

A barber comes home

Soledad's Tino Regalado glad to be back

By **THAIS SHUBIN**
For The Salinas Californian

Surrounded by his favorite sports memorabilia, barber shop owner Tino Regalado says he feels blessed to have been able to open a barber shop in his hometown of Soledad.

Regalado previously owned Sherwood Barber Shop in Salinas. His new shop is located at 633 Front St. in Soledad.

"It was nice to find a place close to home," he said. "I was getting a little tired of the commute."

Regalado opened Soledad Barber Shop late last year. It's decorated with lots of sports collectibles, as well as antique barber shop furniture.

Along with the trademark antique barber's pole and a 1940s-era cash register, the shop has an old-fashioned Kocken baby haircut chair. The furniture was a gift from Carmen Obesso, whose late husband, Rick, owned Rick's Downtown Barber Shop on West Market Street in Salinas.



SCOTT MACDONALD/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

Tino Regalado, left, cuts the hair of Fred Green in November at Soledad Barber Shop in Soledad.

"I am so grateful for the gift that Mrs. Obesso gave to me," Regalado said. "She made it possible for me to be able to open my own shop by giving me these chairs." Fellow barber Roger Lopez enjoys working at the new shop.

"We have a lot of people that stop in that have known us for years," Lopez said. "It's a very friendly atmosphere."

After years of practice, Regalado says he's confident that all

the bad haircuts are behind him. "The hardest part about cutting hair is communicating what kind of cut the person wants," he said. "It's all about listening and asking them

SOLEDAD BARBER SHOP

- n **BUSINESS:** Barber shop
- n **ESTABLISHED:** Opened under current ownership in late 2005.
- n **EMPLOYEES:** Two.
- n **ORGANIZATION:** Privately owned.
- n **LOCATION:** 633 Front St., Soledad
- n **INFORMATION:** 678-1402.

questions.

"You learn with experience." Regalado learned the art of the haircut in San Jose. What began as a hobby turned into his career.

Now, 12 years later, Regalado is hopeful about his new venture. "It's great to be back in my hometown," he said. "I want my customers to look good. If they don't, then I won't look good either."

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