

The Merkel Mail

Thursday, August 13, 1987 . . . Merkel, Texas

28 cents

City council increases city taxes, new rate set at .3232

The Merkel City Council set the 1987 tax rate and decided to help underwrite the costs of the Tuesday-Thursday Senior Citizens Nutritional Program at their regular meeting Monday night held at the Merkel Emergency Medical Service Building.

The 1987-88 tax rate will be .3232 which is a 3 percent increase over the 1986 rate of .2959.

A one cent tax rate increase only generates about \$3,200 in revenues.

Merkel city manager J. A. Sadler told council he would like to see the city adopt something like the county's road and bridge tax, a separate fee or tax that would be earmarked for street and alley repairs and improvements. Sadler said "The general public would probably go for something like that because they would be able to see the benefits."

Council was also informed of a lot clean up conducted by the city Monday. The corner of North 2nd and Edwards, was cleared and leveled. The property is owned by the Merkel Industrial Foundation and the Merkel Chamber of Commerce will plant trees, flowers, grass and shrubs on the lot.

Sadler also presented council an update on the city's efforts to have

landowners bring their lots into compliance with the city's weed control ordinance. Sadler told councilmen progress was being made and that most of the citizens he had talked to were in favor of the program. He said he had received a few complaints but that most people were cooperating.

Lots on Merkel's Northeast side that are not in compliance with the ordinance are targeted next. Those landowners will be receiving letters in the next two weeks that will give the landowner ten days to bring the lots into compliance.

Councilmen learned of a 13 county law enforcement joint project that is in the planning stages. Area lawmen will form a board of directors to coordinate efforts in fighting major crimes and drugs. The board will be able to make applications for federal grants to hire additional investigators at no costs to the local agencies.

Council also decided Monday to meet a request from the West Central Texas Council of Governments to help fund the Senior Citizens Nutritional Program. The program provides hot meals twice a week at Heritage Hall here. The council of governments had asked for a contribution of \$312.60 from the city to make up for less

funding from the federal government. That request was approved by council.

In other business, council asked the city manager to do some insurance shopping. Council received their new vehicle fleet insurance premium notice this week and the premiums were increased about 80 percent. Sadler told council he saw no reason for the increase since the policy was unchanged from last year and the company had suffered no losses from the policy. He was given permission from council to look into other insurance carriers for a better rate.

Council also received the police report for July. Merkel police worked a total of 49 cases including a case of unlawful carrying of a weapon, five burglaries, a case of sexual abuse of a child and three thefts.

Police also filed one case of wreckless conduct, worked six traffic accidents, investigated a case of a runaway, investigated two assaults, worked a case of class B possession of marijuana and two cases of thefts of motorcycles.

They also investigated a case of shoplifting, issued 18 traffic citations, worked three dog calls and made four arrests.



The city cleaned up a lot on the corner of North 2nd & Edwards here Monday and Tuesday. The lot, owned by the Merkel Industrial

Foundation, will be landscaped by the Merkel Chamber of Commerce.

Staff photo

MISD board members are considering budget that calls for lower taxes

The MISD school board met last Thursday night and approved the Merkel High student handbook.

There were some changes made to the handbook as presented to the board in July.

Board members approved changes that will allow all MISD students to wear "jams" to school. The board will also allow students that are in trouble with either drug or alcohol problems to seek professional counseling guidance as a discipline management technique.

Board members also decided to install an Abilene phone number for the school. The board had asked the superintendent to look into costs for such a line at their July meeting.

Board members also held a budget workshop Tuesday night as they began making final preparations for a budget hearing, set Aug. 18th at 7:30 p.m. in the board conference room at the Merkel High School Annex. The public is invited to attend and make comments on the proposed budget.

The proposed budget for 1987-88 allows for a two cent tax decrease, will see the district add about \$27,000 to its surplus and will not require any surplus funds to be used to fund the budget.

The proposed budget also provides for a 5 percent across the board pay raise for teachers aides, secretaries, clerks, custodians, maintenance personnel, mechanics and bus drivers.

The proposed budget also maintains the present pay and benefit scale for MISD's teachers, including a \$1,000 above state base for all teachers- \$114 a month raise for two teachers that have reached the state maximum-provides for the state mandated five days sick leave- allows five local days of sick leave, two days for personal reasons and three days for a teacher's discretionary use.

The certified taxable value from the Taylor County Central Appraisal District was set at \$117,944,237 and if the district collects 90 percent of the taxes for the 1987-88 school year at the rate of \$1.05, that will generate income of \$1,114,573.03. The 1986 tax rate was \$1.07.

Under the proposed budget, MISD will receive \$4,579,608 in revenues in the 1987-88 school year and will spend \$4,552,819. As mentioned earlier, MISD expects to have a surplus of close to \$27,000 from the proposed budget. MISD has surplus funds in the amount of \$1,140,158 as of July. School board members looked

over the proposed budget Tuesday budget at the August 18th meeting and are expected to approve the

Former THS student

accepts music scholarship

Former Trent student Sam Jones has received a full music scholarship to Weatherford College in Weatherford.

Sam, who won the John Phillips Sousa award for band students at Trent last year, will be playing drums for three different bands at Weatherford. The bands are under the direction of Mrs. Mryra Fields are: Solid Gold (Rock and Top 40) Country Gold (country & western) and the Choir Band.

Sam leaves for Weatherford August 30th and future concerts include the weekend of Sept. 24th

at the Hilton Inn in Fort Worth and three shows at the State Fair of Texas.

Sam has been playing the drums for seven years and is a well-rounded student who won numerous awards at Trent. The awards ranged from All-District in football to most outstanding student as chosen by the faculty. Sam was also chosen Who's Who Among American High School Students his senior year.

Sam is the son of Gerald and Gloria Jones of Trent.

by W. E. Dulaney

Sales tax rebates are lower

Sales tax rebates are down 11.11 percent behind their 1986 pace, according to a news release from the state Comptroller's Office. Merkel's latest check of \$7,297.07 brings the 1987 total to \$41,391.05, compared to last year's total of \$46,564.89.

In Trent, rebates are up .32 percent. So far this year, Trent has received \$52,544.02, compared

to \$2,535.99 for the same period last year.

In Tye, rebates are down 12.10 percent. So far this year, Tye has taken in \$37,825.42, compared to \$43,033.66 for the same period last year.

All other cities in Taylor County are showing losses, except Impact. Rebates there are up .46 percent. Abilene is down 13.17 percent, Buffalo Gap is showing a

3.96 percent loss. Lawn is reporting an 18.55 percent loss and Tuscola is showing a 19.26 percent loss.

Statewide, rebates are down 7.4 percent.

State Comptroller Bob Bullock mailed checks last week totaling 99.7 million in local sales tax payments to the 1,034 cities that levy the local option one percent sales tax.

Tye Chamber of Commerce plans garage sale

The Tye Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a flea market and garage sale Saturday at the Tye Community Building at 105 Scott Street in Tye.

The sale will be held from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. and proceeds from the event will be used on the construction of a museum.

Donations are being accepted by

the Chamber. People wanting to donate items for sale may call 698-2180 and those items will be picked up.

The Chamber is also accepting new items to offer for sale on a consignment basis.

Individuals, as well as merchants and vendors are also being invited to rent spaces and offer

items for sale. Individuals will pay either 10 percent of gross sales with a maximum of \$4 and merchants and vendors will pay 10 percent of gross sales with a \$10 maximum for their spaces.

Space inside the building is limited. You may call Violet Law or Carolyn Wellmaker to register for a space in advance.

Calvary Baptist will dedicate remodeled facility

Calvary Baptist Church will be holding special services Sunday to re-dedicate its newly remodeled auditorium and to celebrate Pastor David Strange's first anniversary with the church here.

The 11:00 a.m. worship service will be followed by a dinner on the church grounds and then Pastor Strange will be recapping the past year as well as delivering a challenge for the year ahead in a special service to follow the dinner.

Brother Strange and his family feel very much at home here.

They are enjoying living in a small town and being a part of the community, school and sports events as well as their ministry at

Calvary Baptist Church. He invites and encourages all friends and church members to be present in this Sunday's services.

Open soccer registration is tonight at Taylor Electric

An open soccer registration will be held at Taylor Electric Co-Op tonight (Thursday) for any child wanting to play soccer.

The registration will be held from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. and local

teams are being fielded for children under 6, under 8, under 10 and under 12.

If your child is new to soccer, a birth certificate is required. The registration fee is \$18.

Taxes, football, new in-law. . . more

by Cloy A. Richards

We have a new city tax rate that's about a penny and a half higher and the MISD board of trustees is looking at a tax rate that is two cents lower than last year's.

That's a far cry from some of the gloom and doom we were warned of earlier in the year before the Texas Legislature came up with a spending bill for the state.

The city council set the new .3232 rate Monday night and Merkel school board members will be holding a public hearing on the 1987-88 budget Tuesday night. In Trent, they are looking at a

tax rate the same as last year's and they will meet Monday night for their public budget hearing.

The effective tax rates for both the City of Merkel and MISD are being published in advertisements in this week's paper.

Merkel and Trent High started two-a-day football workouts Monday and there are high hopes at each practice field.

Both the Badgers and Gorillas are expected to be in the running for playoff positions this season.

Badger head coach Dick Leopard told his crew following the second session Monday they had shown a good effort for the first day of workouts. They were excited, I can say that.

The Badgers will be putting on the pads Friday and will travel to Coleman August 21st for their first scrimmage.

The gang and I were in Sherman over the weekend for the wedding of Melanie's sister.

The ceremony was held in another sister's home and the catering, photography, home improvements and tailoring were all performed by family volunteers. Really, I feel good about the whole thing, because I got a brother-in-law who's an Aggie and loves to quail hunt.

I hope Marcy and Gary Bomar have many years of happiness together.



The 1987-88 cheerleaders for Trent High School are [top] Twila Wilburn, Lisa Penton, Julie Clay and [bottom] Billie Brenda Galvin [center row from

Staff photo

Odell Freeman's services held

Odell Purser Freeman, 73, of Trent, died August 7th at 3:45 p.m. at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene after a short illness.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. August 9th in the McCoy Chapel of Memories in Sweetwater. Rev. Sherman Lawson and Rev. Carl Rea officiated. Burial followed in the Trent Garden of Memories under the direction of the McCoy Funeral Home.

Born Dec. 3, 1913 at White Flat in Nolan County, he was a retired farmer and rancher and had lived at White Flat and near Trent all of his life. He was a church deacon for 46 years and a life member of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, Abilene Chapter.

He married Opal Barnhill July 19, 1934 in Sweetwater.

He is survived by his wife, one son, Ronnie Freeman and one daughter-in-law, Betty of Trent; two granddaughters, Rebecca Sharp and Robbie Shugart, both of Trent; two sisters, Retha Washburn of Anson and Ima Jean Alston of Roundtop; three brothers, Marvin of Trent, Homer of Merkel and Elmer of Sweetwater, and two great-grandchildren.

Serving as pallbearers were Dick Griffith, Jim Martin, Terry Benningfield, Jerry Huffman, Earl Bullard and Bill Fee.

Honorary pallbearers were Jack Yates, Thurston Carter, Clude Harris, Lloyd Mitchell, Bob and Wayne Freeman.



Newsbriefs

McAden honored

Merkel Masonic Lodge # 710 will host an ice cream supper Wednesday, August 19 at 7 p.m. in honor of Brother Lean McAden.

Brother McAden will be presented his 50 year by District Deputy Grand Master Hubert Smith.

All members, friends and relatives are invited to attend the ceremonies and supper.

MHS seniors will meet

The Merkel High Senior Class will have a meeting at Staci Ferguson's home tonight (Thursday) to discuss plans for the bonfire and Fresgman initiation.

All Seniors are invited to attend.

Boosters will meet

Bob Brandon was elected president of the Badger Booster Club Monday night at Badger Stadium.

The club discussed obtaining Badger caps for men and women, bumper stickers for cars, and a community-wide introduction of all athletes to be held before school starts.

The group will meet again Thursday at 7 p.m. at Badger Stadium.

They encourage everyone to come and help back the Badgers.

Turner reunion

The descendants of the late Mr. & Mrs. F. Z. Turner will gather at Merkel's Heritage Hall for their annual reunion August 16.

A basket lunch will be served at noon and friends and relatives are invited to attend.

Golden Saints travel

Fourteen members of the Golden Saints Club of the First Baptist Church here traveled to the

Barrow Foundation Museum at Sherrill, Eola August 10.

Making the trip were Earl & Marjorie Bratcher, Bob & Mae Bockman, Joe & Patsy McDuff, Annie Walker, Pauline Row, Bessie Perry, Alwyne Sandusky, Evorie Dillard, Iva Nelle Bockman, Donnie Casady and Leota

A vast collection of arrowheads, antiques, glass ware, Hummel figurines, old musical equipment, old cars, farm machinery etc., were viewed by all of the group. The group thoroughly enjoyed the exciting adventure of viewing these wonderful collections.

THE BIGGEST HITTER

Newspapers Far More Reliable, Believable For "Best Buy" Info

A survey by the Texas University research department has revealed that consumers feel newspapers easily outdistance all other media in providing "best buy" shopping information.

MEDIA	PERCENT
Newspapers	64%
Direct Mail	21%
TV	11%
Radio	4%

(SOURCE: Texas University's Center for Research)

Shoppers looking for the best, most reliable deal - look to newspapers first and most, because they don't have to remember what they heard. If it's printed in the newspaper, it's **RELIABLE** and **ALWAYS AVAILABLE** for reading, and re-reading.

Prepared by Texas Newspaper Advertising Bureau (TNAB)
An Affiliate of the Texas Press Association

Newspaper Advertising ... your home run slugger

Services held here for Wanda Selman

Wanda Jean Selman, 44 of Merkel, died August 5, 1987 at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene.

Funeral services were held August 7th at the Starbuck Chapel with Rev. Wayne Keller officiating. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery here under the direction of the Starbuck Funeral

Home.

Born March 21, 1944 in Midland, she was the daughter of Ellis Raymond Browne and Mary Kathryn McFarlin Browne. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by a daughter, Tammy Selman of Fayetteville, N.C., a son Fank Selman of Madison, Tenn, her mother Kath-

ryn Creamer of Merkel; four brothers Ray Browne of Amarillo, Lewis Browne of Abilene, Mike Browne of Merkel and Randy Browne of Merkel; three sisters, Gayna Eldred of Blackwell, Judy Rhoades of Victoria and Kathy Fuller of Merkel. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Ralph Perry named local MDA coordinator

Ralph Perry has been named Merkel's Pledge Center Coordinator of the 1987 Jerry Lewis Telethon to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), announced Kay Dillard, MDA program coordinator.

"We're proud to have caring individuals like Mr. Perry working closely with MDA and its supporters," said Dillard. "Our telethon team is dedicated to making this year's show another record-breaker." Telethon '86 was the most successful in the show's history and raised over \$34 million nationally in pledges.

The 22nd annual Labor Day Telethon will be broadcast by KTAB-TV, Channel 32, starting at 8:00 p.m. Sept. 8th and continuing to 6:30 p.m. Sept. 7th. The 21 and a half hour show will originate from Caesars Palace in Las Vegas and will be carried by 200 Love Network television stations.

Money raised by the Labor Day series of telethons helped fund the recent medical discovery by MDA grantees of the gene that, when defective, causes Duchene muscular dystrophy. "The people of the Big Country area can take

great pride in their contributions to this historic breakthrough," says Dillard. "Scientists are now exactly on the right path to develop a treatment or cure- if increased public support of MDA's work can be achieved.

The Association currently sponsors some 500 individual research projects worldwide. It also sup-

ports some 200 outpatient clinics nationwide, where people with any of the 40 muscle disorders covered by MDA programs receive medical care, orthopedic aids and related services.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help during the Telethon should contact Ralph Perry at 928-3182.

Registrations being taken for Church of Christ Tuesday-Thursday school

It is time to register your pre-schooler ages 3-5 for Tuesday-Thursday school at the Merkel Church of Christ.

Beginning Sept. 1st, your pre-schooler can enjoy learning activities that enhance his or her spiritual, emotional and physical growth.

The curriculum includes Bible,

art, learning center activities (number, alphabet, concepts, manners, community helpers and so forth) and supervised free play.

School hours are from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday.

For more information, call Bernice Jacobs at 928-5176.

COUNTRY CLUB of MERKEL

TWILIGHT GOLF SPECIAL 4:30-DARK

Monday-Friday \$8.00 per player
Sunday \$11.00 per player

Includes Cart
2 PLAYER REQUIRED

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Payroll Tax Returns
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Or By Appointment
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Merkel, Texas
928-5663
Monday-Friday 8-5

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928-4122
PERSONAL ATTENTION

GUESS WHO'S 58 THIS WEEK WE LOVE YOU HAPPY BIRTHDAY

GOOD DEALS from a Good Dealer

Now you can make a good deal even better on new John Deere combines and 40- to 300-hp tractors.

8.5% Good Deal Option No. 1
Fixed rate financing (up to 60 months), with life and physical damage insurance.

0.0% Good Deal Option No. 2
Financing for one to two years from the day you buy, or cash discount in lieu of waiver.

Stop in and ask about additional pass-along savings to help you make the best deal possible.

NOTE: Deals available at participating dealers. John Deere financing subject to approval of credit. (Insurance not included in Minnesota.)

Start dealin' today.

ABILENE FARM SUPPLY
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NEW CLASSIFIED AD RATES
New classified ad rates are now in effect. Ads paid in advance will be \$3 for the first 18 words and 15 cents for each additional word. Ads placed by phone will be \$3.75 for the first 18 words and 15 cents per word over 18. If charged ads are not paid for in 30 days, an additional billing fee of \$1.50 will be added. THE MERKEL MAIL

HANDY FOOD STORE

Dr PEPPER 2 LITER PLUS TAX **99¢**

CRYSTAL LIGHT sugar free REG \$3.39 **\$2.99**

CHECK OUT OTHER IN STORE 6 PACK CAN SPECIALS

SAVE-SAVE-SAVE ON IN STORE SPECIALS

RALSTON **FRUIT ISLAND CEREAL** 11 OZ REG \$2.49 **\$2.19**

CORN BREAD MIX **4/\$1.00**

ALL NEW FROM NABISCO

RITZ BITS MINI RITZ NABISCO 9 OZ **\$1.39**

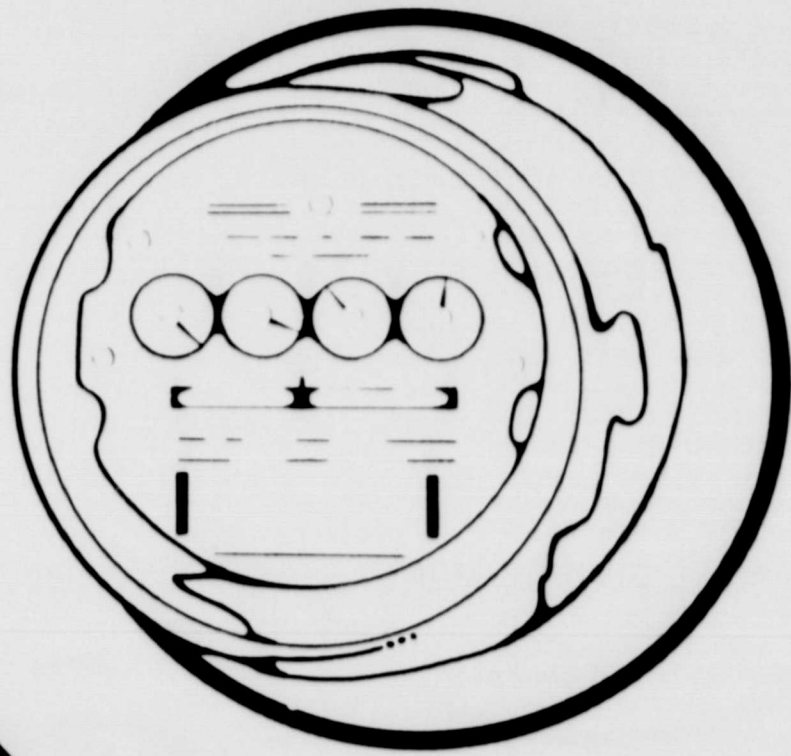
GRAPE NEWTONS NABISCO 12 OZ REG \$2.19 **\$1.89**

NEWTONS VARIETY PACK NABISCO 13 OZ **\$2.19**

WHEW!

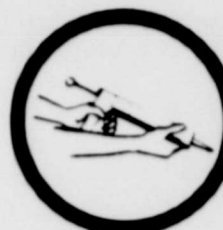
HANDYS IS ON THE MOVE!

HELP SLOW YOUR ELECTRIC METER DOWN THIS SUMMER.



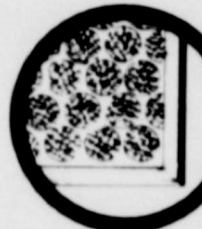
Set Your Thermostat at 78° or Higher.

The recommended thermostat setting for summer cooling is 78° or higher. Portable fans or ceiling fans can help you feel comfortable at higher thermostat settings. Don't forget to turn fans off when you leave the room.



Tightly Seal Air Leaks in Your Home.

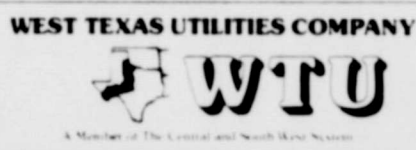
Make sure all cracks around windows, doors, pipes and wiring are tightly sealed with proper caulking and weatherstripping. Also, R-30 insulation in the ceiling, and R-16 insulation in the walls is recommended to adequately insulate your home.



Check Your Filter Regularly.

A dirty filter could keep your air conditioning system from operating as efficiently as possible. Clean permanent filters according to manufacturer's instructions, and replace non-permanent filters.

For more information on how to help slow your electric meter down this summer, call your local WTU office.



NOTICE OF CALCULATION OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

FOR

MERKEL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

THE PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE IS TO INFORM YOU ABOUT YOUR TAXES. THE 1987 EFFECTIVE TAX RATE IS A TAX RATE THAT WOULD LEVY THE SAME AMOUNT OF OPERATING TAXES THE TAXING UNIT LEVIED LAST YEAR ON PROPERTY TAXED IN BOTH YEARS. PLUS THE AMOUNT THE UNIT NEEDS TO PAY CERTAIN LONG TERM DEBTS THIS YEAR. THE RATE IS CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

1986 MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS TAX LEVY:	1,314,604
LESS ADJUSTMENTS TO MAINT. TAX LEVY:	19,342
ADJUSTED 1986 MAINTENANCE LEVY:	1,295,262
1987 TOTAL TAX BASE:	118,317,139
LESS ADJUSTMENTS FOR VALUE OF NEW PROPERTY:	2,865,575
EQUALS ADJUSTED 1987 TAX BASE:	115,451,564
THE ADJUSTED 1986 LEVY DIVIDED BY THE ADJUSTED 1987 TAX BASE & MULTIPLIED BY 100 EQUALS THE EFFECTIVE MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS TAX RATE:	1.1219
PLUS RATE NEEDED TO PAY DEBTS & OBLIGATIONS:	.1085
EQUALS 1987 EFFECTIVE TAX RATE:	1.2304
1987 EFFECTIVE TAX RATE:	1.2304
MAXIMUM RATE, PER \$100 VALUE, THE GOVERNING BODY CAN ADOPT WITHOUT PUBLISHING NOTICES & HOLDING A HEARING IS:	1.2673
MAXIMUM RATE, PER \$100 VALUE, THE GOVERNING BODY CAN ADOPT BEFORE TAXPAYERS CAN INITIATE ROLLBACK PETITIONS IS:	1.3288
ESTIMATED UNENCUMBERED FUND BALANCE FOR M & O:	1,032,931.35
ESTIMATED UNENCUMBERED FUND BALANCE FOR I & S:	29,700.00

Merkel Elementary's school supplies

The following is the school supply list for Merkel Elementary students:

Kindergarten

Large box of Kleenex, school box, 1 box of Crayons (8) jumbo, regular size, 2 pencils # 2, Kinghead Saf-T-Cut blunt scissors with plastic handle, two bottles of glue 4 oz (no paste), 2 packages of construction paper (12 X 18), 2 packages of manilla paper (12 X 18), 2 guide line writing tablets (Nifty # 2047, Epci, Aladdin Guide Line Paper, Hytone # 48 2110), 1 large eraser and a plastic rest mat.

First Grade

1 pair of safety scissors, 3 pencils # 2, 1 eraser, 1 box of crayons, 1 package of assorted construction paper, 1 package of large manilla paper, 1 school box-preferably plastic, 1 large box of

Kleenex, 1 Big Chief tablet, 2 guide line writing tablets (Nifty # 2047, Aladdin or Hytone guide line paper), 2 containers of Elmer's glue (4 oz), 1 set of watercolors.

Second Grade

2 large packages of notebook paper (regular rules paper), 2 guide-line writing tablets (Nifty # 2047, Aladdin or Hytone guide line tablet), 1 box of crayons (24 to the box), 1 pair scissors-pointed, 28 2 pencils, school box, 3 folders with pockets, 3 spiral notebooks, 1 small bottle of Elmer's glue, 1 small package manilla paper (9 X 12), 1 large box of Kleenex.

Third Grade

Notebook and notebook paper, scissors, crayons, 2 # 2 pencils, 1 large eraser, construction paper (mixed colors 9 X 12), red lead grading pencil, 1 bottle of Elmer's glue 4 oz, manilla drawing paper

(12 X 18), a large box of Kleenex and a ruler.

Fourth Grade

Notebook paper (regular lined), 1 spiral (50 page), 1 vinyl 3 ring binder (no trappers), 2 pencils, crayola markers, crayons (24 count), 1 ruler (12 inch), glue, scissors, Kleenex, manilla paper, construction paper, 4 red grading pencils, eraser, 1 plastic zippered pencil case for notebook.

Fifth Grade

4 pencils # 2, 200 sheets of wide line loose leaf notebook paper, 1 ruler (12 inch), crayons and or markers, map colors, 2 large boxes of Kleenex, 1 rubber cement, 1 Elmer's glue, scissors, 1 package of assorted construction paper, 1 eraser, plastic box for supplies, a large 3 ring notebook, Thesaurus, 1 Highlighter- any color, a plastic pencil holder for notebook.

Carey's hold annual reunion here

Family and friends of the late William & Mary Carey gathered at the Taylor Electric Co-Op on August 8th, William's birthday.

Carey & Helen Jane; Rocky & Shirley Carey, Chad, Tami & Kevin; Wayne & Bonnie Carey, all of Lubbock.

The day was spent reminiscing, looking at photos of times past, remembering family members and eating lots of good food.

Also: Clements & Dorothy Clements of Crane, Elvin Carey of Odessa, LaVaughn Carey of Arlington, Mike & Sandra Carey, Stephen & Daniel of Round Rock; Maxwell Carey, Kelly White, Johnnie & Shirley O'Dell & Bart; Dustin John O'Dell, all of Amarillo.

lo, R. V. Carey, Buddy Carey, Truman & Christopher Carey, Carlton & Elvie Brooks & Louise Cole, all of Abilene.

Also: Fred & Lanell Hopkins of Midland, Victor Carey of Brownwood, David, Patti & Jeramey Kraatz of Hobbs, N.M., Jimmy Carey, T.J. & Margie Bird, Wiley & Edith Noah, Mabel McRee, all of Merkel and Mr. & Mrs. Larry Carey and children of Eula.

American mid-size family farms are finding it harder to stay competitive

Recent research regarding the economics of farm size indicates why the mid-size family farm is dying.

And technology changes in the future will make it even more difficult for these farms to compete, according to an agricultural economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service at Texas A & M University.

Dr. Ronald D. Knutson says that although the mid-size family farm has been the backbone of U. S. Agriculture, it is bearing the brunt of current financial stress.

Knutson adds, "There is a consensus that agriculture is likely to be dominated by small farms that earn the majority of their income outside of farming and by large farms."

He says that the family farm survival problem has been referred to as the "disappearing middle."

Knutson defines a mid-size family farm as one that meets the following conditions:

- A majority of both the management and work must be done by the operator and his family.
- A close association must exist between the household and the business.
- Managerial control must be exercised by the operator.
- The farm must obtain a majority of its income from farming.

Knutson says that research conducted during the past five years on this subject in the Agricultural and Food Policy Center at Texas A & M University sheds some light on why the "mid-size family farm is disappearing."

He said, "There has been progressive expansion in the most efficient size of farms and, as a result, mid-size family farms have been losing, or have lost, their comparative advantage."

Knutson adds that a study to be released soon relating to the economies of size bears out the cost advantages for large farms in the nation's three largest crop producing states.

The study revealed that in California cotton production costs per pound decreases as size of farm increases to at least 8,000 acres.

In Texas and Kansas, the study also disclosed that wheat costs per bushel decline as production reaches the 4,000 acre mark.

Additionally, the research showed that in Nebraska, corn costs fall of farm sizes of up to 3,700 acres; while in Kansas, sorghum costs became progressively lower as production reached 4,000 acres.

California rice producers realized progressively lower costs as production reached or exceeded 6,000 acres, according to the study.

"The study documented in every instance that large farms do have lower unit costs of production," says Knutson.

He points out that large farms are able to buy farm inputs at lower prices and market their production at higher prices.

"If quantity discount purchases are not available from farm supply firms, large farms become

classified as distributors and receive up to 20 percent discounts on inputs," he adds.

Large farms are also able to sell their commodities at higher prices and are more effective at developing and implementing marketing plans, he adds.

Research also indicates that large farms may be more progressive in adopting new technologies than mid-size family farms.

"The studies show a positive relationship between the adoption of management factors on dairy farms and size of farm. The result is that large dairy farms have a

higher average output per cow," Knutson says.

"The research results should not be surprising. They are consistent with trends that have been taking place in agriculture toward fewer--but larger--farms," he adds.

Nevertheless, the "disappearing middle" is an important agricultural policy issue.

"This is particularly significant since future technological changes will make it even more difficult for mid-size family farms to compete," he said.

Higher cattle and cotton prices helps keep farm hopes up

Higher cattle and cotton prices are expected to improve the 1987 agricultural income for Texas, according to an economist in marketing with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

These two commodities account for more than half of the state's farm income, says Dr. Carl G. Anderson of the Texas A & M University System.

Livestock receipts may exceed \$6 billion, an increase of 11 percent from a year earlier. Crop marketings are expected to total about \$3 billion to remain about steady with a year ago.

"In addition, large government payments and agriculturally related income from hunting leases, horses, and other outdoor recreation, and off-farm income will likely increase net farm income some 5 to 10 percent this year," Anderson estimates.

Farm expenses overall will probably remain stable, he predicts. Energy and chemical expenses may increase slightly, while depreciation, capital and land costs are expected to remain low.

Anderson notes that land values are showing signs of stabilizing, the credit crunch appears to be easing, and with the weaker dollar, export prospects are improving.

"Farm commodity markets the

first half of this year, compared with the same period last year, show prices 25 percent higher for calves and lambs, wool is up 20 percent, beef cattle and sheep are showing 15 percent increases, hogs are posting a 12 percent rise, and milk is up 3 percent. Partially offsetting these increases, however, are 7 percent lower egg prices and 4 percent lower broiler prices," Anderson says.

He points out that most crops are marketed in the second half of the year. At mid-year, however, prices for cotton are substantially higher, and rice is up slightly from levels of a year earlier. Sorghum and corn prices are considerably lower, with wheat down moderately.

The keys to restoring farm prosperity lie partly beyond the farm gate, Anderson says.

"Nationally, a smaller deficit, lower interest rates and a weak dollar are needed to facilitate capital investments and enhance farm exports. Stronger trade agreements and a competitive world price would help encourage agricultural shipments overseas," the economist adds.

With lower agricultural returns, producers are striving to use more and better production and market information to manage a business, not just a farm, Anderson explains.

State crude production hits new low

Texas crude oil production averaged 1,973,729 barrels daily in May, according to preliminary figures released by Railroad Commission Chairman Mack Wallace. It marks the first time since 1944 Texas' daily crude production has dipped below 2 million barrels per day.

The May figure compares with

preliminary April production of 2,004,009 barrels daily. Final production reports for April indicated average production at 2,021,583 barrels daily.

The preliminary monthly oil production figures for May is 61,185,596 barrels, up from 60,120,258 barrels in April.

Hunters safety course planned here

A course in hunting safety will be held here Saturday and Sunday.

Bill and Bonnie Fariello and J.D. Sandusky will teach the course. Instruction will be given in first aid, gun safety, wilderness survival, game identification and game laws for this area.

The ten hour course will be from

1 until 6 p.m. each day and those successfully completing the course will receive certificates. Students 12 and older (with parental permission) will receive certification from the Texas Department of Parks & Wildlife.

The classes will be held at Taylor Electric.

For more information, call 928-5373 or 928-5170.

The Classifieds

Ads pay

FOR SALE

Good clean top soil. Caliche, base, gravel, septic and drives, backhoe work, cleanups. Call 928-5534.

12-TFC

For Sale: Pecan dining room suite; six chairs & table \$300. Call 928-5109.

33-11c

For Sale: 8N Ford tractor & shredder, chisel plow, tow bar, 8 speeds forward, good rubber, all for \$2,850. Call 928-4106.

33-11p

For Sale: Clarinet for \$100. Call 928-5704 or 928-4703.

33-11p

For Sale: 1982 Grand Prix, Brogham, diesel \$2,500. Call 928-4588.

33-21p

For Sale: Gemeinhardt flute \$250 or best offer. Call 928-4586.

33-TFC

For Sale: full blood cocker spaniel puppies \$65. call 862-6366.

33-11c

For sale: mattress and box springs for twin bed; bunk bed frame, full size bed frame. Call 862-6146.

33-11c

MISC.

JOB WANTED: 38 year old vet wants a job as equipment operator, tractor driver, ranch-farm hand. Call 928-4986.

33-21p

CASH for used air conditioners, any type, any condition. Amerine Mechanical 928-4876.

17-TFC

Granny's Playhouse Day Care Center Open 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Hot lunch & snacks provided. For more information call 928-4904 or come by 207 Orange.

25-11c

Federal, State & Civil Service jobs \$16,707 to \$59,148 per year. Now hiring. Call Job Line 1-518-459-3611 Ext F6692 for information 24 hours.

31-31p

KEEP COOL! Did you know we service all brands of cooling systems, central air, window units, evaporative coolers, etc? We also sell used air conditioners. Call us at Amerine Mechanical 928-4876.

TFC

Germania Insurance Company. For your insurance needs. Locally represented by Donna Carter 928-5348.

TFC

KIDS CORNER DAY CARE CENTER. 2nd & Oak, open Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Call 928-4381.

TFC

Own your own apparel or shoe store, choose from: Jean/ sportswear ladies apparel, mens, children/ maternity large sizes, petite dancewear/ aerobic, bridal, lingerie or accessory store. Add color analysis. Brands: Liz Claiborne, Gasoline, Healthtex, Levi, Lee, Camp Beverly Hills, St. Michele, Chaus, Outback Red, Genesis, Forzena, Organically. Grow. Over 1,000 others. Or \$13.99 One Price Designer, multi-tier pricing discount or family store. Retail prices unbelievable for quality shoes normally priced from \$19. Top \$60. Over 450 brands, 4,600 styles. \$14,800 to \$26,900. Inventory, training, fixtures, grand opening, airfare, etc. Can open 15 days Mr. Loughlin (612) 888-6555.

25-TFC

We make hydraulic hoses. P & L Auto Parts, 135 Edwards 928-4736.

25-TFC

Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon closed meetings are Tuesday & Thursday at 7 p.m. at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church.

P & L Auto Parts is open from 7:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. each Saturday at 135 Edwards.

TFC

Hollis Home repair. Painting, plumbing, paneling, floor tile, sewer service, evaporative cooler service. C. J. Hollis 928-4108 in Merkel. Formerly with Conner Construction.

26-TFC

Blue's Plumbing: For your complete plumbing needs. Water heater & mobile home hook up. Earl Blue 1-698-0344. Monday - Saturday.

33-21c

Would like to clean your house weekly or bi-weekly Tye or Merkel area. 928-5666.

32-21p

Free estimates on your upholstery needs. We make furniture, carpets and car interiors look like new. Call 928-5531 **Merkel Upholstery.**

33-11p

Home-Farm-Ranch Maintenance and repair, concrete, carpentry, fences, tree trimming, hauling, mowing, reasonable rates. 928-4986.

33-21p

For: kittens, different ages, males and females, some free. Merkel Vet Clinic 928-5235.

Learn how you can get \$40 in free merchandise. Come to my Open House Party at 507 Thornton 6:30 p.m. til 7:30 p.m. Monday, August 17th.

33-11p

Skinny's Convenience Stores are now accepting applications for managers, assistant managers and clerks in the Trent and Merkel area. Must have home telephone, reliable transportation, willing to work evenings and weekends. polygraph. No previous sales experience necessary but must have good work history. Good benefit package and the opportunity for advancement. Applications available at I-20 and FM 1965 in Trent and 1207 N. 7th in Merkel.

33-21c

Would like to do housekeeping. Please call 928-4586.

33-TFC

REAL ESTATE

House for sale at a bargain! 2 bedroom, kitchen, living room, 1 bath, has central heat, all furniture and appliances stay. Call Cyrus Pee, Agent 928-5613.

17-TFC

House for sale in Trent: 3 bedroom, 2 bath, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, steel siding, storm windows, carpet, central air & heat, built in range & oven, dishwasher, water well. Cyrus Pee Realtor 928-5613.

31-TFC

For Sale: 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, all brick, all electric, home near school. Central heat and air in the middle to 2 lots, ask for Dorothy 698-4484 or 695-7634.

31-TFC

For Sale: 2 story, large living room, dining room, kitchen, master bedroom & bath, down stairs large up-stairs, 3 bedrooms, bath, lots of storage room on corner lot, priced to sell. Cyrus Pee, Realtor 928-5613.

20-TFC

For Sale: 3 bedroom, 1 bath, living room, kitchen, Frame house on 3 acres. 4 1/2 miles North of Merkel. Toombs Real Estate 928-4144.

25-TFC

For Sale: 3 bedroom, 1 bath, on 2 lots, well insulated, vinyl siding, 1 block from High School call 698-3624 or 512-895-2141 or 512-895-2259.

17-TFC

Austin stone house for sale at 308 Rose in Merkel. Call 928-5921 or 928-4144.

10-TFC

FOR RENT
Equal Housing Opportunity

Shannonside Apartments

\$ 1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments, all electric, central heat & cooling. For more information, call 928-5038.

25-TFC

For rent: large 2 bedroom apartment, ceiling fan, dishwasher, all electric, water paid, at 205 Taylor or call Sheley at 928-3472.

32-31c

1,2 & 3 bedroom mobile homes. Rates start at \$185 and \$200 is the highest rent. Mobile home lots for rent near school \$50 per month. West end of S 7th. Call 928-4973.

23-TFC

For rent: \$200 per month, 2 bedroom, mobile home, carpeted, central air & heat, stove & refrigerator, fenced yard, call 928-5251 or 928-5052.

23-TFC

For Rent: large 2 bedroom apartment, ceiling fan, dishwasher, all electric, water paid at 205 Taylor or call Sheley at 928-3472.

31-31c

GARAGE SALES

Garage Sale: Friday & Saturday at 120 N 3rd. A little bit of everything.

33-11p

Garage sale at 112 Locust, Thursday & Friday 8-6. tv, school clothes, glassware, shoes, knick-knacks.

33-11p

Garage sale: Friday & Saturday 5 2nd & Lois, boys sizes 14-16, ladies sizes 5 to 10 1/2. New things.

33-11p

Garage Sale: Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 406 Rose. Opens at 8.

33-11c

Moving sale: furniture, windjammer, tables & chairs, beds, clothing and lots of misc at 701 Cherry Storage building # 2, Thursday & Friday.

33-11c

Garage Sale: Thursday & Saturday only: Baby clothes & items, ladies clothes sizes 3-5 and larger sizes; men's jeans & shirts; girls' womens small size shoes household items, light fixtures, stove top, freezer and misc. 1819 S 5th John Brady.

33-11c

Huge community garage sale: Nolan/ Divide community center Friday & Saturday 9-5 FM 126 Nolan.

33-11c

Yard sale in Trent: turn South on Main across tracks, two story grey house on left Saturday & Sunday.

33-11c

Big Yard sale: 404 Rose, Friday all day Saturday until Noon. Lots of good stuff.

33-11p

GARAGE SALE & FLEA MARKET

Sponsored by the Tye Chamber of Commerce Saturday 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Tye Community Center, 106 Scott Street in Tye. Buyers and vendors needed (cheap spaces) For information, call 698-2180.

3 Family garage sale at 1409 S 1st Thursday & Friday. Chest type freezer, clothes, what nots and misc.

33-11p

CARDS OF THANKS

The Odell Freeman family wishes to express our love and appreciation for the food, flowers, and visits. Most of all, we would like to thank you for your prayers while Odell was sick in the hospital and for all of the love and thoughtfulness during his passing.

We Love You The Odell Freeman Family

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF TYE, TEXAS STREET SEAL COATING ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed bids for the construction of STREET SEAL COATING will be received by THE CITY OF TYE, TEXAS at City Hall, 205 North Street, Tye, Texas, until 7:00 P.M. August 20, 1987, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud.

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information Bidders, Performance Bond and Payment Bond, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications and Addenda may be examined at Tye City Hall or the office of Jacob & Martin, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606.

A Bid Bond will not be required; however, the successful Bidder will be required to provide a Performance and Payment Bond in the amount of 100 percent of the contract price.

Award of the contract will be made to the lowest responsive, responsible Bidder. The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive formalities.

The Plans, Specifications and Bid Documents may be obtained from the office of Jacob & Martin, Inc., 3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606 (915) 695-1070 upon payment of \$15.00 per set, non-refundable.

33-11c

(residentially known as 1965 Vogel.) Plaintiffs (Vogel, Abilene, Texas 79601.) Plaintiffs have been in actual, open, notorious, exclusive, hostile and adverse possession of the real property here involved since April 1, 1977. This date precedes the commencement of this action by more than ten years. Because record title appears in the name of G. L. Shields and wife, Lula Bell Shields, a cloud exists on Plaintiff's title to the herein described property. Plaintiffs seek judgement for title in and to the real property described herein, removing the cloud which the Defendants, or any one of them, could assert to Plaintiff's title. Plaintiff seek such other and further relief to which Plaintiffs may be justly entitled, including cost of court and reasonable attorney's fees as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition in file in this suit.

If this citation is not served within ninety days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly execute the same according to law, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and the Seal of said Court, at office in Abilene, Texas, this 13th day of July, A.D. 1987.

Attest: Rilla Mahoney, Clerk, 42nd District Court, Taylor County, Texas by JoAnn Lackey Deputy (Seal)

30-41c

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS County of Taylor NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That by virtue of a certain Execution issued out of the Honorable 42nd District Court of Taylor County, of the 28th day of July, 1987, by Writ of Execution of said 42nd District Court of Taylor County, for the sum of four thousand eight hundred sixty four & 25/100 Dollars and costs of suit, under a Judgement, in favor of GOGGANS & SONS INC. in a certain cause in said Court, No 38,827-A and styled GOGGANS & SONS INC. vs. SONNY JONES aka WILLIAM F. JONES IN-

DEED RECORDS OF TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS, and being out of Section 85 T & P RR Co. Block 14, Taylor County, Texas; and levied upon as the property of SONNY JONES aka WILLIAM F. JONES INDIVIDUALLY dba ADVANCE EXPLORATION and that on the First Tuesday in September, 1987, the same being the 1st day of said month at the Court House door, of Taylor County, in the City of Abilene, Texas, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., by virtue of said levy, and said Writ of Execution, I will sell said above described Real Estate at public vendue, for each, to the highest bidder, as the property of said SONNY JONES aka WILLIAM F. JONES, INDIVIDUALLY dba ADVANCE EXPLORATION.

SALE WILL BE HELD AT 10:00 A.M. SALE WILL BE FOR CASH ONLY.

And in compliance with law, I give this notice by publication, in the English Language, once a week for three consecutive weeks immediately preceding said day of sale in The Merkel Mail, a newspaper published in Taylor County.

Witness my hand, this the 5th day of August, 1987.

JOHN W. MIDDLETON, Sheriff, Taylor County, Texas by Frank Solis, Jr., Deputy

105-33-31c

MOVING AGAIN? Available now CHERRY STREET STORAGE & SELF STORAGE

UNITS. Many available at competitive prices: 6X10, 10X10, 10X15, 10X20, and 10X30's. You lock it, you keep the key. \$15 deposit, low monthly rates. 701 Cherry Street, Merkel 928-4336.

TILE • SHAKE • WOOD • COMPOSITION

BILLY E. CLARK ROOFING CONTRACTOR

Rt. 3, Merkel, TX. 79536 915-846-3281

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102 Edwards 928-5379

Funeral Pre-arrangement The last and most loving bequest for your family. Let us help **STARBUCK FUNERAL HOME** 201 Edwards 928-4711

MERKEL VET CLINIC LARGE & SMALL ANIMALS RANCH & HOUSE CALLS BY APPOINTMENT FM 126 NORTH OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30 - 5:30 (CLOSED 12-1) SATURDAY 8 UNTIL NOON CALL 928-5235 928-4775 AFTER HOURS

Funeral Pre-arrangement The last and most loving bequest for your family. Let us help **STARBUCK FUNERAL HOME** 201 Edwards 928-4711

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ADVANCE EXPLORATION placed in my hands for service, I, JOHN W. MIDDLETON as Sheriff of Taylor County, Texas, did, on the 3rd day of August, 1987, levy on certain Real Estate, situated in Taylor County, Texas, described as follows, to-wit:

Bradley Replat of Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9. A portion of North Park Addition, recorded in Vol. Y, Page 638, Taylor County Deed Records January 9, 1964. Being a replat of a portion of Lots 4, 5, 6 and 9 and all of lots 7 and 8 Block 9, North Park Addition, which is recorded in Volume Y, Page 638, Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, and being out of Section 85 T & P RR Co. Block 14, Taylor County, Texas; and levied upon as the property of SONNY JONES aka WILLIAM F. JONES INDIVIDUALLY dba ADVANCE EXPLORATION and that on the First Tuesday in September, 1987, the same being the 1st day of said month at the Court House door, of Taylor County, in the City of Abilene, Texas, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., by virtue of said levy, and said Writ of Execution, I will sell said above described Real Estate at public vendue, for each, to the highest bidder, as the property of said SONNY JONES aka WILLIAM F. JONES, INDIVIDUALLY dba ADVANCE EXPLORATION.

And in compliance with law, I give this notice by publication, in the English Language, once a week for three consecutive weeks immediately preceding said day of sale in The Merkel Mail, a newspaper published in Taylor County.

Witness my hand, this the 5th day of August, 1987.

JOHN W. MIDDLETON, Sheriff, Taylor County, Texas by Frank Solis, Jr., Deputy

105-33-31c

MOVING AGAIN? Available now CHERRY STREET STORAGE & SELF STORAGE

UNITS. Many available at competitive prices: 6X10, 10X10, 10X15, 10X20, and 10X30's. You lock it, you keep the key. \$15 deposit, low monthly rates. 701 Cherry Street, Merkel 928-4336.

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Funeral Pre-arrangement The last and most loving bequest for your family. Let us help **STARBUCK FUNERAL HOME**

Writer says Six-Man game is real football

This reporter was talking to a co-worker last week about football. The Cowboys, Abilene High, Abilene Cooper, Merkel, Clyde, etc. etc when he asked me "do you thing Trent will ever play real football?". This reporter proceeded to tell him Six-Man football was real football and he ought to come watch a game. He told me he'd rather watch a quilting bee than a

six man game. He doesn't know what he is missing. Six-Man football has all the excitement of the 11 man game. It has the excellent athletes, the macho linemen, and yes, even the good looking cheerleaders.

For the last four years, I have had the privilege of attending the Trent Gorilla football games. Granted, at first I was skeptical. I

played 11 man ball for Abilene High, to me, there was no way a small school could play good football, especially a small school that plays Six-Man football.

But after watching athletes like Bebo Beaver, Chris Simpson, Lewis Knapp, Richard Boswell of Jayton and Armando Aguillar of Fort Worth, I have come to the realization that these schools can play football and play it well. Six-Man schools often never get

the attention of big city newspapers, tv news coverage or radio broadcasts but the Six-Man athlete is just as capable as their 11 man counterparts. These teams start up practice in August with the elusive dream of winning the state championship. Whether that team goes 0-10 or reaches the top of the Six-Man rankings, each and every athlete deserves the respect that is often not given because he plays Six-Man football.

The last two years, Trent has sent a football player to the college ranks. In 1985, Bebo Beaver agreed to attend McMurry College in Abilene and in 1986, Chris Simpson agreed to play for Sul Ross College in Alpine. How man 11 man schools can say they have sent players to the college ranks two consecutive years? How many schools can even say college scouts attend their games?

I am sold on Six Man football and I feel it is high time that cities like Abilene and Sweetwater take Merkel's lead and rise up and take notice of these schools.

It would surprise quite a few people if they would attend a Six-Man game. I know I was surprised.

by W. E. Dulaney

THE BEST PARTNERS

Advertising In This Newspaper Helps Our Town

(Local businesses that advertise in your newspaper are leaders in helping to build and improve the community. Such advertisers are the best supporters of every community.)

... newspaper ad revenues make possible the flow of information to the public ... these ad dollars are kept in the community as an investment in the local area.

... losses of ad revenues to direct mail destroys the flow of information to the public and, subsequently, damages the local community.

(SOURCE: Portland, Oregon Seminar)

Prepared by Texas Newspaper Advertising Bureau (TNAB)
An affiliate of the Texas Press Association

Retailers/Newspapers ... formula for success

2 from Trent in AJRA

The Junior Rodeo season is going full blast and Trent cowboys and cowgirls are making a good showing all over the Big Country.

In the Ranger Open Jr. Rodeo, D. J. Bland, age 8, split 3rd and 4th money in steer riding and took home the buckle for first place in goat hair pulling.

D.J. and sister, Kaci, age 6, were entered in the 8 and under World Championship Barrel Racing Competition August 9th in Snyder. The competition is produced by the V. W. Ogen family of Gail and pits the best barrel racers in the business against each other. No results were available at press time but we are sure that Trent was well represented.

Two Trent cowboys, D. J. Bland and Brett Sipe have qualified for the AJRA National Finals Aug. 10th through the 16th at the Scurry County Coliseum in Snyder. Both are entered in the 12 and under barrels and poles.

Every cowboy or cowgirl dreams of a world championship in their event, whether that cowboy is 8 or 38, his goal is to be the best, win and win big.

On August 10th through 16th, AJRA cowboys and cowgirls will converge on Snyder to compete in everything from pole bending to bull riding to crown a Junior Rodeo National Champion.

To qualify for the AJRA finals, a cowboy must place in his or her event in at least one rodeo during the year, just like the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. The AJRA keeps track of the total money winnings for the year and they will add the go-round money won during the week to the yearly money and on Saturday, the top four will compete head to head for the championship.

These young men and women are the cream of the crop. Each one has won money during the year and most hope to continue on to a professional career. Whether the event is goat hair pulling, barrel racing or bull riding, they have put in countless hours of practice and travel to be able to say they have competed against and with the best of the states of New Mexico, Oklahoma and Tex-

as has to offer. If they win, they have the buckle that says that are the AJRA National Champion.

Trent firemen are busy

The Trent Volunteer Fire Department was called to put out a fire at the Trent Gin Friday.

The call was received at 4:30 p.m. and the fire originated at the burr hopper and was quickly extinguished by Trent Fire Chief Oddie Davis and his fellow firemen. "There wasn't any danger and it only took about 100 gallons to put the fire out," Davis said.

On Sunday afternoon, volunteer fireman Don Horton put out a small fire on a car at I-20 and Main. Davis told *The Mail* "Don was at Skinny's and saw the fire. He put it out with water and rags and probably nipped it in the bud before it really got started. It could have been a lot worse if it hadn't been for Don's quick actions."

by W. E. Dulaney

School funding increases

Under the new \$38.3 billion state budget adopted by the State Legislature last month, public education received a \$300 million increase in state aid.

Although many school districts across the state will experience a decrease in state funding, Trent will enjoy an increase from \$275,000 to \$300,000.

During the special session, lawmakers compromised to re-

duce the entire budget by .65 percent rather than cut public education. The Legislative Budget Board computed this reduction by making larger cuts in the wealthier districts.

The final formula for making the .65 percent cut in public schools will be decided by the State Board of Education in September.

by W. E. Dulaney

Trent teachers are new

Trent ISD has hired two new teachers for the 1987-88 school year.

With the resignation of Mrs. Linda Varner, the kindergarten teacher's job was filled by Mrs. Judy Bradford. Mrs. Bradford comes over from Ozona.

The new secondary math teach-

er is Mr. Ross Jontra. Mr. Jontra comes to Trent from the Silvertown ISD.

With the hiring of these two teachers, and the contract offer to the new science teacher, Trent has filled their teaching positions for the 1987-88 school year.

by W. E. Dulaney

GUESS WHO'S

31

THIS WEEK

WE LOVE YOU

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



NOTICE OF CALCULATION OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE FOR CITY OF MERKEL

THE PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE IS TO INFORM YOU ABOUT YOUR TAXES. THE 1987 EFFECTIVE TAX RATE IS A TAX RATE THAT WOULD LEVY THE SAME AMOUNT OF OPERATING TAXES THE TAXING UNIT LEVIED LAST YEAR ON PROPERTY TAXED IN BOTH YEARS. PLUS THE AMOUNT THE UNIT NEEDS TO PAY CERTAIN LONG TERM DEBTS THIS YEAR. THE RATE IS CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

1986 MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS TAX LEVY:	119,234
1987 TOTAL TAX BASE:	38,290,827
LESS ADJUSTMENTS FOR VALUE OF NEW PROPERTY:	292,367
EQUALS ADJUSTED 1987 TAX BASE:	37,998,460

THE ADJUSTED 1986 LEVY DIVIDED BY THE ADJUSTED 1987 TAX BASE & MULTIPLIED BY 100 EQUALS THE EFFECTIVE MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS TAX RATE:

PLUS RATE NEEDED TO PAY DEBTS & OBLIGATIONS:	-0-
EQUALS 1987 EFFECTIVE TAX RATE:	.3138
1987 EFFECTIVE TAX RATE:	.3138

MAXIMUM RATE, PER \$100 VALUE, THE GOVERNING BODY CAN ADOPT WITHOUT PUBLISHING NOTICES & HOLDING A HEARING IS:

MAXIMUM RATE, PER \$100 VALUE, THE GOVERNING BODY CAN ADOPT BEFORE TAXPAYERS CAN INITIATE ROLLBACK PETITIONS IS:

ESTIMATED UNENCUMBERED FUND BALANCE FOR M & O:	-0-
ESTIMATED UNENCUMBERED FUND BALANCE FOR I & S:	-0-

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: 1980 CHEVROLET, TWO DOOR VIN# 1P-87LAL557323 OR THE UNKNOWN OWNER OR ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING ANY INTEREST IN A 1980 CHEVROLET AUTOMOBILE

Parties in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause:

You (and each of you) are hereby commanded to appear before the 104th District Court of Taylor County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse of said county in the City of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the first Monday after the expiration of 48 days from the date of the issuance hereof; that is to say, at or before, 10 o'clock A.M. on the 7th day of September, 1987, and answer the petition of plaintiff in Cause Number 1813-D, in which THE STATE OF TEXAS (Plaintiff) VS. 1976 CHEVROLET P/U AUTOMOBILE (Defendant), filed in said Court on the 22nd day of May, 1987, and the nature of which said suit is as follows: The state of Texas is seeking a forfeiture of a 1976 CHEVROLET P/U, VIN CCL-146S130023 bearing Texas license 2598JX, which vehicle was registered to ANTONIO MURILLO of 2425 GREEN, ABILENE, TAYLOR COUNTY, Texas, and which was seized by officers of the 350th County District Attorney's Office on May 21, 1987, in TAYLOR COUNTY, Texas while it was being used in the transportation for delivery of MARIJUANA.

All is more fully appear from Petitioner's Original Petition on file in this office, and which reference is here made for all intents and purposes.

WINTRESS RILLA MAHONEY, DISTRICT CLERK of the District Courts of TAYLOR County, Texas, while it was being used in the transporting for delivery of MARIJUANA AND COCAINE.

All is more fully appear from Petitioner's Original Petition on file in this office, and which reference is here made for all intents and purposes.

WITNESS, DISTRICT CLERK of the District Courts of TAYLOR County, Texas.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at office in the City of Abilene, Texas, this 17th day of July, 1987.

Rilla Mahoney, District Clerk, Taylor County, Texas By Patricia Henderson (Seal) 31-4tc-85

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE THE STATE OF TEXAS -County of Taylor -NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That by virtue of a certain order of sale issued out of the Honorable 42nd District Court of Taylor County, of the 15th day of July, 1987, by order of sale of said 42nd District Court Taylor County, Texas for the sum of twenty three thousand eight hundred sixty six and 21/100 Dollars and costs of suit, under a Judgement, in favor of GILLISPIE OIL COMPANY vs BIG STAR DRILLING COMPANY, placed in my hands for service, i, John W. Middleton, as Sheriff of Taylor County, Texas, did, on the 21st day of

July, 1987, levy on certain real estate, situated in Taylor County, Texas, described as follows, to-wit: a 12.5 percent working interest in an oil, gas and mineral lease known as the Cnok-Billingsley lease, located in Taylor County, Texas, on the following described property, to-wit: being the South half of the NE 1/4, Section 21, Lunatic Asylum Land, limited to production from the surface down to a depth of 2,400 feet subsurface, Taylor County, Texas; and levied upon as the property of BIG STAR DRILLING and that of the first Tuesday in September, 1987, the same being the 1st day of said month at the Court House door, of Taylor County, in the city of Abilene, Texas, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., for each, to the highest bidder, as the property of said BIG STAR DRILLING. Sale will be held at 10:45 a.m. Sale will be for cash only.

And in compliance with law, I give this notice by publication, in the English language, once a week for three consecutive weeks immediately preceding said day of sale, in THE MERKEL MAIL, a newspaper published in Taylor County.

Witness my hand, this 21st day of July, 1987. John W. Middleton Sheriff, Taylor County, Texas By Eddie Swanson, Sr., Deputy 31-82-3tc

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE THE STATE OF TEXAS County of Taylor

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That by virtue of a certain Writ of Execution issued out of the Honorable 134th District Court of Dallas County, of the 8th day of July, 1987, by Writ of Execution of said 134th District Court for the sum of TWELVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWELVE & 66/100 Dollars and costs of suit, under a JUDGEMENT, in favor of HELLER FINANCIAL, INC. in a certain cause in said Court, No. 86-1923-C and styled HELLER FINANCIAL, INC. FKA TEXAS HELLER WESTERN vs. THE FASHION MAKER INC. dba L. C. MAKER ET. AL, placed in my hands for service, I, JOHN W. MIDDLETON as Sheriff of TAYLOR COUNTY, Texas, did, on the 30th day of July, 1987, levy on certain Real Estate, situated in TAYLOR County, Texas, described as follows, to-wit: 42.5 PER CENT INTEREST LOTS 3,4,5, 6,7 AND 8 BLOCK 13, SCOTT HIGHWAY PLACE AN ADDITION

TO THE CITY OF ABILENE, TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS and levied upon as the property of L. C. MAKER et al and that on the first Tuesday in September, 1987, the same being the 1st day of said month at the Court House door of TAYLOR County, in the City of Abilene, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., by virtue of said levy and said WRIT OF EXECUTION I will sell said above described Real Estate at public vendue, for each, to the highest bidder, as the property of said L. C. MAKER et al.

-THE SALE WILL BE HELD AT 11:00 A.M. SALE WILL BE FOR CASH ONLY.

And in compliance with law, I give this notice by publication, in the English language, once a week for three consecutive weeks immediately preceding said day of sale, in THE MERKEL MAIL, a newspaper published in Taylor County.

Witness my hand, this 30th day of July, 1987.

John W. Middleton Sheriff, Taylor County, Texas by Eddie Swanson, Deputy (Seal) 32-3tc

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JACK CHISHOLM DAUGHERTY, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jack Chosholm Daugherty were issued on August 10, 1987, in Cause No. 17,666, pending in the County Court of Taylor County, Texas, to:

Linda M. Sultana The residence of such Executor is Staten Island, New York. The post office address is: c/o Gaston Welborn, Jr P. O. Box 3812 Abilene, Texas 79604

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner as prescribed by law.

DATED the 10th day of August, 1987. By Gaston Welborn, Jr. Attorney for the Estate 33-1tc-36

Notice is hereby given that the Trent Independent School District's Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on the 1987-88 school budget. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. August 17th and will be held in the Superintendent's Office.

The public is invited to attend and to make comments on the 1987-88 school budget. Don Gibson Superintendent



PRICES GOOD
WED-THUR-FRI-SAT
Aug 12, 13, 14, 15
STORE HOURS
7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
MON THRU SAT
CLOSED SUNDAY

HAIR
SPRAY
AQUA NET
9 OZ
CAN \$1 09

BRACHS
CHOCOLATE
COVERED
CHERRIES
12 OZ
BOX 98¢

KRAFTS
SINGLE SLICED
CHEESE
12 OZ
PKG \$1 79

PRINGLES 7 OZ ASST
POTATO CHIPS \$1 29
DEL MONTE 303
FRUIT COCKTAIL CAN 73¢
OCEAN SPRAY
CRANAPPLE OR
CRANBERRY
JUICE 32 OZ \$1 49
GREEN GIANT 303
CUT
GREEN BEANS 2/89¢
GREEN GIANT W K
GOLDEN CORN 2/89¢
GREEN GIANT
BEAN SALAD 17 OZ
CAN 69¢
CONTADINA 8 OZ
TOMATO SAUCE 3/59¢
BETTER VALUE 303
TOMATOES 2/79¢
VAN CAMPS 300
PORK & BEANS 2/79¢

SKINNERS 8 OZ BAG
EGG
NOODLES 43¢
ICE CREAM
GANDY \$1 69
1/2 GAL

FROZEN FOODS
TOMBSTONE
PIZZA ASST 22 OZ \$2 89
SAMPLING FRI & SAT
BANQUET ASST
CREAM PIES 14 OZ BOX 98¢
STILWELL 24 OZ BAG \$1 39
BREADED OKRA \$1 39
TREE TOP 12 OZ CAN
FRUIT CITRUS JUICE 59¢

OLEO
PARKAY
QUARTERS
LBS
2/89¢

KRAFTS
BAR B Q
SAUCE
18 OZ
JUG 98¢

FRENCH
SALAD
MUSTARD
24 OZ
JAR 98¢

SHORTENING
JEWEL
42 OZ CAN 89¢

COCA COLA
ASST
2 LITER 98¢

CHICKEN OF SEA
TUNA
6 OZ
CAN 55¢

MAZOLA
CORN OIL \$2 19
48 OZ JUG

NICE & SOFT
ASSORTED 4 ROLL
TISSUE 89¢

PRICES
PIMENTO
CHEESE
24 OZ
TUB \$2 89

TEA BAGS
LIPTON
12 CT BOX
FAMILY SIZE
98¢ 3RD \$1 23
LIMIT 2

PARADE
SUGAR
5 LB BAG
\$1 29 2ND \$1 53
LIMIT 1

PARADE
ALL GROUNDS
COFFEE 13 OZ BAG \$1 39
LIMIT 2
JIF 18 OZ
PEANUT BUTTER \$1 89
JAR



DOG-GONE GOOD!

Kellogg's
FROSTED FLAKES
ITS NEW SIZE
25 OZ
\$2 89

Lipton
Cool Side Salads
COOL SALAD
ASST 98¢

OWENS
SMOKED RING
SAUSAGE
BEEF OR REG \$2 29
1 LB PKG

PARADE
FRANKS
12 OZ
PKG 69¢

GANDYS
LOWFAT MILK
GAL JUG \$1 93

DAIRYGOLD
HOMO MILK
GAL JUG \$1 98

RED GRAPES
SWEET
SEEDLESS
POUND 59¢

PARADE
BACON SUGAR CURED LB \$1 49
CHOICE BEEF
ROUND STEAK LEAN \$1 79
CHOICE BEEF
RUMP ROAST LEAN \$1 89
CHOICE BEEF FRESH
CUBE STEAKS LEAN LB \$2 59

GANDYS
BUTTER MILK 1/2 GAL CRTN \$1 09
VLASIC
SWEET RELISH 11 OZ JAR 69¢
MORRISONS
PAN OR **BISKITS** 6 OZ 2/43¢
AIRWICK
CARPET **FRESH** 9 OZ SIZE \$1 39
DIAMOND
DELUXE **PLATES** 40 CT PKG \$1 98

FRESH
CORN ON COB 3/59¢
CALIFORNIA
BARTLETT PEARS LB 59¢
FRESH
GREEN ONIONS BUNCH 2/39¢
CALIFORNIA
RED PLUMS LB 49¢
FRESH
CUCUMBERS 2/39¢
GOLDEN
BANANAS LB 35¢
RUSSET
SPUDS 10 LB BAG \$1 49

FRESH EX-LEAN 93 PERCENT
GROUND ROUND LB \$1 89
GOUCH R R
BRISKET PACKER TRIM 7-9 LBS LB \$1 19

BATH SOAP
COAST SUN SPRAY BARS 2/89¢

AUTO DISHWASHER
CASCADE 50 OZ BOX \$2 19

LIQUID
SUNLIGHT 22 OZ BOTTLE 98¢

DETERGENT
TIDE KING SIZE \$3 19

FREEZER PACK 1
5 LBS GROUND BEEF
5 LBS PORK CHOPS
5 LBS CHUCK ROAST
5 LBS FRYERS
TOTAL WEIGHT 20 LBS
\$30 99

FREEZER PACK 3
5 LBS GROUND BEEF
5 LB. FRYER LEG QTRS.
5 LBS CHUCK STEAK
5 12 OZ
GERMAN SAUSAGE
TOTAL WEIGHT 19 LBS
\$28 89

FREEZER PACK 8
5 LBS GROUND CHUCK
5 LBS CUBE STEAK
5 LBS CHUCK STEAK
5 LBS SIRLOIN STEAK
TOTAL WEIGHT 20 LBS
\$42 99

DOUBLE GIFT BOND STAMPS EACH WED'S WITH \$5 00 IN TRADE OR MORE

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS
CARSON'S SUPER MARKET
Fresh Vegetables
Best Meats in Town
Merkel, Texas
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITY