The Merkel Mail

Thursday, November 1, 1984...Merkel, Texas

Our 96th Year



§ Dr. Libby Doggett of Austin, She spoke to about 100 people at at Taylor Electric last Tuesday. [Staff photo]

wife of U. S. Senate candidate the rally. The general election is Lloyd Doggett, meets Taylor Tuesday. He husband is facing Country Precinct 2 Commissioner Phil Gramm for retiring U. S. Don Dudley at a small rally held Senator John Tower's Senate seat.



crashing to the ground at Co- offense, a did some obvious hard kickoff set at 7:30 p.m. manche last week as Lyle Baker hitting on defense. The Badgers [Staff photo]

Dean Franklin [12] sends Co- [88] arrives to make sure. Frank- face the league leading Wylie manche tailback Brian Johnson lin had an excellent game on Bulldogs at Wylie Friday with

Merkel woman fatally stabbed

A Merkel woman was killed and her husband stabbed repeatedly following an arguement, car chase and subsequent fight here Monday evening.

Taylor County Sheriff John Middleton told The Mail Tuesday "No charges have been filed and unless the District Attorney changes his mind, the case will be brought before a grand jury."

According to Merkel Police Chief Ray Pack, the Merkel police received a call at 9:15 p.m. Monday evening and the caller reported two people had been injured. Upon their arrival at 1510 Heath in Merkel, police found Edith Coleman Butman badly bleeding and unconscious. Police started CPR procedures and continued for 30 minutes before she was pronounced dead at the scene by Precinct 2 justice of the peace Leo Mashburn. Her husband, Dennis was rushed to Hendrick Medical Center with multiple stab wounds and lacerations. He was listed in serious but stable at the medical center late Tuesday.

According to Merkel police chief Ray Pack, both Dennis and his wife were stabbed with his knife by a 23 year old Snyder man following an arguement and ensuing car chase on FM 126 a mile South of Merkel. The two cars collided at one point during the chase. Following an argument at the scene, both Butman's were attacked with a knife and severely

wounded in the altercation.

Dennis drove his wife to his uncles house at 1510 Heath here here in just over two years. where he crawled to the porch and collapsed. A neighbor notified Burglars hit local James Butman, a resident of the house, who called police.

City police and employees locat- business ed the murder weapon at 8: 20 a.m. Joe's Boots, a business located 1-20 in tall grass.

Merkel police also had to answer in the process of notifying next of were taken in the burglary. kin. Both calls were related to the . Accoring to investigator Bob stabbing.

According to Sheriff Middleton, the investigation is continuing and window to gain entry and also cut Merkel police have already made the telephone line outside the their written reports on the case, building.

The business is owned by Joe Sheriff's office because the stabbing took place outside the city limits. Also involved in the investigattion are The Nolan County Sheriff's and Vernon

Wade, Constable of Precinct 2. Nolan County got in the act when Merkel police put out an all points bulletin and a man, two Juveniles and a woman were taken into custody tollowing a short chase in Sweetwater. They were

released Tuesday morning. Middleton told The Mail "No charges have been filed because the DA felt it was best to turn the matter over to a grand jury. We don't really have all the details at this time and to file charges at this point would be premature." It was the first murder case

Tuesday morning 2 miles West of on the North access road of 1-20 1 Merkel on the South access road of miles West of Merkel was hit by burglars Sunday evening.

About \$4,000 worth of boots, two family disturbance calls while leather goods, knives and money

> Jones of the Taylor County Sheriff's office, the crooks proke a

Roberts of Merkel.

Drink tax is \$218

The City of Merkel recently received a check for \$218.66 for their share of the state's tax: on mixed drink sales from two local private clubs.

Total tax revenue reported to the state comptrollers office was \$1,45/./O and the city receives a 15 per cent rebate on that amount.

The tax is collected quarterly by the comptroller's office and then rebated to the city where the drinks were sold. The money is placed into the city general revenue fund.

MISD voters overwhelmingly Tuesday night to canvass the MISD area at a standsitll. After hearing the outcome of the vote. superintenden Bill Everett said "I don't know what we are going

School bonds defeated

us how they feel." The second proposition, that would have added a new auditorium was defeated 626 to 322 and the proposition which would have added a cafeteria and fine arts facility was defeated 625-341.

The 978 total votes cast set an official returns and plans for all time MISD record for most number of votes cast in a school election. Less than 30 total votes were

thrown out because people had to do now, but the people have told improperly marked their ballots by either writing yes or no on all three proposals, according to election officials.

Where MISD officials will go from here is anybody's guess. They have been saying for two years that the school was running

out of space and now must choose between holding another bond election or "making due" with current facilities.

The last bond issue held here, six years ago was passed by a 3-1 mandate, but the circumstances were quite different. At that time, voters had to decide to build a new high school after the "old" Merkel High burned down.

General elections Tuesday

Merkel and the nation will go to the polls Tuesday to pick a for U. S. President between sioner, voters will choose from The only other challenged popresident, a new United States Democrats Walter F. Mondale & Democrat Mack Wallace and Re-Senator, from Texas, and a contested local race for sheriff.

defeated a bond proposal that

called for the construction of up to

\$5 million woth of construction for

a new high school here Tuesday.

A heavy voter turnout, with

978 casting votes, the Proposition

that would call for the construct-

ion of a new high school was.

defeated with 597 voting against

the proposal and 381 voting for the

The MISD board of trustees met

proposal for a 7-3 mandate against

school construction here.

on the ballot locally.

Merkel voters will cast their ballots at the Merkel Senior Citizens on Edwards Street between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7

On the ballot are contested races LaRouche & Billy M. Davis.

The U.S. Senate seat being Republican John Bates. vacated by the retiring John Democrats Lloyd Doggett and Houston Clinton and Virgil E. Republican Phil Gramm.

For Texas Railroad Commis- Mulanax a Republican. Geraldine A. Ferraro; Republi- publican John Thomas Henderson. cans Ronald Reagan & George The position of Chief Justice of the There are few contested races Bush and Indpendents Lyndon H. state Supreme Court is being sought by Democrat John Hill and

Towner is being challenged by Place 1 finds Democrat Sam constitution.

sition on the ballot is that of Taylor County Sheriff John Middleton who is being challenged by Republican David Dalbert.

In other voting, Texas voters will decide the fate of eight In the Criminal Appeals Court, proposed amendments to the state

Badgers bow 37-16; Wylie is next

good effort against Breckenridge Badgers led 8-7. but the Indians used a strong running attack, hit on the big play, and ambushed the Badgers 37-16.

On Merkel's tirst punt, the snap from center was dropped, the Indians recovered at the Merkel 16 and scored three plays later. The Badgers came right back behind the running of John Warkala and Dean Franklin. Quarterback Jerry Davis teamed with receiver Tim Brandon for 13 yards and Brandon fumbled being hit, Franklin recovered and took

the next handoff 13, then went in

The Merkel Badgers were look- from the two. Warkala punched 23-8 ing forward to last Friday's game over the two point conversion at

Comanche drove down the field and the Badgers put up a fight at the end zone but the Indians converted a 4th and goal from the three, and added the two point conversion and took back the lead

The Badgers came storming back after running back James Wright went 49 yards on a beautifully executed fake punt, but

the Badgers could not score. At 1:26 left in the half, Comanche threw the backbreaker, a 52 yard bomb that took the score to

with the Comanche Indians after a 1:30 left in the 1st quarter and the however as Franklin returned the ensuing kickoff to the Indian 10 and Warkala took it in from there. Davis hit Brandon for the two point conversion and the Badgers trailed 23-16 at the half.

Merkel moved the ball well at the beginning of the second half with three first downs, but a Davis pass was intercepted and Indian fullback Scott Davis, who gained 157 yards on the night, scored on a 43 yard run. He also scored with 52 seconds left in the third quarter on a one yard run to cap the Indian

8 amendments on ballot

When Texas voters go to the polls next Tuesday to vote for the candidates in the general elections, they also will cast their ballots for or against eight proposed amendments to the state constitution. The constitution has already been amended more than 250 times over the years and this will bring to more than 400 the number of amendments which have been submitted to Texas voters since the constitution was

The eight include:

adopted in 1876.

1. Providing to state charted banks the same rights and priviliges as national banks.

2. Create a special Higher Education Fund with general revenue to fund construction and related activities at certain institutions, restructuring the Permanent University Fund, and increasing the number of institutions eligible to benefit.

3. Authorizing the payment of assistance to the surviving dependent parents, brothers and sisters of certain public officials killed while on active duty.

4. Aboloshing the office of county treasurer in Bexar & Collins Counties.

5. Authorizing the state senate to fill a vacancy in the office of lieutenant governor.

6. Permitting the use of public funds and credit for the payment of premiums on certain insurance contracts of mutual insurance companies authorized to do business in Texas.

7. Making certain changes in the membership of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct and the authority and procedure for disciplining judges, masters, and magistrates of the courts.

8. Providing a per diem for members of the legislature equal to the maximum daily amount allowed by federal law as a deduction for ordinary and necessary business expenses incurred by a state legislator.

Headlines; Big Brother needed here

by Cloy A. Richards Merkel made the front page and

the headlines again Monday evening and Tuesday, not with Tuesday's bond election, but with a murder here.

That tells us a lot of where the media's priority's are and I certainly also resemble that re-

I am sure many of you saw the story of Zak Mashburn the other night on KTAB and his need of a Big Brother

We ran a front page story about them three weeks ago and Will Barbee told me the other day they would sure like to get someone

involved with Zak. If you are interested, contact

big Brothers & big Sisters of Abilene at 677-7839.

The Merkel Badgers will have their hands full with the best quarterback they will see this year Friday as the Badgers travel to Wylie to faece the red-hot Wylie Bulldogs.

Wylie defeated Graham 12-3 last week in Graham to take a share of the district lead with Breck, who also sports a 3-0 record.

The Badgers will indeed need to have their best effort of the year, especially defending the pass against Wylie, or it could be an extremely long night for the Purple & Gold.

The Badgers are 0-3 in district play and are 2-6 on the year.

The Merkel 8th graders continue to roll as they haven't lost a game and will take on the same team they beat last week

46-12, Wylie.

Vote

Tuesday

McAnally says "Pass the teflon"

by Russell McAnally

A friend came by to point out a mistake of fact concerning a song I gouted in my article last week in The Merkel Mail last week. He was right- I was wrong. I said the song I was not allowed to sing was, "Alabama Gal," when I should have said "Buffalo Gal". I was singing that song over 50 years ago and I thought I was doing pretty good to get that close. I was only off a few hundred miles.

What I am going to do following that mistake is to get me some of that "Teflon" President Reagan uses. The News Media says that the President is coated with a layer of Teflon and none of his glaring mistakes of fact or figure or the bad things stick to him. I would like to find out where he gets that brand of Teflon as I sure need some right now

Last night the subject of music came up again and another good friend asked me point blank, "Do you watch Days of Our Lives?". He didn't wait for an answer because he knows I have followed it pretty close. Since he also watches Days of Our Lives he will also realize that the show we watch is good, but all the ones we do not watch are terrible.

Let me lay aside the jokes for about one minute. I started watching Days of Our Lives many years ago when it was a simple-Horton Family-show. Somewhere along the line it changed and today is neither simple or clean. Every day I watch it and feel stupid and guilty. I have threatened never to watch it again at least 100 times. It also makes me angry to realize that the producers know I am stupid enough to keep watching it. I would quit but now else would I be able to find out how Hope handles her problems. I think the

7th & 8th football

The Merkel Badgers clubbed the Wylie 8th graders 42-12 here last Thursday in the rain to raise the 8th grade's record to 5-0-1 on the

Kenneth Jowers launched a 35 yard pass to Corey Hines to set up a 15 yard run by Freddy Gonzales to make the score 6-0. After recovering a fumble on the 40 yards capped by a 10 yard run by Jowers to make it 12-0.

Jowers again hit Hines, this time for a 40 yard touchdown and Jowers added the two point conversion pushing the score to 20-0. After Wylie's first score of the game, Jowers returned their kick 85 yards for a touchdown to make it 26-6 at the half.

In the third quarter, the Badgers came up with a Wylie fumble. Gonzales capped a 30 yard drive with a three yard run, added the two point conversion to increase the margin to 34-6.

Gonzales added another score in the last quarter and Chris Wright added the two point conversion. Wylie scored late in the game to make the final 42-12.

The coach wanted to mention the play of John Hall, Duane Hamrick, Doug Carter, Greg Hale and Lee Cobb.

The Badgers traveled to Wylie Thursday for what should be a grudge match with Wylie and then will host Clyde Thursday week.

The Merkel 7th grade White and Purple teams split with the Wylie 7th graders here last Thursday.

The Purple team beat the Wylie team 20-14.

Shawn Miller went in from 45 yards in the 1st quarter to spot Merkel to a 6-0 lead. In the second quarter, Lynn Gregory scored on a 40 yard quick pitch to put Merkel ahead 12-8 at the half

In the third quarter, David Thomas ran 15 yards up the middle for a touchdown and added the two point comversion to score 20-8. The defense held on to seal

the win 20; 8. The line play of Trey Bird, Tim Hohhertz, Joe Jordan, Eric Teaff, and Toby Dupont was excellent according to the coach. He also said Stephen Jacobs did a good job

handling the ball at quarterback. The White team didn't have as much luck as they lost 14-6. Scoring for Merkel was Tommy White on a 50 yard pass from Cory

The Badgers had made it to the Wylle five yard line when time ran

The coach also said Brandon Rice, Shannon Jones, Richard Bryan, Billy Williams and Steven Bauer played well.

The 7th grade team has been improving each week. The coaches said they are proud of the hard work and dedication the young men have shown throughout the

The 7th and 8th grade teams will travel to Wylie this week for a

1107 N 2ND

reason Doug and Julie quit the areas of concern. show is that it is so bad.

At the same time- there are many good shows on tv and there are many good songs on radio and in concerts. If you have ever listened to one of the radio stations in Abilene that seem to present so many trashy songs- you will not know what I am talking about. I am not sure- but it just may be possible that my friends were trying to say to me- the soap operas you watch may be just as bad as the songs you condemned. You will get no argument from me there, but that still does not justify one over the other. Now that we have criticized the bad songs and soap operas that are bad there will

When a person gets older as am the little things sometimes become large areas of concern Isn't it good that the younger generation is never quite so bac as we older people think, and the 'out of it" as the younger generation thinks. It is also nice that friends are good enough friends to point some of the things we do not want to see.

Vote Tuesday

November time to give thanks

by Helen Benson

§ November gives us so much to look forward to. There are still sunny days when glowering winter weather is held at bay. We can bundle up and enjoy the brisk weather that is always tinged with thoughts of snow. Birds under a berry laden pyracantha bush remind us these sunny days are

Sitting by a fire, we look forward to Thanksgiving, the coming holdicays and the winding down of the year. Right now, it is

nice to take stock and make plans. Jars of chow-chow, which we have just put by, will need calico and gingham "bonnets" if they are to be gifts. Home canned goodies are popular "take home" gifts for family and friends who come for Thanksgiving dinner. November is a time when a friend may stop by with a bag of pecans for you to use in your holiday cooking.

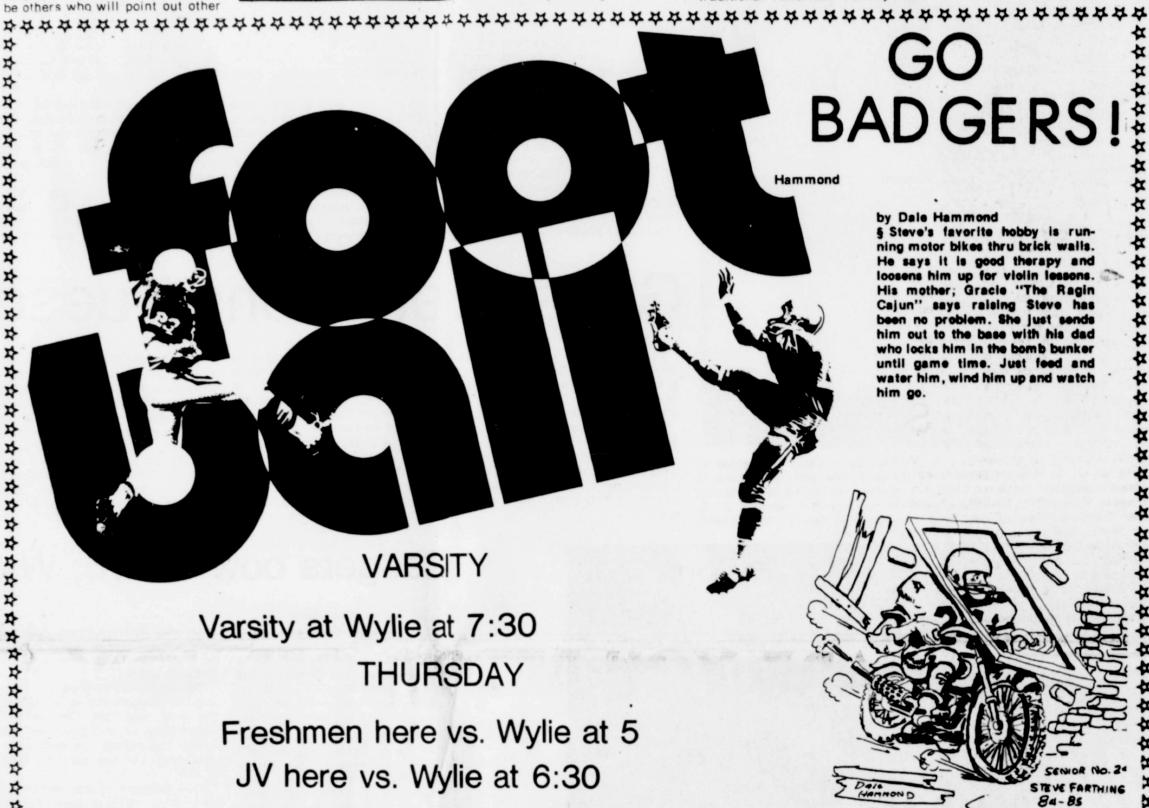
When Thanksgiving Day arrives we will share our blessings with the family and friends. The traditional American holidays is

not only for teasting, but giving thanks for our shared traditions. Many thing across the country may go wrong but we are free to get together and squawk about the wrongs and to give thanks for all that is right.

For time to live and love and laugh- and sometimes cry, I am thankful. For all the complexities of life and the the simple country pleasures, and for all the people everywhere who share these things- I am thankful.

928-5113 &

Happy Thanksgiving!



7th & 8th Grade at Wylie

Games start at 5:00

WYLIE TRUCK TERMINAL & SHAMROCK 928-5584	FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK 928-4728		
TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOP 1610 N 1ST 928-4715	MICHAEL'S INN 1405 N 7TH 928-4923		
STARBUCK FURNITURE \$201 EDWARDS 928-4711	DUBOSE BUTANE & TEXACO 1 20 & FM 126 928-5822		
BEN FRANKLIN STORE \$\frac{1}{201} \text{KENT} 928-4933	SHANNONSIDE APARTMENTS 928-5038		
P & L AUTO PARTS \$\frac{1}{2}\$ 135 EDWARDS 928-4738	SKEET'S RESTAURANT 1 20 928-4349		
MERKEL BRICK & LUMBER 102 LAMAR 928-5014	HI-VAL FARM & HOME SUPPLY 604 KENT 928-5632		
MERKEL DRUG COMPANY 121 EDWARDS 928-5012	CARSON'S SUPERMARKET 217 EDWARDS 928-5231		
MERKEL VETERINARY CLINIC DR'S BRAD & KATHRYN BANNER SAME LOCATION 928-5235	TAYLOR TELEPHONE COOP 928-4733		
RAE-RAC COMPRESSOR RENTAL & REPAIR	PALMER PONTIAC & GMC		

1208 N 1ST

928-5031

Merkel FFA news & spotlights

The Merkel FFA would like to Dana Brown is a junior in high last cars, magazines and bo community. She is Kelly Black- FFA. She is the daughter of Ray & chickens. Merkel High.

Education student from Tarelton people.

receive her bachelor of science & Shirley Roys of Tye. He enjoys by Stehpanie Boyd degree. While here she will be involved in all FFA functions.

During the past week, several Merkel FFA members placed well at the State Fair Stock Show.

The following are the Merkel FFA results:

Heavy weight chster - Russell Morgan 13th, Chuck Peterman 2nd and Todd Smith 8th, Robyn Dudley was 11th in the light durocs and Lynn Hays was 15th and 21 in heavy weight durocs. Amber Whisenhunt was 18th and 23rd in the medium weight hamps and Criswell Whisenhunt was 29th. He was 1st in the medium polands.

Lynn Hays was 2nd, Amber Whisenhunt 4th. Dusty Farmer was 13th and Kris Harris 3rd in the light weight chesters and Cassie Townsend 10th in the heavy berks. In the medium chesters Billy Ray Riley was 6th, Melissa harris 10th & 16th and Kris Harris 14th.

welcome a new face to the school and a chapter farmer in scouts. His project this year i well, the new student teacher in Judy Brown of Merkel. Her

After training here she will high school and is the son of Aury and has lambs as his project.

Lance Perry is a junior and th projects are rabbits. Her hobbies sone of Mr. & Mrs. Lanny Perry Miss Blackwell is an Agriculture are music & she enjoys meeting. He is 16 and enjoys hunting, skiinand showing lambs. He is current Benny Roys is also a junior in ly enrolled in Ag II and Ag Co-Ol



This week's spotlights feature had the reserve champion Poland Market Barrow Show recently.

FFA students thank supporters

We the undersigned would like Mr. H. Ross Perot, you have ley, John Paul Dudley, Wade to take the opportunity to thank limited our travel but not our Toombs, Randy Toombs, Chris the parents, ag teachers and education. others for taking our livestock to the State Fair of Texas held in port. Dallas Oct. 22-.77. Not only did they (Signed) Melissa Harris, Kris see that our livestock was trans- Harris, Jay Williams, Robin Dudported, they feed, washed and had everything ready for us to show

animals in the premium sale.

To comply with this ruling, our Baptist Church here. parents, ag teachers and suppor- The Rev. James Dawson officiat may come and show, and return Starbuck Funeral Home. home without being penalized for Born in Arkansas, she moved to memorials be made to the Wes more than our 10 limited day.

Thanks everyone for their sup-

Cutler, Chuck Peterman, Amber Whisenhunt, Criswell Whisenhunt Lance Perry, Todd Smith, Lynr Hays, Lyle Baker, Shane Smith. Dusty Farmer, Jon Bright, Rus-

either Wednesday or Thursday. Scroggins succumbs Several parents also brought us

back so that we could sell our We are glad we have the support cal nurse of Merkel, died at 9:15 a member of the TEL Sunday of these people since we have been a.m. Sunday at her home after a limited to 10 days of activities due sudden illness. Services were held to Mr. Perot's House Bill 126. at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the First of Canada; a brother, G. M.

ters will continue to take our ed and burial followed at Rose Hill livestock and prepare them so we here under the direction of the dren; and a great grandchild.

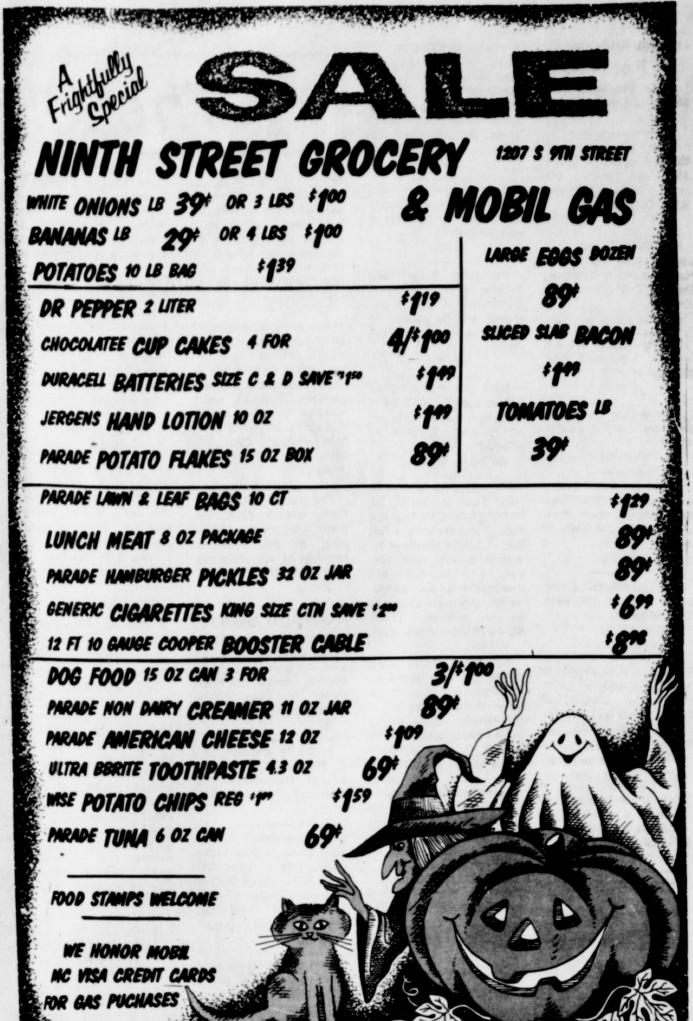
Merkel in 1919. A member of the Texas Rehabilitation Center.

Wynona Scroggins, 75, a practi- First Baptist Church, she also was

sell Morgan and Billy Ray Riley.

She is survived by a son, Sammy Patkon of Austin; two sisters Ruba Rae of Mozelle and Norma Moler of Kenedy; two grandchil-

The family has requested that



THAN 4 YEARS AGO?

WHAT ARE CATTLE WORTH TODAY COMPARED WITH 4 YEARS AGO? WHAT IS COTTON & GRAIN WORTH TODAY COMPARED TO 4 YEARS AGO?

HOW MUCH HAS THE PRICE OF FARM MACHINERY G VEHICLES G EVERYTHING ELSE WE NEED TO BUY GONE UP IN THE PAST 4 YEARS?

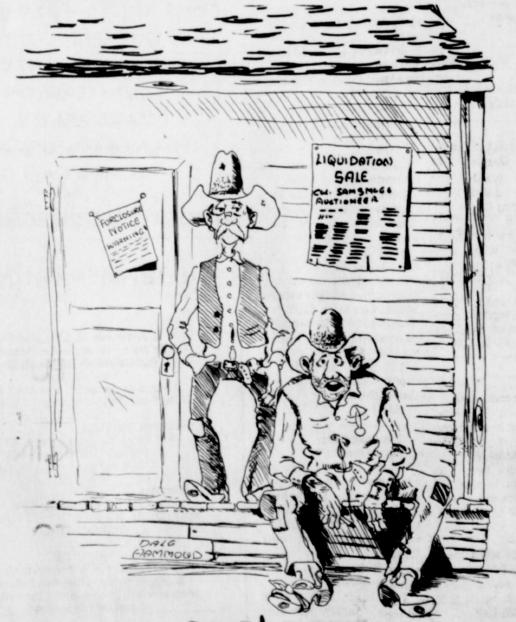
Ronald Reagan's policies have produced the worst agricultural record since the Great Depression. In the last 4 years, nearly 200,000 farmers and ranchers have gone out of business, Net farm income, average farm land values, farm equity and agricultural exports have all fallen to new lows since the 1930's.

(1) reducing perilous budget deficits by 2/3, making credit more affordable;

(2) Overhauling the farm credit system and halt FMHA foreclosures;

(3) working to promote agricultural exports-opposing all agricultural

Walter Mandale will provide vital assistance to farmers by: trade embargoes-and will develop soil and water conservation programs .



I JUST WISH I COULD AFFORD TO BE A REPUBLICAN!

NOW THAT YOU SEE YOU AREN'T BETTER OFF NOW THAN 4 YEARS AGO VOTE DEMOCRAT ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH BECAUSE YOUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT!

Two six week old Chow puppies, no papers \$50. Also have 1 bedroom house for rent \$200. Call 862-6168. 86-1tc

For Sale: Piano: queen sized bed; 1979 Kawasaki-fully dressed: Deavey T-60 guitar, call 928-5313.

86-1tc

Barber-Beauty shop for sale. Equipped. Call 928-5434 after 5 p.m 19-TFC

Alfalfa hay for sale: \$5.50 per bale. Call 928-

84-4tp

Gov't surplus Cars & Trucks under \$100. Now available in your area. Call 1-(619) 569-0241. 24 hours.

85-2tp

AKCregistered chowchow puppies for sale. Call 862-6417. 86-1tc

For sale: Microwave, antique buffet & china hutch (Basset) 19" color

tv (Curtis Mathis) 2 refrigerated air conditioners, deep freeze, 928-4071 or 928-4100. 86-1tp .For adoption: black &

white male puppy, very friendly-contact Merkel Veterinary Clinic and 928-5235. 86-1tnc

For sale: King sized bed & 1971 Mercury Montego. Call 928-4403. 86-1tc

For Sale: Captain's bed \$35, twin bed \$15, 1976 Ford Pinto wagon, runs excellent, in good condition. Must sell \$1,000. Call 928-4489.

For Sale: Pick-up tool box \$35. Can be seen at 814 Rose or call 928-5424. 86-1tp

Misc

We make hydraulic

P&L Auto Parts 135 Edwards 928-4738

} We turn disc brakes and drums. P&L AUto Parts 135 Edwards

926-4738 § Horseshowing & trimming. Call Dan Burnett at 236-6258.

77-10tp

ed. Apply at Stuckey's.

Part time nelp want-

Christmas is coming! Free World Book Atlas (\$89 value) with World Book Encyclopedia purchase. Contact Barbara Graham 928-5744 1108 N 5th, Merkel.

86-2tp

Does someone you love have a drinking problem? Is it affecting your life? If so, AL-ANNON FAMILY groups can help. A Merkel group is meeting weekly in the mornings. Call 928-4844 or 928-5067. 49-TFC

KID'S KORNER DAY CARE CENTER 2nd & Oak. Open Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Call 928-4381. 66-tfc

Germania Insurace Company; for your insurance needs. Locally represented by Donna Carter, 928-5348. 33-TFC

Real Estate AEDUCED-REDUCED Assume a non escilating 12 per cent veterans loan. 3 bedroom, 2 baths large utility room, kitchen has built-ins; central air & heat, large den, Bill Condra 698-4440 or 677-3487.

Coldwell Bankers Metro, Realtors

House reduced for sale: 3 bedroom, one and three-quarter bath, den, fireplace, cement cellar, 2 storage sheds, good water well, pecan trees. \$42,000. Call 928-

80-TC

Brick house for sale by owner. Price reduced new loan, many extras call 328-5476.

82-4tp

For sale: 2 bedroom mobile home. Assume payments of \$256.79 per month and its yours. No down payment. Call 928-

85-2tp

Nice suburban home, 3 bedroom 1 & 1-2 bath, acreage, water well, orchard call 676-5636 or 673-6301

86-4tp

For sale: Mobile home 1972 Tourite, 14 X 80. front kitchen, bath and a half, 1 queen bed, 1 full bed, kitchen appliances, washer-dryer, new carpet, 1 & a half ton refrigerated air conditioner. For sale as it sits to be moved. Trent 862-6248 Merkel 928-4563.

86-tfc For Sale: River front cabin and five acres on Colorado River 20 miles West of Lampassas. 2 bedroom, large living

area- dining and kitchen 1 bath. A 10 X 20 deck looks down on 300 foot wide river bed with water from bank to bank most of the year. This acreage includes fishing and hunting rights. Spring water on the lot with pump provides more than ample water.

For rent: 2 bedroom,

unfurnished trailer in

country available the

85-2tp

For rent: 3 bedroom

one bath house. Call

235-2983 for information.

85-6tc

Rose \$270 per month.

Central heat and air.

FOR LEASE: Very

large 3 bedroom, 2 bath,

central heat and air.

built-ins in kitchen, car-

peted, \$425 per month.

Call Bill Condra 698-4440

Coldwell Banker

Metro Realtors

83-4tc

Humphrey's Village,

many more items.

86-1tp

Call 928-5194.

58-TFC

928-5038.

33-TFC

77-TFC

27TFC

ed. Call 928-5635.

Merkel. 928-4973.

Shannonside

Apartments

Garage sale: No. 42

Thursday & Friday 8-5.

Vacuum cleaner, stereo,

bedroom suit for girl,

Apartments for rent; 2

bedroom, refrigerator &

stove. Upstairs \$250 per

month with \$150 deposit;

downstairs with dish-

washer \$275 per month

with \$150 deposit. 6

month lease required.

1, 2 & 3 bedroom

apartments, shag carpet

all electric, dishwasher,

garbage disposal, cen-

tral heat & cooling. For

more information, call

For rent: 3 bedroom

1, 2 or 3 bedroom

mobile home for rent in

CAN HAUL DUKT,

ROCK & GRAVEL LEVEL & REPAIR

DRIVEWAYS

FREE ESTIMATES

HAROLD

WALKER

928-5872

202 CHERRY

mobile, partly furnish-

Call 928-5939.

or 677-3487

House for rent at 211

1st. Call 928-5107.

Also has electricty and telephone line. Call 928-5050. 86-1tc For rent

86-1tc

Thank You The 81 Study Club wishes to thank each and every merchant and individual in Trent &

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The Classifieds

Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, kitchen, dining room & living room on over an acre on FM 1235 S of town. Ceiling fans, carpet, refrigerator, washer-dryer, stove, central air & heat. \$375 per month \$150 deposit.

86-TFC Large 3 bedroom, 1 bath, kitchen & living room, ceiling fans, carpet, stove & refrigerator washer-dryer & 2 space heaters. Fenced yard, storage building at 211 Taylor. \$300 per month, \$150 deposit. Call 928-

86-TFC

Call 928-5194.

For rent: 2 bedroom front duplex \$275. Deposit required. Water paid at 308 Runnels. Inquire at 401 Runnels. Call 928-5787.

86-1tp

Garage Sales

Bapusi Youth Rummage sale: Sat Nov. 38 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tye Community Center 105 Scott Street in Tye. Large variety of items.

3 family garage sale at 204 Ash Thursday & Friday. New guitar \$75, Atari with 6 games \$75.

Garage Sale: Stereo, sofa, chair, coffee table, chest, lots of boys clothes, misc. Jerry Gibson residence, 1-2 mile N of Merkel on FM 126. Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

3 family garage salethings in general plenty of clothes 707 Locust Friday & Saturday 9-?.

Merkel for their donations toward a new 10 speed bicycle for the upcoming St. Jude's Bike-A-Thon. They are Adams Tire Repair, Ann's Upholstery, Ben Franklin, Bert's Grocery, Bill Cain's Repair, Carson's Grocery, Country Botique, C & D Services. DuBose Shamrock, F & M Bank, Gorilla Arcade. Home State Bank, HiVal Feed Store, Joe Lackey. Lawn Properties, Carolyn Stevens, Trent Cafe

and Trent Gin.

We appreciate each one being so thoughtful during my stay in the hospital. Thank you for the calls, cards, visits and for your concern and prayers.

Mrs. J. H. Clark Sr. & Children 86-1tp

Public notice

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: KINGSTON BOOK STORE d-b-a DRAGON TREE PRESS, Defendant, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to Plantiff's Original Petition at or before ten o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of twenty days after the date of service of this citation before the Honorable 350th District Court of Taylor County, Texas. at the Court House of said County in Abilene.

Said Plantiff's Petition was filed in said Court on the 30th day of April A.D. 1984 in this cause, numbered 152-D on the docket of said court and styled TRI-CONTINENTAL LEAS-ING CORPORATION Plantiff VS KINGSTON BOOKSTORE dba DRAGON TREE PRESS, Defendant.

CHERRY STREET APARTMENTS & SELF STORAGE

COME AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SPECIAL OFFER. 2 WEEKS FREE RENT WITH A 6 MONTH LEASE ON ALL UPSTAIRS APARTMENTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION COME BY APT G OR CALL 928-4336 '

The Merkel Mail

Cloy A. Richards-Editor-Co-Publisher Melanie Richards--Co-Publisher Published at 916 North 2nd. Merkel, Texas Enterd as Second Class Mail at the U. S. Post Office, Merkel, Texas 79536

Subscription Rates \$10 per year in Taylor County \$11.75 Anywhere in Texas \$12.50 per year out of state

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION ASSOCIA. . C.

NOTICE Typographical or offer errors must be brought to our attention before the second insetion or claims for refund will not be recognized.

CLASSIFIED RATES Classifieds are \$2 for the first 18 words and 10 cents for each additional word paid in advance, a 75 cent billing fee is added to all charged adds

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Recorder on after hours or when out Correspond to Box 428, Merkel Merkel's Oldest Business

Publishing Weekly since 1889 Congress shall make no law abridging the Freedom of the Press

- uplisher reserve the right to cancel any advertisement at any time

The nature of Plan-

tation and made a part If this citation is not served within ninety days after the date of

its issuance, it shall be

returned unserved.

tiff's demand is fully

shown by a true and

correct copy of Plain-

tiffs Original Petition,

accompanying the ci-

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law di-

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Abilene. texas, this the 13th day of September, A.D. 1984. Attest: Rilla Mahoney Clerk, District Court Taylor County, Texas by Kelly Gandy, Deputy

84-4tc

(Seal)

Call in your Classifieds 928-5712

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MERKEL DRUG

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Thursday, November 1, 1984- Page 5

121 EDWARDS

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LOWER YOUR LIGHT BILL

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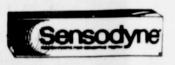


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100 SYRINGES ONLY Less Mfr.'s Rebate Your Cost After Rebate

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100 ct Everyday price

Capsules

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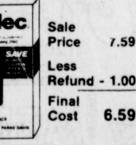
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7 oz. **ESOTERICA**





50 Tablets



ACUTRIM

Actifed ACTIFED

24 Tablets

\$759

For Closer Shaves 7 oz.

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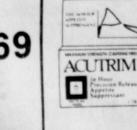
FREE HOLD STYLING MOUSSE

ORÉAL

Polident



469



150's

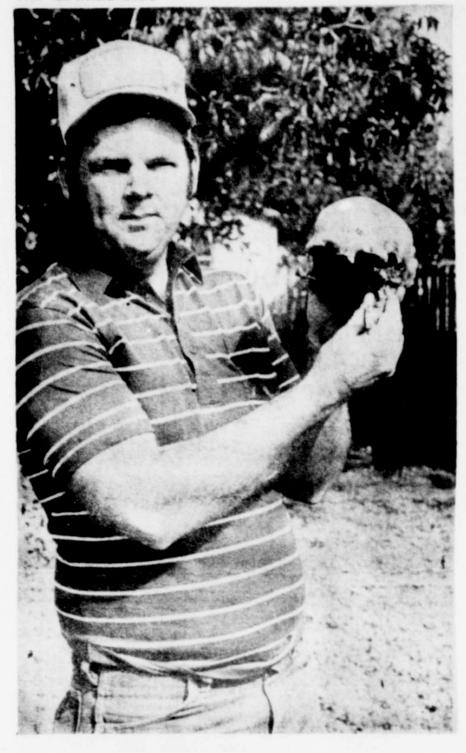
Lubriderm. \$259 Select months on humberoom of humber the Service on Art of month deep and purples of the common beauty belong again to the THE CHICAGO STREET AND RESPONDED TO

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Lotion

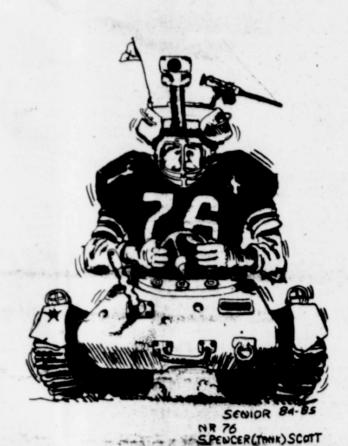
20 Tablets 40 Tablets LOOK FOR DIFFERENT GREAT VALUE SALES EACH MONTH

ITEMS LIMITED TO QUANTITIES ON HAND



§ Ricky Minze of Merkel made quite a find last week while hunting arrowheads after recent rains, the skeletons of two Indians. Ricky said he was hunting South of town when he discovered the skeletons, buried only inches

apart. He found four arrowheads and sea shells nearby. He said he'd been hunting Indian artifacts South of town for a few years but called his discovery a "once in a lifetime thing." [Staff photo]



encer's side of the line, they

give the running back a road map.

& Rumor has it that Spencer loves

to eat but he flatly denies the one

about using the hole in the top of

blowout mountain for a soup bowl.

OF MERKEL & TYPE

TO: LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS

FROM: COACHES & PARENTS

FOR: DONATIONS MADE TO THE

MERKEL TYE SOCCER TEAMS

We were able to buy new shirts for

the unblemme for six teams.

We had a good season

Again many thanks for all the

donetions from everyone

THANK YOU

s by Dale Hammond Spencer "Tank" Scott, 76 is one of the Mulberry Canyon Scotts who was on grandpa [A.D.] Scott's expedition to discover the Mulberry Canyon Stck Lizard.

Foss's have third son

Fred & Carolyn Foss of Merkel are proud to announce the birth of their third son, Justin Wade, born Monday at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene.

Justin weighed in at 7 lbs. 10 ozs. and was 20 inches long. He has two brothers, Joshua and

His grandparents are Bill & June Lambert of Merkel and Ruby Foss of Ohio.

Prices to Crow About! 20% OFF ALL ISAACS PANTS BRAGGS DEPT. STORE 213 EDWARDS 928-5811

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Fortnightly has 50th anniversary tea

Mrs. Becky Rogers and the social committee were hostess Oct. 23 for the GFWC Merkel Fortnightly Study Club's Golden club records were on display. Anniversary tea.

The first meeting of the club was music was provided by Kathryn held in the same home then Rister, Jan McCoy, Anna Belle

occupied by Mrs. Rogers' mother, Mrs. C. B. Gardner.

The laminated year book and

Shouse, Lucy Haynes and Mrs. Shouse also sang.

Of the several remaining charter members, Mrs. W. T. Sadler Throughout the evening, piano was among the approximately 100 guests who attended from Anson, Aspermont, Baird, Sweetwater, Stamford and Haskell.



§ The Fortnightly Study Club had the home of Mrs. Perry Rogers. in 1934 here. These are the local a large crowd at their Golden The club met in the same home members of the club that attended Anniversary Tea held last week at where the first meeting was held the tea. [Complimentary photo]



§ Mrs. Orvel [Edn#] Hill [left], president of the Fortnightly Study Club and Mrs. Perry [Becky] Rogers greeted visitors at the Fortnightly Study Club's 50th Anniversary Tea. [Complimen-

Club has costume party

Guests of Preceptor Eta Omega enjoyed a costume and Skip-Bo Party Oct. 26 in the home of Betty Conley. Pat Schunecht won the best costume prize as "fallen angel."

Finger food was served to: May Hill from Xi Nu Chi; Janet Mc-Keehan, Pam Cox, Pat

Schunecht, Ann Leech. Rita Moore, Kay Bishop from Lambda Beta; Rith Tipton, Louise Du-Bose, Bobby Mansfield, Connie Ybarra, Jane Carson, Mamie Steck, Betty Satterwhite, Betty Conley, Kathy Leverich and Blanche Hewitt of

Preceptor Eta Omega.



NEW DRIVE IN HOURS

8:00 - 5:30

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE



FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

MEMBER FDIC

the open the first that the property of the control of the control of the state of the control o

111 EDWARDS

928-4728

§ Chris Cutler [70] wraps up a last week. The Badgers were Comanche runner in Comanche

downed 37-16 at Comanche in the

mud last week. [Staff photo]

Boosters planning parents night

The Booster Club met Monday evening at the high school for its regular meeting. It will be "Parent's Night" at the last home football game with Clyde, set Nov.

should meet near the field house between 6:30 and 6:45 p.m. that evening so that they may be introduced with their son.

This week's games are: 7th &

ning at 5 p.m. Thursday. The p.m. at Wylie High.

varsity game is Friday at 7:30 The next meeting will be

Thursday, November 1, 1984- Page 7

Sharpe honored by WTU

Robert Sharpe of Merkel was among the WTU employees honored Tuesday night at the company's annual district service and safety awards banquet in Abi-

Sharpe, serviceman, received awards for 15 years of service to the company without an accident.

James is new

The central Texas town of Taylor will have a new postmaster.

The appointment of Dennis R. James, prenently postmaster at Big Lake was announced last week by sectional center manager Norman R. Aadmson of Waco.

James, 29 is a Merkel native and the son of Robert R. James. He completed his degree in accounting from Mc-Murry College in Abilene. He and his wife Kathy have two children, Derek age 5 and Leslie, age 2.

Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS +TO: RONALD PHIL-IP WHITE, Respondent;

+GREETINGS: +YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable 326th District Court, Taylor County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Abilene, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days from the date of service of this citation

GALE WHITE, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 10th day of August, 1984, against RONALD PHILLIP WHITE, Respondent, and said suit being numbered 10,854-C on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In The Matter of The Marriage of BRENDA GALE WHITE and RONALD PHILIP WHITE", the nature of which suit is a

request to obtain a divorce from the Respondent. Petitioner requests the Court to order a division of the estate Taylor postmaster of Petitioner and Respondent in a manner that the Court deems just and right as provided by law.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgement or decree dissolving the marriage and providing for the division of property which will be binding upon you.

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 serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law id-

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this the 25th day of October,

Rilla Mahoney, Clerk 326th District Court Taylor County, Texas by Johnnie Woodard Deputy (Seal) 86-78-4tc

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS +TO: JERRY SPEN-CER, Residence Unknown, Respondent: GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY then and there to answer COMMANDED to apthe petition of BRENDA pear and answer before 19th day of October, the Honorable 326th Di- 1984 strict Court, Taylor County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said Coat or before 10 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the petition of DANIEL +Notice is hereby given CODY CLAXTON and that Toni Lambert LAURA JANE CLAX- doing business in Mer-TON, Petitioners, filed kel, Taylor County, Tein said Court on the 23rd xas, with its principal day of August, 1983, place of business at Rt. 1 against JERRY SPEN- Box 10, Merkel, Texas CER, Respondent, and 79536, was dissolved on said suit being number- October 24, 1984 and ed 9384-C on the docket incorporated as T. J. & of said Court, and en- T Tire Company, Inc. on titled, "In The Interest October 24, 1984. The of DAVID ALLEN LIN- business will be connature of which suit is a Company, Inc. at Rt. 1

> requested be given. 1979, in Trent, Taylor County, Texas.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter an application was filed any judgement or de- with the Federal Comcree in the child's interest which will be binding in Washington, D. C. for upon you, including the authority to assign the termination of the parent-child relationship and the appiontment of thority to consent to the child's adoption.

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 serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law

Issued and given under my hand and the

seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this the

Rilla Mahoney, Clerk 326th District Court Taylor County, Texas unty in Abilene. Texas, by JoAnn Lackey, Deputy (Seal) 85-87-4tc

> NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INCORPORATE

DSEY, a Child", the ducted by T. J. & T. Tire request to the Court to Box 10, Merkel, Texas determine what parent- 79536. This notice is child relationship exist given pursuant to Artibetween the child and cle 1302-2.02 of the Texas Respondent, that same Miscellaneous Corporabe terminated, that Dan-tion Laws Act, Section iel Cody Claxton be 6.103(7) of the Texas granted a decree of Business & Commerce adoption of such child, Code, and Section 35 of and that any other relief Article 6132b of the Texas Civil Statues.

Said child was born T. J. & T. Tire Company the 7th day of February, , Inc BY: Toni Lambert 85-31-4tc

> NOTICE +On October 19, 1984, munication Commission license of AM Broadcast Station KMXO, 1500 kHz, Merkel, Texas,

a conservator with au- from B & D Broadcasting, Inc. to Jerry G. Benavides, d-b-a Flamingo Broadcasters.

The officers, directors and stockholdres of B & D Broadcasting, In. are R. E. Ditmore and Bill J. Starks.

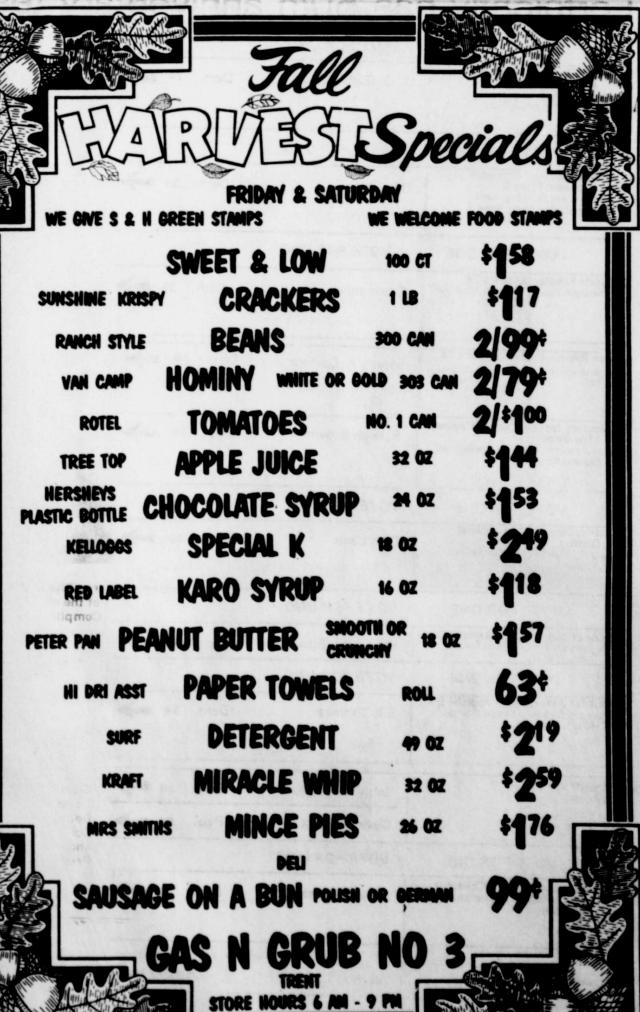
A copy of the application is available for public inspection during the hours of 9:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. at Station KMXO, N. 2nd & Baker, Merkel, Texas.

86-25-3tc



PEPSI

PEPSI LIGHT, PEPSI FREE.



Study the ballot

		David Dalbert	Rep.	60	-
Shoriff (Sherife)		John W. Middleton	Dem.	59	→
District Judge, 350th Juez del Distrito, Distri Núm. 350)	Judicial Dist. to Judicial	Bill Thomas	Dem.	54	→
Nam. 104th) VOTE FO		VOTE POR UNO			
VOTE FOR District Judge, 104th Juez del Distrito, Distrit		Billy John Edwards	Rep.	52	-
Nam. 42)		VOTE POR UNO			
District Judge, 42nd J District (Juez del Distrito, Distrit	ludicial	Don Lane	Dem.	49	→
VOTE FOR	RONE	VOTE POR UNO			
Associate Justice, Cou 11th District Juez Asociado, Corte de Distrito Núm. 11)		Raleigh Brown	Dem.	46	→
tate Representative, Representante Estatal, L 78)		Steven A. Carriker	Dem.	40	→
State Senator, Disti (Senador Estatal, Disti	rito Num. 24)	Grant Jones	Dem	. 37	-
VOTE F	OR ONE	VOTE POR UNO			
Judge, Court of Cri Appeals, Place 3 (Juez, Corte de Apelac Criminales, Lugar)	iones	Bill White	Dem.	34	-
VOTE FO		VOTE POR UNO			
Appeals, Place 2 (Juez, Corte de Apelac Criminales, Lugar N	iones	W. C. (Bill) Davis	Dem.	31	→
VOTE FO		VOTE POR UNO			
		Virgil E. Mulanax	Rep.	29	→
Judge, Court of Crim Place 1 (Juez, Corte de Apelaci Criminales, Lugar N		Sam Houston Clinton	Dem.	28	→
VOTE FO		VOTE POR UNO			
Justice, Supreme Co (Juez, Corte Suprema, I	urt, Place 2 Lugar Nilm 2)	C. L. Ray	Dem.	26	→
VOTE FO		VOTE POR UNO			
Justice, Supreme Co (Juez, Corte Suprema,	urt, Place 1	Franklin S. Spears	Dem.	24	→
VOTE FO	RONE	VOTE POR UNO		-	
vace rresidente, Co	ic suprema)	John L. Bates	Rep.	22	-
Chief Justice, Suprer (Juez Presidente, Co.	ne Court	John L. Hill	Dem.	21	÷
(Commissioner (Comissionado de Ferrocarriles)		omas Henderson	REP.	18	3
VOTE FO	R ONE Mack Wal	(VOTE POR UNO)	DEM.	17	_
(Representante de los Estados Unidos, Dis. Núm. 17)					_
VOTE FO United States Repre- sentative, Dist. 17		(VOTE POR UNO)	DEM.	14	_
	Phil Gram		REP.	12	<u></u>
Senator (Senador de los Estados Unidos)	Lloyd Doggett		DEM.	11	<u></u>
VOTE FOR ONE (VOTE POR UNO) United States					
	Lyndon H Billy M. D	I. LaRouche Davis	IND.	9	→
	Ronald Re George Bu	ush	REP.	7	→
President (Presidente y Vice Presidente)	President Walter F. Mondale Sidente y Vice Geraldine A. Ferraro		DEM.	5	→
VOTE FO		(VOTE POR UNO)			
	Republican Party (Partido Republic		cano)	3	→
(UN SOLO PARTIDO)	Danielia.				

Homeowners share of tax doing up

Property taxes totaling nearly \$7.2 billion were levied in Texas classes of taxable property. during 1983 by some 3,118 local State Property Tax Board's (SPTB's) annual report for the

1983 tax year.

As Ron Patterson, SPTB's executive director pointed out, "The property tax continues to be the primary revenue for school districts, cities, counties, and special districts such as junior colleges, utility districts, etc.

Overall, the statewide property tax levy rose by more than \$637 million from the \$6.5 billion in property taxes levied in 1982, representing a 9.72 per cent rate of increase. That rate of increase, however, is down from the 14.4 per cent increase in levies from 1981 and 1982.

According to information compiled by SPTB, total tax levies for the years 1982 and 1983 by type of taxing unit were as follows.

School district increases 9.68 per cent statewide, cities 7.86 per cent statewide, counties 10.74 per cent statewide and special districts 11.73 per cent statewide.

"During 1983," Patterson said, "50.15 per cent of all property taxes in the state were levied by school districts, while the city share of the levy was 20.38 per cent. Counties levied 17.95 per cent of the taxes, while special districts accounted for 11.52 per cent of the 1983 levy.

The reported property tax levy per capita in Texas for fiscal year \$376.61 in 1982. However, when adjusted to a base year of 1970 for changes in the consumer price index, the real per capita levy for 1983 falls to \$162.47, compared to \$151.50 in 1982 and \$129.27 in 1970.

Patterson noted that the property tax accounted for 41.54 per cent of the total state and local tax burden in 1983, compared to 38.06 per cent in the previous year. "Revenues from state taxes, mainly in sales and oil production taxes, dropped in 1983," he explained, "and resulted in the property tax representing a larger portion of the total state and local

Using levy information reported by school districts, SPTB calculated the distribution of the 1983

school tax levy among the various districts, the rollback process can

The figures indicated that buswhile owners of single-family rollbabck proposals. residences paid slightly over 30 cluding rural acreage, were allo- ing a tax limitation for the cated less than eight per cent of following year and two rejecting the school tax burden while other the steps. Voters approved the classes of property together paid eight per cent limitation in four over nine per cent of the levy.

ty units can change a property was held. category's share of the tax levy. Reappraisals were conducted in 35 siderable drop in rollback activity county units last year.

provisions in the state truth-in- ing 1982 increases. taxation codes also give voters the opportunity to limit tax increases. In all units except school

be used in the same tax year to The figures indicated that bus- reduce a tax increase to only eight taxing units, according to the iness taxpayers including mineral per cent over the calculated producers pair just over 52 per effective tax rate. In school cent of the school tax levy among districts the tax increase limitathe various classes of taxable tion is implemented in the following year

> SPTB figures show 1983 tax iness taxpayers including mineral increases were challenged in nine producers paid just over 52 per tax rollback elections last year. cent of the school taxes in 1983, Voters approved six of the nine

> Elections were held in four per cent. Farm properties, in- school districts, with two approvcounties. A rollback failed to pass Complete reappraisals by coun- in one city where such an election

These figures reflect a confrom the year before, when 35 Patterson said "The rollback taxing units held election involv-

MISD lunch menu

Nov. 1: Mexican fiesta, pinto beans, rice, lettuce, corn, pineapple tidbits.

Nov. 2: Hamburgers, all the 1983 was \$416.86, compared to trimmings and fries, rice krispe

cookies Nov. 5; tacos with taco sauce, pinto beans, lettuce and cheese,

applesauce cakes Nov. 6: chicken fried steak with cream gravy, whipped potatoes with buttered english peas, orange-pineapple jello.

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Nov. 7 grilled cheese sandwiches vegetable beef soup, prune bars. Beef stew, carrots and potatoes, lettuce wedges with dressing,

rosey pears. Nov. 9 hot dogs with chili, trimmings and fries, rice krispe

VFW ladies auxillary will be providing rides to polls

Foreign Wars, we would like for 862-6158 or Legislative Chairman everyone to be able to vote this Jane Felton 846-4942 before No-November 6. Therefore, we will be vember 1. offering rides to the polls. Anyone

As members of the Ladies needing a ride should contact Auxillary to the Veterans of President Chrsitine Funderburg

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§ Even Count Dracula had to wait PTO Halloween Carnival, held § The annual event raises money

in line at a booth at the annual Saturday at Merkel Elementary.

for classroom needs at the school.

[Staff photo]

Farmers can now play the options game

For the first time in almost half a century, there will soon be trading in "put" and "call" options for agricultural commodities - including soybeans, corn, wheat, livestock and cotton. This is the third in a series of five articles describing the history of options, how they work, how they can be used, and their importance to anyone who produces, markets, purchases or finances farm products.

The easiest way to understand put and call options on soybeans, corn and other agricultural commodities is to think of an option as an "insurance policy," says Thomas R. Donovan, president of the Chicago Board of Trade

The exchange official explains that by purchasing a put option, which is an option to sell a futures contract at a specified price, it is possible to obtain what amounts to insurance against a decline in prices. Call options, which are options to buy a futures contract at a specified price, provide insurance against rising prices

Buying put options offers several important advantages over hedging or forward contracting the sale of a crop. The major advantage is that a put option provides protection against lower prices without taking away the chance to benefit from higher prices.

A second advantage is that, unlike persons who hedge by buying and selling futures contracts, buyers of options are never subject to demands from a broker to make additional margin deposits when there is a change in the price. An option buyer's only expense is the one-time premium paid to purchase the option.

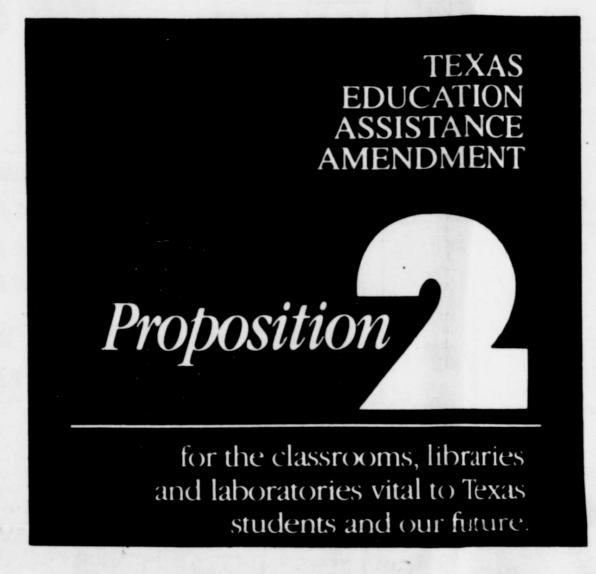
Donovan offers a simple example of how a producer of soybeans can use put options for price insurance: Suppose that at the time the farmer plants his crop, a future price of \$7.00 a bushel is being quoted for delivery of soybeans in November. To assure himself of at least that price, less any difference between Chicago prices and local prices (an amount known as the "basis"), the farmer can buy a put option with a \$7.00 strike price.

If, come harvest, soybean prices have declined to \$6.00 a bushel, the farmer can realize a profit of approximately \$1.00 a bushel by exercising the option. Or, easier still, he can have his broker sell the option in the marketplace for about \$1.00 a bushel.

On a 5,000 bushel option, which is the standard size option for corn and soybeans, the \$1.00 a bushel comes to \$5,000. In much the same manner as an insurance policy, the option has provided the soybean grower \$5,000 as compensation for the \$1.00 a bushel decline in soybeans between planting and harvest. The farmer's only cost is the premium paid to buy the option.

If soybean prices had increased rather than decreased, the farmer would simply allow the option to expire and sell his crop at the higher market price. It's important to remember, the Chicago Board of Trade's Donovan points out, that while the put option gave the farmer the right to sell at a specified price it didn't obligate him to sell at that price.

Just as put options provide insurance against lower prices, call options provide insurance against higher prices. Thus, a livestock producer concerned that the cost of purchased corn might increase could obtain protection by purchasing a call option. The option gives him the right to buy a corn futures contract at a specified strike price. If it turns out that corn can be bought at a lower price in the market, he can simply let the option expire.



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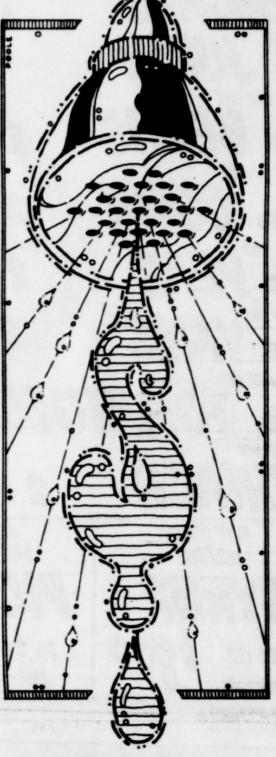
Cross country to regionals

Kelly Beights was the only girl running for Merkel's varsity cross country team and she placed ninth in district and earned a trip to the regional meet this weekend.

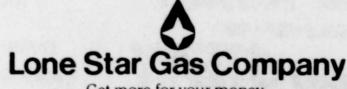
Running in the JV division, Tina Nilsson was 3rd and Ronna Casey

In the boys division, Merkel placed second behind Breckenridge. They will also be running in the regionals this weekend in Lubbock. The team and their

finishes at the district meet are Rodney Sitler 6th, Steve Farthing 7th, Wayne Johnson 8th, Matt Cain 10th, Clay Carey 11th, Gary Sutterfield 12th, Tim Baber 13th. The JV also competed and won their division. They were Jerry Davis, 1st, Ronnie Powell 2nd Milo Harris 3rd, and Mike Farthing, Mike Lambert, James Wright. Kelley will run at 8:40 a.m. and the boys will run at 10:00 a.m. at Mac Simmons Park.



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