled at its present site. Originally it had a dirt floor and a tree was growing through the ceiling.

In the 1980s, this log cabin

was used as the Stagecoach Inn gift shop. Through the years it has been used as a coffee shop, barber shop, beauty shop, and a home décor shop. When Dion and Ruth Van Bibber became owners of the Stagecoach Inn in 1943, Van Bibber used the cabin as his office.

The current ownership has future plans for the building.

"We have discussed a number of different options for the cabin which will probably happen in the next construction phase of our project," David Hayes told Salado Village Voice. "The cabin needs significant repairs as so much of the restaurant and hotel did, and we have some ideas that we think will make the cabin look better and be functional."

"We will probably use it for retail sale of stagecoach merchandise, but we have also talked about opening it up and using it as an access point to the garden below the cabin," he added.

Stagecoach Inn continues to undergo a multi-million dollar, multi-phase renovation and revisioning of the complex.

"We just finished a conference room we call the Longhorn room, we have just started construction on the Pavilion where the coffee shop was, it will have a fireplace, bar and restrooms," Hayes said. "We are also building a mineral pool in between buildings 2 and 3."

"We are excited about the completion of Main Street and ready to get past COVID," he said.

Meanwhile, the cabin sits on Main Street as a reminder of the rustic charm and the country style of living found in the village of Salado.







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Sirena of Salado turns 35!

By Tim Fleischer Editor-in-Chief

Sirena's tears seem to have always fed the springs along the banks of Salado Creek, where she is perched upon a rock to remove a painful fish hook from her fin.

She has graced Salado Creek for half a lifetime now, 35 years.

Sirena was dedicated as a gift of love to Salado at 12:01 a.m. on Jan. 1, 1986 by artist Troy Kelley. The New Year's ceremony made Sirena the first public sculpture dedicated for Texas' Sesquicentennial.

A dozen or so of Troy's friends joined him to pop champagne bottles and raise a glass of cheer in Sirena's honor on that date.

Sirena was dedicated as a gift to the children of Salado.

Troy worked for more than a year on the sculpture, after arriving in Salado in late 1984.

When he began the project, Troy approached Grace Jones, seeking permission to place Sirena in the creek on her property.

"I met with Grace Jones to show her the life-size clay of Sirena," Troy said. "She immediately agreed to sit Sirena in the spring behind her shop on Main Street."

With his own funds, Troy then cast Sirena in Bronze at Lonnie Joe Edwards' foundry in Salado. He melted down old water meters he had salvaged from Waco water works. Sirena was cast in 10 pieces using the Lost Wax Method.

The Lost Wax Method is an old method in which a mold of the clay sculpture is made.

The clay version is destroyed and hot wax is poured into the mold.

"The wax cools from the outside in, so when an inch or so of the wax has hardened, the rest of the wax is poured out," Kelley explained. "The wax imprint is then dipped into a slurry of silicone material, which makes a shell.

The shell is then placed in a furnace to



Troy Kelley is seen above with Sirena and the Magical Catfish. (Photo by Royce Wiggin)

harden. The wax melts again and is lost in the process. Once the ceramic shell hardens, molten bronze is poured into it. Then the shell is broken off and the bronze is smoothed and polished, according to Kelley.

This process was done with each of the 10 pieces, which were then welded together.

After Sirena was completed, she was placed in the Creek with front end loaders.

Kelley knew when he came to Salado that the Creek was the perfect place for Sirena.

Sirena originated as a story told to Troy

by his grandmother when he was a child.

He was working as the deputy director of communications of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board when he first learned about Salado from a friend.

"When I came to Salado, I saw that there was such a sense of community," he said. "It was quiet, and beautiful and with the creek as its center, Salado was very appealing."

In his travels, Kelley has always studied art. While stationed in Germany with the U.S. army, Kelley attended the Kuntz Art Story continues page 29

Sirena graces Salado Creek for 35 years

Story continues from page 28 Academy in Stuttgart.

"The instructor and all the students spoke German, which I didn't," Kelley said, "so I imitated what the other students were doing. If they got out their charcoals, so did I."

After being in Europe, Kelley was sent to Vietnam, where he served for two years as an advanced signal corps officer. "I didn't have it as bad as some did in Vietnam, but I didn't have it as good as some either," he said.

He received a Bachelor of Art Education from Midwestern University in his birth town of Wichita Falls.

After returning from Viet Nam, he did his graduate work in education technology at the University of Maryland, where he studied film, television and computers. He attended the Corcoran School of Arts in Washington D.C.

He was also involved with The Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, Virginia. It was an abandoned building that the community rallied behind to renovate for use as artists' galleries and studios. "It has become a very important part of the community in Alex-

andria," he said.

Sirena has become a very important part of Salado in the 35 years since she was placed in Salado.

She has been featured in Texas Monthly, Texas Highways, Southern Living magazines and numerous newspapers around the state. Sirena was featured in a calendar of Mermaid sculptures around the world.

She is listed in the National Register of Public Statues.

Jackie Mills wrote Sirena of Salado, a children's book based on Troy's legend. The legend is included in the annual production of Salado Legends. Her daughters commissioned Troy to add the magical catfish sculpture in 2005.

Local author Sheri Wall updated the Sirena story with publication of her children's book, Maiden Mermaid - The Tale of Sirena.

Sirena is also the namesake of the Sirenafest in October in downtown Salado

At the time Kelley cast Sirena, he also cast a dozen 18-inch tall Little Sirenas, all of which are in private collections, including #12 in the collection of Tim and Marilyn Fleischer.

Kelley's work has been commissioned around the state, including his heroic statue of Robert M. Gray at the Killeen Regional Airport.

He has pieces dotting Salado, including Late Again at the flagpole on the grounds of Salado Civic Center, Billy Goat Gruff and the Troll at the south end of the Campbell Branch walking bridge on Main Street and the tree Elf in the branches of the trees there at the walking bridge.

Sirena has had three homes in her lifetime. When she was first placed in the creek, she fell victim to a flood and was washed downstream. Kelley was able to find her more than a mile downstream. At that time, he moved her to the mouth of the spring known as Big Bubbly (also known as Sirena Spring), where she stayed for more than two decades.

But repeated floods had damaged her so much that Troy took the original Sirena out of the creek and cast a new one, which is now found at her home a few yards from the creek on the southwest side of the Main Street bridge.

There she can see Troy's latest contribution to Salado: Locks of Love.





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Salado College founded by leaders who wanted best for their children

The need of a high class school in Bell County had been felt for some time. In the fall of 1859, a tent meeting attended by prominent men from all over the county was held at the Salado Springs to discuss the matter. They succeeded in organizing the Salado College Joint Stock Company. Colonel Robertson donated 100 acres of land, including the two fine springs, the hill on the south side of the creek suitable for the college building, part of the wooded valley and some land north of the creek.

Stock in the company at \$100 per share to the amount of \$5,000 was soon subscribed.

Seven trustees, Col. Herman Aiken, John I. Blair, Dr. Carrol Kendrick, A.J. Dallas, Col. E.S.C. Robertson, W.D. Eastland, and G.W. Shanklin, were chosen by the stockholders. Colonel Robertson was made President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Board and gave the school a deed to the land dated October 16, 1859.

The land was soon surveyed and laid out in blocks, lots and streets. Revenue from the sale of lots was a great help to the college as families soon began moving to Salado.

At a November meeting, Dr. Kendrick offered several resolutions concerning the college which were adopted. The resolutions asked that the trustees apply to the legislature for an act incorporating Salado College; that a clause be inserted prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors, the keeping of billiard saloons or ten-pin alleys on the college land; and that the college be open to pupils of all religious denominations, but never become sectarian in its character.

On February 8, 1860, Salado College was incorporated by the Legislature for twenty years with full powers to maintain the institution, grant diplomas, confer degrees and perform other corporate functions.

A temporary wooden building was erected and school began February 20, 1860, with the Rev. Levi Tenney, a Presbyterian minister, as principal.

A severe winter had slowed down building both for the school and new residents, so many of the teachers lived in tents temporarily. Sixty students were enrolled the first term.



The bell tower and entrance to Salado College can be seen in this old photograph.

Plans had already been made for a two-story stone building on the brow of the hill. On July 4, 1860, the cornerstone, the first in that part of Texas, was laid with a Masonic ceremony. Visitors came from as far away as Waco and Austin and hospitable Salado citizens served a barbecue. A great sale of lots occurred and many more families moved to Salado to educate their children. Attendance at the school gradually increased until there were over 300, including primary grades....

There were two interesting societies in old Salado College. They were literary societies organized for older students.

The Euphradian Society was promoted by Prof. J.L. Smith and Capt. A.J. Harries in 1866. Boys studied parliamentary law and improved in debate and public speaking by practice. Meetings were held weekly and officers changed monthly. Two leaders were appointed by the president who chose sides and all members took part in the debate. Speeches were limited to a few minutes.

The society made an impression upon the general tone and morale of the school as well

as on the progress and development of the students. At each commencement, some able speaker was invited to address the assembled student body.

The other society, organized by the ladies, had Mrs. Kate Alma Orgain as historian and some accurate records were kept.

Mesdames Orgain and Lucius Davis, and Misses Letitia Barbee and Sallie Young, all college teachers, wished to form a reading club for the college's young ladies and those of the town interested in such a club.

Their first meeting was held in the palatial home of Mrs. E.S.C. Robertson, Mrs. Orgain was the first president. They met weekly in some home and listened as a member read aloud from the selected author. A circulating library was formed, perhaps the first in Texas under ladies' supervision. A room at the college was soon assigned them where they kept their accumulating library.

One of the first books read was David Copperfield and a play by Dickens was given in 1876.

See Salado College, Page 42



Discover Bell County exhibit focuses on The Land, Agriculture and Ranching, Transportation and Industry, and Education and Culture of this Central Texas county.

Bell County Museum Opens New County History Exhibit to Public

The Bell County Museum opened Discover Bell County, the museum's signature permanent exhibit, to the public late last year. The exhibit is located on the first floor of the museum's historic Carnegie Library.

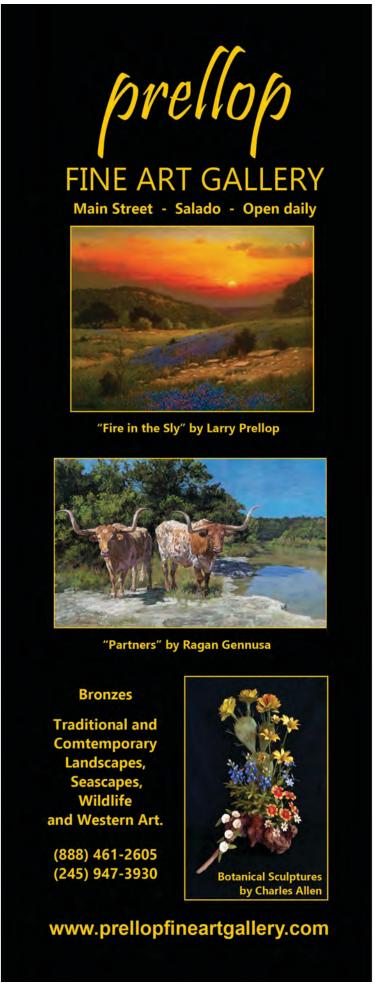
It focuses on four themes of Bell County History: The Land, Agriculture and Ranching, Transportation and Industry, and Education and Culture.

The new exhibit is the result of a years-long effort by the museum to create an updated County history exhibit that is comprehensive, inclusive, and visually appealing to visitors.

"Our staff put incredible effort into this permanent exhibit. From the beginning stages of research, writing, and editing to artifact selection, exhibit design, and installation, the process of bringing Bell County History to our visitors was deeply meaningful. Our hope is to bring that meaning and passion for history to everyone is Bell County," said Executive Director Coleman Hampton.

Visitors to Discover Bell County will enjoy a fresh selection of artifacts and stories, as well as some old favorites. Newly exhibited pieces including the "Two Governors Chair", made for Ma and Pa Ferguson, and two Clovis arrow points. The museum's famed Moustache Teacup Collection and works of art by Bell County natives Marie Cronin and Ella Mewhinney are exhibited in a newly designed area. In addition, visitors will be able to view historic photographs from the museum collection on a newly installed touchscreen.

"The Bell County Commissioners Court and our Board of Trustees have been incredibly supportive of this project. Everyone understands the importance of educating and engaging our families, students, and citizenry on Bell County History. History is all around us. We are making history right now. That is what I hope people take away from Discover Bell County," Hampton said.



First Grange Store in Texas located in Salado

The following story is taken from George W. Tyler's History of Bell County, 1985 Edition, page 299-301.

Back in the seventies the farmers had a great national organization, styled the "Patrons of Husbandry." It was commonly called, "The Grange," and its members were referred to as "Grangers." The organization covered the farming district of the whole United States, and at one time its membership numbered hundreds of thousands. It comprised a National Grange, a state Grange in each state, a County Grange in each county, and local Granges in the communities.

Bell County pioneered the movement in this state. Salado Grange, No. 1, opened in the summer of 1873, was the first Grange organized in Texas. Among its charter members were A.J. Rose, O.T. Tyler, William P. Hancock, J.F. Fuller, John S. Rogers, L.A. Griffith, N.L. Norton, Wm. J. Caskey, Joe W. Love and many others.

The order soon spread rapidly over Bell County and throughout the state. County Granges were set up and then the State Grange, all in 1873. Wm. W. Lange of Marlin became the first Grand Worthy patron of the State Grange. By 1878 the membership had become so large and its political power so great that Mr. Lange became a candidate for governor before the Democratic State Convention, on the Grange or farmers' ticket. Lange resigned the leadership of the State Grange about 1882 and was succeeded by A.J. Rose, as Grand Worthy Patron. The ordered prospered for some ten or twelve years before it was largely superseded by a radical and active organization, the "Farmers Alliance."

The leading objects of the grange organization were cooperation among farmers in the marketing of produce and in the purchase of farm supplies, implements, building materials, etc.; the bringing with the "middleman;" better provisions for education especially agricultural education; the social uplift of the farmer and his family; a strong code of morals; law and order; lower taxes; and greater participation by farmers in making the laws. And during those days it was the usual stunt for politicians to cater to the Grange vote and to identify themselves with the political demands of the farmers.

The first incorporated Grange store in the State was started in Salado, whence others, too, spread all over Texas. Today, the



Salado Grange No. 1 was located in this building on South Main St. that now houses Salado Museum and College Park. The Grange Store was downstairs while meetings were held on the second story. (Photo by Royce Wiggin)

building houses the Salado Museum. It is located on South Main Street directly across the street from Stagecoach Inn restaurant. Grange stores flourished for a time, but at last with droughts and hard times, they went upon the financial rocks.

The Texas Cooperative Association, a rather ambitious enterprise, also organized and incorporated at Salado, set up its office in Galveston with Mr. John S. Rogers, of Salado, as manager. Its mission was to receive by consignment, cotton and other farm products from the farmers (through their local Grange stores) all over the state; to sell these products direct to spinners' agents and exporters; to purchase, at wholesale prices, the supplies of all kinds required by the farmers, consigning such purchase, in carload lots, to the Grange stores, where they were to be distributed among the members and customers. To pay its overhead expenses, the Association charged a small fixed commission upon all transactions. It was well planned, and for many years was a decided success. Even after the Grange was superseded by the "Alliance," the latter organization used the facilities of the Grange

Agency at Galveston.

The local Grange stores and the Texas Cooperative Association were all based theoretically upon spot cash transactions, for they had but little capital and could not extend credit. When droughts and other calamities visited the farmer they were forced back to the credit accommodations offered by the regular merchants and these cooperative enterprises, handling only cash transactions, lost a large percent of the business of even their own membership. In a one-crop country the cash or "pay as you go" system seem to be impracticable, however well managed.

The Texas Farmer was launched by William P. Hancock and J.F. Fuller, of Salado, about 1880. It was devoted to the interests of the farmers generally and of the Patrons of Husbandry in particular. At first it was printed at the office of the Belton Courier in Belton, but later equipped its own print shop in Belton, where it was edited and managed by J.F. Fuller. The paper became the official organ of the State Grange, and enjoyed as a statewide circulation. Later it was moved

Please See Grange Meetings, next page

Grange meetings emulate the Lodge Plan

Continued from previous page

to Dallas and there it was edited and managed by Wm. A. Shaw, generally known as "Farmer Shaw," who made it an influential factor with the press and farmers of Texas.

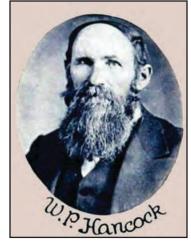
Such an organization, with an overwhelming farmer vote throughout the State, was, of course, catered to and preyed upon by politicians, within and without the membership; and what with the financial straits of the individual farmers and the arrival of a new organization, the Farmer's Alliance, the Grange gradually disappeared as an active body.

The Order still exists in other parts of the United States and still holds well attended National Grange meetings; but it no longer exists in Texas, so far as is known to this writer. (After this article first appeared

in this magazine, we have had reports that the Grange continues in parts of the country).

The membership included all members of the farmer's family - men, women, and children (above a certain age) and all of them participated in the Grange meetings held in halls or rooms prepared for the purpose. The meetings were secret and were conducted on the lodge plan, with a ritual for the initiation of new members and installation of officers. While women as well as men held office in the Grange, the more responsible active duties in that body were performed by the men of the Order.

The Grange did much to promote social intercourse among farmers and their families, brought about a more general habit of reading and investigation, especially along economic lines, and included



"The Texas Farmer" newspaper was launched by William P. Hancock (shown above) and J.F. Fuller, of Salado, about 1880. It was devoted to the interests of the Patrons of Husbandry.



While the Grange store was downstairs, meetings of Salado Grange No. 1 were likely held upstairs. Above is a Grange poster showing the layout of a meeting room.

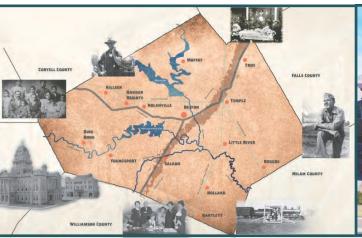
broader thinking and a more liberal attitude in the minds of a great body of citizens whose outlook had been too much limited by the hard routine of life on the farm. The Grange left its imprint, virile and lasting upon the period.



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This was the first bridge across Salado Creek, built in the late 1860s.

Bridges across Salado Creek

For several years after the town was laid out, the citizens of Salado crossed the shallow creek by stepping from rock to rock, or on logs laid across the wider places. These logs were chained to the rocks and would sink down stream during freshets and be replaced when the flood subsided. But when in 1866 a dam was thrown across the stream at the lower end of the village, the water was backed up over the rocks. Then for a time "footlogs" raised on legs standing in the water and chained to the rocks below were used; but they were narrow, rickety and unsafe, and pedestrians not infrequently tumbled off into the water. A general demand arose for a bridge. To meet this problem as well as others, it was decided to

incorporate the village. Application for incorporation was made under the general law and the county court in January 1867, authorized and election for town officers. On February 23, Judge O.T. Tyler was elected mayor and a board of aldermen was chosen. These officials appointed the other officers, among the Colonel Thos. H. Jones as treasurer. The town officials first tried to raise funds for a bridge by voluntary donations, but finding they could not raise enough by this means, on December 3, 1868, they ordered an issue of bonds...

The bonds were purchased by the citizens of the town. With the proceeds and subscriptions amounting in all to some \$2,500, the municipal authorities proceeded to build a wire cable

suspension foot-bridge of substantial construction of unique design and graceful proportions. Two large galvanized rope-wire cables, anchored at each end in strongly built stone abutments, were carried over two double-turreted dressed-stone piers of towers. From these suspended cables wire cords extended down to catch and support the ends of sawed cedar cross bars or joists on which the plank floor was laid. It was one of the first of its kind in the Southwest and was designed, engineered and constructed entirely by home talent-Judge Tyler, Colonel Thos. H. Jones, Judge Wm. H. Garrett, Wm. A. Davis, John Hendrickson and others. It swung some twenty feet above the water and although it could be made

to sway enough from side to side to frighten timid souls--especially groups of squealing girls when mischievous boys chose this method of teasing them--it served the people well for more than thirty years. After the county built a combination wagon and foot bridge a few yards upstream the suspension bridge gradually fell into disuse. In 1913 it was finally swept away when a cloud burst in the upper water-shed of Salado Creek sent down a terrific flood that carried away the county bridge as well. The latter was promptly rebuilt, only to be carried away again in the still greater flood of September 9 and 10, 1921.

From "The History of Bell County" George W. Tyler, Third Edition Music, gatherings and more

Mondays

Salado Masonic Lodge #296 meets Monday on or before Full Moon, 7:30

p.m., 90 S. Church St.

Trivia at Chupacabra Craft Beer, shady Villa Shopping Center. Pop culture, music, TV, movies and Family Feud team play with prizes; 7-9 p.m. Also Heroes Monday with 25% off for law enforcement, first responder, military with ID.

Tuesdays

Salado Village Artists meet at the Village Art Center, 9 a.m. Bingo at Chupacabra with Chu-

Bingo at Chupacabra with Chupacabra merchandise give away, 7-10 p.m. Also Sport your Chupa logo for \$5 beers.

Tuesday Prix Fixe at Alexander's Craft Kitchen + Cocktails. \$14.95 for entree, dessert and glass of wine.

Wednesdays

Karaoke (7:30-10:30 p.m.) with Free Karaoke Glass for performing at Chupacabra. Also, Wine Down Wednesday, 25% off bottles of wine

Thursdays

Pint Nights at Chupacabra. Unlimited Free Print Glasses from spon-



Wayworn Traveler are among the many performers who play at Barrow Brewing Co. Barrow Brewing has live music and food trucks every Friday and Saturday night.

sored brewery, 4-12 p.m.

Fridays

Live Music and food trucks at Barrow Brewing, 108 Royal. Live Music at Chupacabra.

Fourth Fridays

Royal Street Art Walk at participating galleries downtown Salado.

Gospel Singing, 7-10 p.m. at Cedar Valley Baptist Church.

Saturdays

Sample over 100 varieties of gourmet foods noon - 6 p.m. at The Strawberry Patch.

Live Music and food trucks at Barrow Brewing, 108 Royal St.

Live Music at Chupacabra Craft Beer, Shady Villa Shopping Center. Live Music at Axis Winery, 831 N.

Main St., 2-5 p.m.

Sundays

Live Music at Barrow Brewing Co. Sunday Fun Day at Chupacabra with 50% off Sangria & Frozen Rose.

Check out the Sunday Brunch offerings at Alexanders Distillery; The Barton House Restaurant; Rio Salado Cocina Y Cantina and Stagecoach Inn restaurants.



Gault site southwest of Salado one of richest archeological finds in U.S.

By Tim Fleischer Editor-in-Chief

More than 2.6 million artifacts have been found at the Gault site, about 12 miles southwest of Salado off of FM 2843 (Florence Rd.), making it one of the richest archeological sites in North

"There is a stone floor there,"
D. Clark Wernecke says. "It is
12,700 years old and there are
clues to a structure being built
on top of it."

"That makes it the earliest house in North America," Dr. Wernecke added.

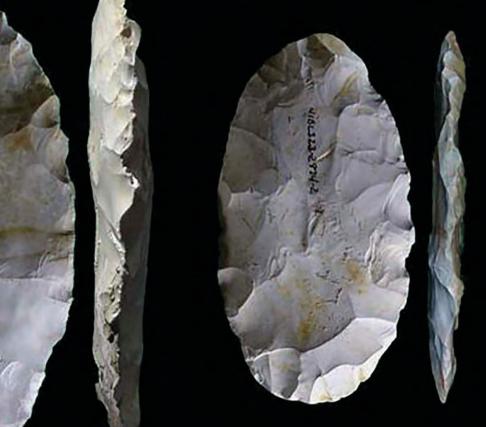
The Gault site has been known for its artifacts for almost a century. In 1929, the first anthropologists from the University of Texas were able to excavate the site, named after the owner of the property at that time, for about eight weeks.

A burnt-rock midden produced Clovis-era tools two years before the Blackwater find in New Mexico.

Over the years, the property changed hands several times and fell victim to archeological looting. In fact, at one point, people could pay just \$10 to dig all the artifacts they would want to dig in a day.

Despite this damage to the original site, there remained an archeological record that may prove that the Americas were
PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 40





Bifacial tools found at the Gault site 12 miles southwest of Salado are shown above. At top of the page are adzes and just above are knives. Tours of the Gault site are offered by the Bell County Museum several times a year.

(Photo courtesy of Gault School of Archeological Research, Texas State University)





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Gault site provides 'earliest art in the Americas'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 38

populated much earlier than scientists have originally hypothesized.

In 1998, the lower jaw of a juvenile mammoth and ancient horse bones surrounded by a large number of Clovis artifacts were discovered.

Archeologists, Dr. Wernecke said, discovered a great deal of chert, some of it engraved in what he described as "the earliest art in the Americas."

The University of Texas was able to secure a three-year lease, during which time more than 1.2 million artifacts were recovered. About half of those artifacts were from the Clovis era.

In fact, about 85 percent of all Clovis-era artifacts that have been recovered in the Americas come from the Gault site.

Volunteers, students and archeologists have carefully made their way through more than 48 cubic meters of the site down to the Comanche Peak bedrock. Wernecke explained that whenever a chert is found, it is

carefully noted where exactly it was found. Each piece is highly documented, resulting in a catalog of paleo-Indian America that has not been seen in any other location.

Wernecke explained that one section measuring measuring 10 centimeters in depth and one meter squared resulted in finding 16,629 flakes.. "If it was larger than a quarter, we know exactly where in the earth it was taken," Wernecke said.

Pieces have been examined at the microscopic level to determine how it was made and how it was used, whether it was for cutting bone, hide, plants or for some other use, according to Wernecke.

"We would like to use our favorite tools out there, which is the trowel," Wernecke said, "except chert comes from the rock in the Edwards Plateau and is stronger than steel. Hand trowels would just leave a big silver and gray scar."

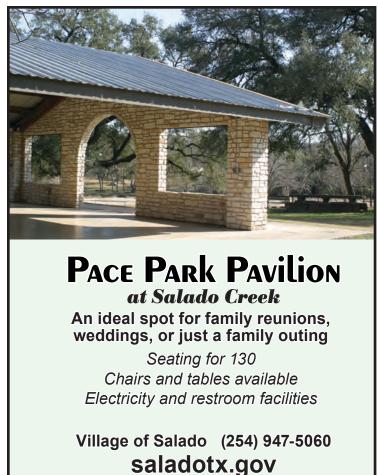
So instead, the carefully scrape away the layers millimeter by millimeter, centimeter by centimeter with chopsticks. "Outside

of a prison escape movie," he said, "I have never heard of that much earth moved with such small tools.... the chopsticks."

While the excavation work is complete, the Gault School partners with the Bell County Museum to offer half-day tours. Space is limited to 30 persons. The site is 30 minutes from Belton, between Salado and Florence. It is a full guided three-hour tour across the 2.5 miles long site. Learn about the many artifacts excavated and the Paleoindian culture found right here in Bell County. All participants are asked to meet at the site at 8:30 a.m. The tour will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. Maps will be provided a few days prior to the scheduled tour date. Tickets are \$10 per person, payable by debit or credit card only. Payment must be received within 5 days of registration to guarantee tickets. Register online at bellcountymuseum.org. Please call the museum at 254-933-5243 to make a payment.

The 2021 Gault tour dates are: February 13, April 3, June 12, August 28, October 9, December 11.







Salado College survives fires over the years

Continued from Page 32

This society was called "The Amasovaurian." It was really a coined word, made by joining amo (Latin - I love) and savour (French - to know) together, meaning "Love of Knowing."

This society is said by Mrs. Tyler to have accomplished much in elevating the standard of womanly refinement and literary culture both in the college and in the community.

The Salado College Band was a famous musical organization of the 70s. It played at the State Fair in Austin several times, for inaugural balls, at the Bell and Lampasas County fairs and on other occasions.

The first college bell was the regular old-fashioned hand affair, but in 1866 the citizens bought a real college bell for \$200. It was hung in a scaffolding on the roof of the college building and had a rope hanging over the side roof and down the south wall to the ground.

For years, this bell also summoned town people to Sunday School, prayer meeting and all public gatherings held in the college chapel.

That first small college bell was later given to the new public school building. When the annex to the college was completed in 1871, a large imposing belfry was erected over the main south entrance and Dr. W.R. Alexander gave the college a new and larger

In the first fire in 1901, the new bell was partially melted and fell and broke into fragments, many of which were collected for souvenirs, as were the metal keys of the piano.

For the new building, Maj. A.J. Rose donated a bell which with-

stood the fire of 1902, but not the one in 1924. There was no fire department in Salado and the citizens were helpless. They could not rebuild the college the last time it burned.

The expense of building the annex put the college in debt to the contractor who threatened foreclosure. Again Colonel Robertson saved the situation by buying the property in 1877 and Salado College continued as usual until his death in 1879. However, in 1880, the 20-year charter expired. In 1882, a new organization which bought from the Robertson heirs the seven acres of land on which the college building stood, was formed and the institution continued as Salado College until 1885.

From 1885 to 1890, the property was controlled by the board of trustees of the local public school and operated as a public free

Salado College had been like a magnet, drawing many of the best people of the state who desired to educate their children in a cultural and religious atmosphere.

Advanced subjects offered were elocution, philosophy, chemistry, political economy, mathematics, surveying, history, English, science and the classics. Latin and Greek were emphasized in the curriculum and art and music were taught by private teachers in the build-

The trustees announced that "Only the best teachers will be hired, and students will be prepared alike for advanced studies in the ancient and modern languages, mathematics, etc., and for the use of the humble primer, cutting off all necessity for going or sending abroad for thorough education."



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