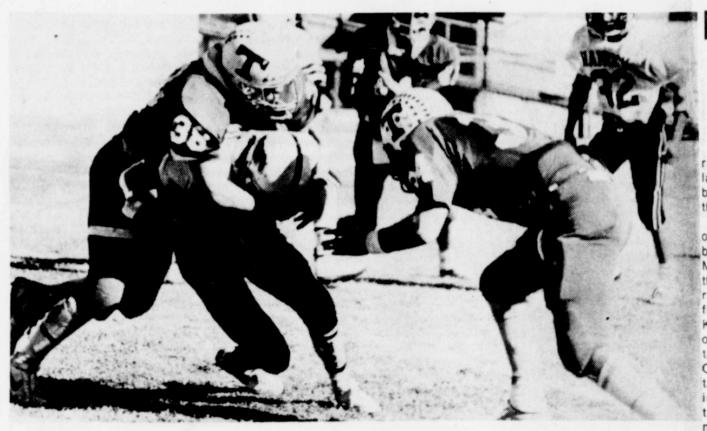
The Merkel Mail

Thanksgiving Day, 1986 . . . Merkel, Texas

Our 98th Year



§ Mike Payne [38] tackles a Ft. Hancock back as Sam Jones [34] comes in to help. Trent was downed 60-25 in Monahans Saturday. [Photo by Rebecca Sharp]

MHS cagers start off 2-0

basketball team was one game games each time we play a tournaments. away from the UIL playoff last district game." The boys don't Townsend said his team will year and Coach Skip Townsend is start district play until Jan. 6th. play a tough man to man or a 2-1-2 looking for an exciting district. The boys will be in a couple of zone defense. race this year

team is very well balanced. He said "We have a bunch of kids that can shoot and handle the

they have defeated Haskell and Ranger. Lynn Hays led the way in the first contest with 31 points and 11 rebounds. Ted Seymore hit 6 of 6 shots from the field on his way to a 13 point effort.

In the second game, Ramon Moreno led the way with 15 as Hays and Kenneth Jowers each added 12. Shayne Newberry also Pierson hoped his strong corps of contributed 10.

On the varsity roster this year Ramon Moreno and Ted Seymore.

Townsend feels the district 5AAA race will be pretty well even. He said Clyde and Wylie Christi Wade. would be tough and listed heighth

The Merkel High boys varsity district and we should be in good Possum Kingdom and Early

tournaments where they will face Townsend is also coaching the

MHS will have five juniors some tough competition. Town- Freshman boys and Brad Woods starting and Townsend said this send's team will participate in the is in charge of the JV boys this

The boys are off to a 2-0 start as Girls coach likes '86-87 prospects

ball team will have to replace All- year's leading scorer and if we Regional performer Kelly Beights this season and new coach Bobby senior players will lead the way.

The lineup this year includes are Brit Pursley, Lance Jones, seniors Stacey Newberry, Mi- season. Douglass Taylor, Justin Amerine, chelle Woodard, Sheri Riney and Richard Eleby, Shayne Newberry, Tracy Bicknell. Junior players Lynn Hays, Kenneth Jowers, include Carolyn Lally and Clara Hererra and sophomores Michelle Barnett, Teresa Lucas, Amber chances for the playoffs. The girls Whisenhunt, Michelle Dudley and don't open district play until Dec.

Coach Pierson told The Mail last as their advantage. "I'd say their week "We have excellent senior

The Merkel girls varsity basket- depth this season. We lost last can shoot well and get other's used to scoring, we will be all

> The coach added he though scoring would be balanced this

> Coach Pierson said he thought the district should be a close race. He pointed to Wylie, Coahoma, Clyde and Merkel as having

The girls are entered in tournaments at Hardin-Simmons and in only one weak team in the leadership and we will have good the Early tournament at Brown-

Fort Hancock ends Trent's season

in Monahans Saturday

bi-district battle at Monahans, by the score of 60-25.

ran for three more. Trent scored Gorilla squad this year. first on a long pass from Lewis Knapp to Lee Hunt, but managed intermission. The Gorillas scored twice more with Chris Simpson being beaten. making a 22 yard run and Mike Payne passing to Billy Fee, but

run by the Ft. Hancock Mustangs Trent, while Ft. Hancock added 34 though losing the game, was to last Saturday in a six man more points during the 3rd and 4th play the Jayton Jaybirds tougher

The high octane, speed type, dissappointed with the loss, said including two state championships offense of Ft. Hancock proved to that he was proud of the accom- by the Jaybirds. Congratulations be to much for the Gorillas, as the plishments of the team and that he Gorillas on a fine year Mustangs passed for 344 yards in was extremely pleased with the the air and six touchdowns, and hustle and desire attitude of the wish to thank the parents and

Trent was not picked to be a rous enough to contribute on the competitive threat to any team chartering of the Greyhound buses only 6 more points before half this year, but the hard hitting taken to the game in Monahans, time on a pass from Knapp to young squad proved some odd- as well as the continued support of Chris Simpson, while the Mus- smakers wrong by moving out of the community and school body tangs had 26 on the board at their zone, winning it, and making for their spirit this season. A their way to Bi-District before special THANK YOU, to the

One of the Gorillas' greatest and reporting of the Gorilla

The Trent Gorillas were over that was the end of the scoring for accomplishments, this year, althan any other team had played Coach John Grimland, although them in 38 straight games,

> The Gorillas and their coaches other supporters who were gene-Merkel Mail for the fine coverage

MISD board hears pay plan, changes local policies

a presentation on a new insurance employees with pre-tax money. and income protection plan and Anderson told the board 12 of the approved new wording in the state's 14 education service cen-Middle Schol handbook for drug ters are already participating in abuse at their regular meeting the plan. Anderson asked for, and last Thursday night at the high received, permission to make school annex.

Board members also made concerning the plan. changes on their discipline man-

sentation from T. W. Anderson In other action, board members new federal policy. concerning a plan that would pay approved new wording in the

presentations to MISD employees

Anderson told board members the plan would save MISD em-Board members began the ployees tax money because cermeeting by paying bills totaling tain income that normally would discipline management plan. They be taxable, would be deducted also raised the mandatory refrom gross pay instead of net pay.

The Merkel school board heard insurance and other bills for MISD middle school's student handbook concerning procedures in dealing with students caught abusing

> Damron told board members he wanted the plan because of possible needs in the future. He said he was not exepriencing any trouble with middle school students concerning drugs.

Board members also made state mandated changes in the local tirement age to /U, in line with a



§ Trent back Chris Simpson looks for a receiver in Saturday's 60-25 loss in Monahans to Ft. Hancock.

Trent won the Zone Championship this season Photo by Rebecca Sharp



Basketball, fair, parade . .

by Cloy A. Richards

We snuck in to your mail box a day early this week so readers could have their paper before the holiday.

The Chamber of Commerce's annual Christmas Fair came off well this weekend at the Methodist Church gym.

There were'nt any spots available when the show started Saturday. The event was also sold out last year at Heritage Hall.

The Chamber owes a debt of gratitude to local beta Sigma Phi clubs for their manning the concession stands for the Chamber's Christmas Lights savings account. Mamie Steck headed up the volunteer effort.

I finally spoke with both basketball coaches last week and boys coach Skip Townsend and girls coach Bobby Pierson both likes their team's district chances this season.

Townsend said the other district teams will be looking at his lineup for the next two years as he send five juniors on the floor each night to start. The girls will have to replace last year's leading scorer Kelly Beights. Beights was named to all-region, 3rd team last year by the Texas Association of the pageantry that surrounds the Basketball coaches.

Valantine's Ball in February. that as they become available, as conference champs. A loss The event will be semi-formal and means a tie with Arkansas for the

The local football season is over prediction of the season. as Trent bowed out of the playoffs Trent had their best season Murray and company will take a

since 1980 as they won the zone 27-20 win. championship before falling in bi-district play. Congratulations to coach John

Grimland and his fighting Go- have to do. Also, thanks to Rebecca Sharp

for providing us covergage and photographs of Trent's successful

Thanksgiving ... It's always carried a double meaning around the Richards' household because of the holiday,

and a football game. It's not fair to call A&M-Texas a football game because of the rich tradition of rivalry A&M & Texas

I'll never forget a weekend a few years ago when we took Suzy Rister to College Station for the big game. Even though Suzy is not your basic sports fan, she was taken by the mass of people and

This year, A & M and the XI Nu Eta will be holding a local Longhorns will do battle in Austin.

A & M has a lot on the line as a We will have more details on win puts them in the Cotton Bowl should go over well with local high conference championship and an school and middle school students. A & M trip to the Orange Bowl.

Okay, here it s, my first A & M

Terry Metcalf will give the Aggies nightmares on the field but

ESPN will carry the game live and if we car't find any seats in Memorial Stadium, television will

Our office will be closed Wednesday through Friday

The gangand I will be spending Thanksgiving with Melanie's parents in an Antonio and Lake Canyon. Jey and I hope to catch a Thanksiving catfish or two.

Merk# was till playing its basketbll games elsewhere Monday beause a replacement for a broken ackboard has not arrived. I be it's kind of strange at practia.

Stal getting your floats, bicycles and other modes of transportion ready as the Christmas parae is not too far away. Te parade is planned Dec. 6th

Obituaries-

Bruce Deen

Bruce Edward Deen, 50, died Nov. 12 at Humana Hospital in Abilene. Funeral services were held Nov. 14 at the Starbuck Chapel with Joe Roberts officiating. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery here under the direction of the Starbuck Funeral Home.

Born April 24, 1936 in Jones County, he was an oil field worker. He was a veteran of the Korean

He is survived by his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Deen of Abilene, a brother, Charles Deen of Abilene, a sister Mrs. Jack (Sue) McDeall of Abilene and several nieces and nephews.

Luther Dennis

Luther Dennis, 75, of Trent, died Nov. 18th at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene.

held at White Church Cemetery Starbuck Funeral Home. with Bobby Wheat officiating. Burial was under the direction of the Starbuck Funeral Home.

Born March 10, 1911 in Rio Frio, 1936 here. he was a rancher in the Mulberry Canyon area until 17 years ago, when me moved to Trent.

He married Linda Pahmeyer in 1946 in Big Spring.

Odessa, a daughter Juanita Whe- dren eler of Midland and daughter Pallbearers were Freddie Ve-Annie Whitman of Lubbock. He is teto, Bryan Jessup, Phil Seymour, also survived by five grand- Jerry Merritt, Truman Harrison children and four great-grand- and Terry Barnes.

Fred Barnes

Fred Barnes, 77 of Merkel, died at his home November 10th. Funeral services were held Nov. 12th at the Starbuck Chapel with Wayne Keller, officiating. Burial

A native of Taylor County, he was a retired rancher. He had married Audi Pomroy March 13,

He is survived by his wife supplier. He had held that post for as hostess. Audie of Merkel; two sons, Bonny

Fred Barnes of Dallas and Jerry Wayne Barnes of Odessa, a He is survived by his wofe of daughter Delores Veteto of Odes-Trent; two sons, Raymon Dennis sa, a sister Goldie Brewer of of Garden City and Sam Dennis of Alverado and three grandchil-

R. Leveridge Jr.

R. J. Leveridge Jr., 29, of Indianapolis, died Nov. 13th in

Funeral services were held at North Methodist Church and he A.M. of the first Monday was entombed in Crown Hill Mau-

THE STATE OF TEXAS +TO: M. E. BISHOP. An Individual, Address Unknown, Defendant. Greeting:

attended the University of Wash-

ington where he was a member of the Theta Delta Chi fraternity. He

was an Eagle Scout and a member

of the Mercer Island United

He was sales manager for

Schmid, Inc., a wholesale gift

nine years and had lived in

Indianapolis for the past eight

He is survived by his parents,

Methodist Church in Seattle.

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10 o'clock after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of the issuance of this citation, same being Monday the 22nd day of December, 1986, at or before ten o'clock A.M. before the Honorable 42nd District Court of Taylor County, Texas, at the Court House of said County in Abilene

Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said

eridge; a sister, Melanie Lev- sented with a pin, certificate and Satterwhite, Mamie Steck, Ruth eridge, all of Mercer Island. Wa .: Life Member Guard. July, A.D. 1986, in this Block 6, Original Town cause, numbered 39,981- of Merkel, Taylor Coun-A on the docket of said court and styled OD-DILEE REDDIN, AN

INDIVIDUAL Plaintiff

vs. M. E. BISHOP, AN

INDIVIDUAL Defen-

The names of the parties to the cause are as follows: ODDILEE REDDIN, An Individual are Plaintiffs and M. E. BISHOP, An Individual, are Defendants.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit:

On the 15th day July, 1986, the Plaintiff. was and still is, the owner in fee simple of the following described premisis situated in the County of Taylor and the State of Texas: Lot 7.

ty. Texas:

Palmer of Merkel and Amanda the late Ocie S. Leveridge.

Local Preceptor Eta Omega group meets

Preceptor Eta Omega, Chapter Bettye Conley's letter of request

of Beta Sigma Phi, met on for a leave of absence was

Tuesday, November 18, at the accepted with regrets. Betty Lu

REA Building, with Jane Carson Satterwhite was appointed pro-

presented the program and a film, guests and following members:

Kathy Leverich, presided at the Jane Carson, Liz Eager, Blanche

R. J. was born in Abilene. He his grandparents Nolan and Ann and Zettie Bozeman of Dallas and

Guest Speaker, Susan Oberly, Conley,

assistant director of Rape Crisis

Ronald O and Patricia A. Palmer business meeting. Mamie Steck, Hewitt, Kathy Leverich, Val

Leveridge; a brother, Rod Lev- Silver Circle Recipient, was pre- Patterson, Opal Garner, Betty Lu

July, 1986, the Defendant, M.E. Bishop, unlawfully entered upon and disposesses her of such premisis and withholds her the posession thereof. Said property being described as Lot 7, Block 6, Original Town of Merkel, Taylor County, Texas.

Plaintiff prays that the Defendent be cited to appear and answer this petition and that the Plaintiff have judgement against the Defendant for the title and posession of the above described premises, for of suit, and such other

Tipton and Connie Ybarra. which the Plaintiff may be entitled either at law

gram chairman to replace Betty

Refreshments were served to

or equity. as is more fully shown After the 15th day of by Plaintiff's Petition on

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 process 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 the 3rd day of

November, A.D. 1986. Attest: Rilla Mahoney District Clerk, Taylor County, Texas 42nd

District Court by Rita Moore, Deputy (Seal)



§ Trent back Chris Simpson picks up yards in Trent's playoff game Saturday. Trent ended their sea-

Photo by Rebecca Sharp

COTTON DEFOLIATION VALLEY FLYING SERVICE

6th & Marion - Merkel CALL 928-4043 RAY QUINN, OWNER SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

TRENT GORILLAS 1986 **ZONE CHAMPS**

TODAY'S VIDEOS ANDY DON HART, CPA

BEN FRANKLIN'S **FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK** PALMER PONTIAC & GMC P & L AUTO PARTS **DUBOSE TEXACO** INDEPENDENT AMERICAN SAVINGS MERKEL DRUG

WYLIE TRUCK STOP STARBUCK FURNITURE TAYLOR ELECTRIC HICKS AUTO SUPPLY CARSONS SUPERMARKET HOME STATE BANK **VIDEO COUNTRY** MERKEL BRICK & LUMBER

THE MERKEL MAIL



THE 1986 TRENT GORILLAS WITH THE ZONE CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY

Alternatives listed in preparing for new tax laws

With the 1986 tax reform bil now signed into law, individuals need to start doing some serious thinking and planning regarding tax strategies before the year draws to a close.

"Since many provisions of the new tax bill become effective on become familiar with the tax tion with the new tax situation: consequences of the legislation

"Individuals need to take advantage of the new tax code and to capitalize on existing as well as future tax breaks," says Hayenga. He recommends visiting a broker or accountant as soon as possible to look at tax strategies.

According to Hayenga, certain Jan. 1, 1987, individuals need to steps should be taken in conjunc-

-Defer income: Since tax rates and consider certain actions be- will be dropping to either 15 or 28 fore Dec. 31," points out Dr. percent, try to defer as much Wayne Hayenga, an economist income as possible until next year and attorney with the Texas so you will be taxed at lower Agricultural Extension Service, rates. But don't defer income if The Texas A&M University Sy- you plan to use income averaging since this is the last year that

method will be available.

-Establish a 401(k): This is a salary reduction plan to which you can contribute up to \$30,000 during 1986. That amount drops to only \$7,000 a year starting in 1987.

--Review your portfolio: Sell stocks now to take advantage of the favorable long-term capital gains rate, particularly if you feel they won't move up much in price.

-- Seek high dividend investments: Select securities that offer high dividends since dividends and capital gains will be taxed the same under the new law. Many investors believe there will be more corporate pressure to increase dividends because longterm appreciation will become bonds. Beginning in 1987, tax less important than immediate

-Stay clear of investments with immediately reportable income: Think about investments that should offer a sizeable payoff next year-U.S. Treasuries, Savings Bonds and annuities. Again, income next year will be taxed at a

-Increase deductions for this year: Increasing your deductions in 1986 will offer a greater tax benefit. The cost of items still deductible in 1987 will increase from a tax-savings standpoint. Currently a \$1 deduction at the maximum tax rate of 50 percent provides a 50-cent tax savings. That same deduction will provide Four bills introduced by Con- part of the larger Superiund these measurers," Congressman future. However, be cautious agriculture and small business can't be borrowed back for other

-Buy big-ticket items now: Buy By introducing a bill, a con- items such as cars and boats bills. The 17th District Represen- successful bill, H.R. 4683. This gressman is the chief sponsor of before Jan. 1 when the sales tax tative was successful in incorpo- legislation authorizes the Secre- the legislation, enlisting co-spon- deduction disappears. Also, pay rating four of his bills into tary of Agriculture to determine sors for support. Along with the for investment advice and tax comprehensive pieces of legisla- the manner and frequency of seven bills he introduced, Sten- preparations before the end of the tion, which were later signed into inspections of meat products. This holm, who is very selective of the year so that those costs can still law by President Ronald Reagan. Stenholm bill will result in an legislation he signs onto, was be deducted from your 1986

"I am gratified to see the by other Members. Of those he shelters: Tax shelters, set up to 1912 was Congressman Stenholm's adoption and implementation of co-sponsored, more than one-four- generate big losses in their early years, have been hard hit by tax reform. Under the old law, these losses could be used to offset income from salary, stocks and

shelters will be considered passive investments and any losses they generate can be applied only to offset losses from other passive investments. Look for reliable shelters that make economic sense and dispose of investments that do not generate passive

-Consider municipal bonds: Municipal bonds and bond funds offer tax exempt earnings and good yields; they are one of the

few legitimate tax shelters left. -Take another look at childrens' accounts: When transferring assets to children, select those that will mature either when the child is more than 14 years of age or

when the money is needed for college or some other specific

-Don't toss out the IRA: Keep your IRA, even if it doesn't qualify for the tax deduction. An IRA is still a tax-free investment; furthermore, a penalty must be paid on early withdrawals.

-Remember the alternative minimum tax: This tax is computed in high income returns when the initial computation indicates there is no tax liability. If this tax exceeds the regular tax, then it may pay to delay deductions until next year since the alternative minimum tax rate will increase from 20 percent in 1986 to 28

Stenholm bills approved

gressman Charles W. Stenholm program which was signed into Stenholm said. "These legislative about prepaying on your home during the 99th Congress have law by the White House on Oct. initiatives will not only benefit the mortgage. Once paid, the money

During the two-year session, which ended Oct. 18th, Congress- inspection system is the result of beneficial to all Americans. man Stenholm authored seven Congressman Stenholm's fourth

part of the 1985 farm bill, which over the next five years. takes effect Dec. 24, 1986. H.R. bill to establish a fair farm and crop acreage base and program yields system. The Bases and Yields bill will provide for more efficient, flexible programs for farmers. H.R. 1591, the Clear Title bill, provides more protection for purchasers of agricultural products.

responsible for a bill that allows Becca Dunagin with 11 points. Thompson, Hope Ward, Jennifer Superfund clean-up projects. H.R. logies, many of which are deve- Donaldson 2 points.

A modernized processed mea community, but will also prove uses.

Two of Stenholm's bills became estimated \$68 million in savings co-sponsor of about 300 of the taxable income. more than 7,500 bills introduced -- Take a close look at tax

Dunagin leads 7th grade girls

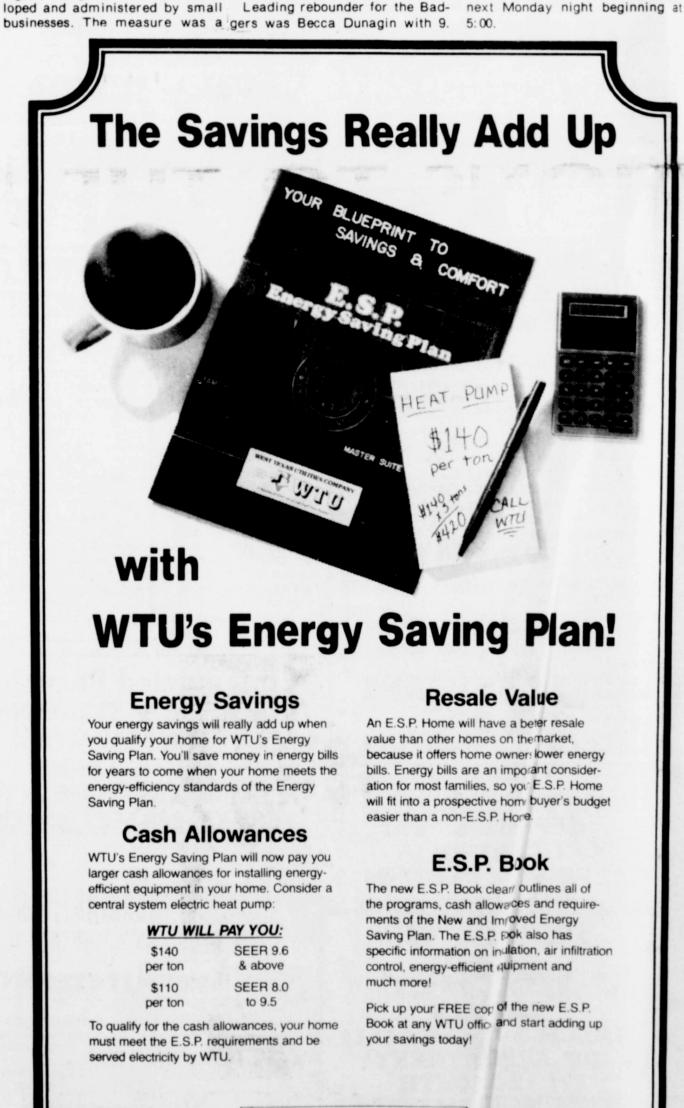
eam played Wylie Monday night. steals and recoveries with 6. They were defeated 28-21. Leading The Stamford Democrat was the scoring for the Badgers was were Kriste A. Smith, Lori Other scorers were Son Hui Chon 4 Hobbs, Michelle Ingram, Mandy 3211, added by the full House, will points, Coty Vaughn 2 points, Barnett, Christy Minze, Ellyn encourage the use of new techno- Dayna Doan 2 points, and Becky Rutledge, and Julie Harding.

The 7th grade girls basketball Coty Vaughn led the team in

Other contributors to the game

The girls play at Sweetwater





WEST TEXAS UTILITIES COMPANY



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For Sale: Shelled pecans \$3 per pound, 1977 Grand Prix-400 engine \$600 as is call 928-5719 or see at 512 El Paso. 191-1tp

For sale: Bicycle \$12.50 and up see at 604 Rose after 4 p.m. 191-1tp

Firewood For Sale: \$50 delivered and stacked 4 ft. tall and 16 ft. long. 736-5286 or 736-6947. 190-2tc

For Sale: 1981 Buick Rivera, leather interior. electric windows, seats and locks, am-fm tape. 50,000 miles, cruise, tilt, Tom Carson, 928-5069. 190-TFC

Shelled Pecans, New Crop. \$3.00 per pound, last year shelled frozen \$2.50 per pound, call 928-5986.

REAL ESTATE

MUST SELL: 2 bedroom home, newly remodled new electrical wiring, plumbing, carpet, paneling, hot water heater. septic tank and lateral lines new roof and new hot water heater. Low utilities, located west of Trent High School, Call 189-5tp

House for sale at a Trent on FM 1085. bargain, 2 bedroom, liv- 915-862-6386. ing room, kitchen, one bath, has central heat, all furniture and appliances stay with the house. Cal Cyrus Pee, Agent 928-5613.

179-TFC House For Sale: large living area, water well. storage building, central air and heat, available for immediate occupancy, call to see Cyrus Pee Realtor 928-5613. 185-TFC

CHRISTMAS PARADE SATURDAY DEC 6 928-5217 OR

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The Merkel Mail

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CLASSIFIED RATES Classified ads are \$2 for the first 18 words and 10 cents for each additional word if paid in advance. A 75 cent billing fee will be added to all charged ads. Ads that are charged and not paid within 30 days will be charged \$1 for each additional billing

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For Sale: Country Style 2400 Sq. Ft. brick built 1983 large 4 bedroom, 2 862-6352 after 9:00 p.m. bath, DR, LR, 9x36 front or call before 7:00 a.m. porch, heat pump, 24x36 metal barn, corrals on 1.5 acres one half mile S.

188-4tp

House For Sale: 2 bedroom, living room, kitchen, 2 baths, three lots, call Cyrus Pee Agent 928-5613.

186-TFC

For Sale: 3 bedroom brick house, central air and heat, bath &3/4, built in dishwasher and range, on 2 lots, 1 car garage, horsepens, and storage building, 906 Lo-Canada o co canada de la canada cust 928-5145.

171-TFC

Choice Lots For Sale: in the growing area of town, after 6:00, 928-5067 189-TFC

House for sale: living room, dining room, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, kitchen, central heat & evap cooling, good location, storage in the back, water well, 2 pecan trees, on five lots. new carpet. Cyrus Pee, Realtor 928-5613.

190-TFC FOR RENT

For Rent: 2 bedroom partly furnished apartment, water furnished, \$175.00, call 928-5635 early or nights. 191-2tp

For rent: 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Dishwasher, washer & dryer. 928-5378 187-zTFC

Equal Housing Opportunity SHANNONSIDE

APARTMENTS 1, 2, & 3 bedroom apartments, all electric, central heat & cooling. For more information call 928-5038. 89-TFC

For Rent: 4 bedroom, 2 bath house, central heat and air, fenced back yard, close to school, available Dec. 1, \$375 per month plus \$200 deposit. Call 846-4715 or 846-4696.

191-TFC +For lease: Large spa-

cious area in a good location. For more information, call 928-5525. 191-1tc

For rent: 1 bedroom furnished house. Carpet & central heat. See or call John Allison 401 Runnels 928-5787.

191-1tp

MISC.

Portable Buildings by General Shelters of Texas. Sizes 6X8 to 16X60. Prices start at \$325. Green house, horse barn garage, storage. Buffalo Energy 928-4827 1-9 pm 183-9tp

P & L Auto Parts is open from 7:30 am until 6:30 pm Monday-Friday and from 7 am until 3 pm each Saturday. 135 Edwards

176-TFC

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

33TFC

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Missing a pet? Need a pet ? Call Merkel Vet Clinic 928-5235. 185-1tnnc

KIDS KORNER DAY CARE CENTER 2nd and Oak Open Monday through Friday 6:30 am. until 5:30 p.m. Call 928-

66TFC

1,2 & 3 bedroom mobile home.. Mobile home rents 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.

186-TFC

Al-Anon, a self-help support group for the families and loved ones of alcohol and-or drug abusers is meeting every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. at the Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church, Merkel. 185-TFCNC

Granny's Playhouse Day Care Center, Open 6 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Hot lunch and snacks provided more imformation call 928-4904 or come by 207

184-4tp

Professional Dog Grooming, all breeds, hand fluff dry, hand scissoring, free polish and bows. Please call 928-4474 after 3 p.m. for an appointment. 178-TFC

Remodeling and Painting 35 years experience 312 Edwards no job too small or too large. 172-TFC

Unlimited long distance sorrow. telephone services anywhere in the US \$100 per month, Call Jan Whisenhunt 928-5941 after 4

104 2tc

Sportswear, Ladies Apparel, Childrens, Maternity, large size, petite dancewear, aeorbic or accessories store. Jordache, Chic, Lee, Levis,

Own your own Jean-

Izod, Gitano, Guess, Calvin Klein, Sergio Valente, Evan Picone, Liz Claiborne, Members Only, Garoline, Healthtex, over 1,000 others. \$14,300 to \$25,900 inventory. training, fixtures, grand opening, etc. Can open

in 15 days. Mr. Loughlin

189-1tp

(612) 888-6555.

Small engine repairs

and parts. Trimmer line for all makes of weed eaters as low as \$1.14 for 50 feet. Mowers for rent 24 hours for \$5. Bicycle repairs. Buffalo Energy 928-4827 1-9 p.m. 183-9tp

> We make hydraulic hoses, P & L Auto Parts 135 Edwards 928-4738. 186-TFC

For Watkins Products call Larry or Martha Sue Justice at 928-5217. 186-TFC

Lost Dog: Black, part chihuaha at 816 Oak Lost Monday please call

191-1tp

Large Red Cow # 5 Lost North of Merkel. Call Bob Fowler, 928-4713. 190-2tc

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our appreciation for the flowers we received during our recent time of

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PUBLIC NOTICES CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: UNKNOWN FATH-ER, Address Unknown, 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. then and there to answer the petition of BILLIE DEE STARR, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 14th day of November, 1986, against UN-KNOWN FATHER, Respondent, and said suit being numbered 532-CX on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In The Interest of ELAINE IRENE STARR, a

Child", the nature of which suit is a request to terminate the parentchild relationship and for the adoption of a child. Petitioners pray that the Court enter its decree in accordance with the allegations of the petition. Petitioners pray for general relief.

Said child was born the 28th day of April, 1986, in Lenexa, Kansas. The Court has auth-

ority in this suit to enter any judgement or decree in the child's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship and the appointment of a conservator with authority 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 directs.

Issued and given unmy hand and the seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this the 17th day of November

Rilla Mahoney, District Clerk, 326th District Court, Taylor County, Texas by Rita Moore Deputy (Seal 191-1tc-84

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 District Court of Travis County, of the 30th day of October, 1986, by Execution of said District Court for the sum of Two Hundred Two Thousand Seven Hundred Fourteen and 75/ 100 Dollars and cost of suit, under a Judgement, in favor of a certain cause in said Court, No. 355,479 and styled Travis Bank & Trust vs Penroc Energy, Virgil Robbins, placed in my hands for service. I John W. Middleton, as Sherriff of Taylor County, Texas, did, on the 6th day of November 1986. levy on certain Real Estate, situated in Taylor County, Texas, described as follows, towit: Lot 34, Section Three of Country Club Estates, being 11.95 acres out of lot nineteen. Grims County School Land, League 148, Tayloc County, Texas and levied upon as the property of Virgil Robbins and that on the first Tuesday in January, 1987, the same being the 6th 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. by virtue of said levy and said Writ of Execution I will sell said above described Real Estate at public venue, for each, to the highest bidder, as the property of said Virgil Robbins. The sale will be held

Travis Bank & Trust in

at 10:00 a.m.

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

Witness my hand, this the 6th day of November, 1986. John W. Middleton

Sheriff, Taylor County. Texas by Eddie Swanson, Deputy 191-80-3tc

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Property tax levy in state almost \$9 billion

according to the State Property districts." Tax Board's (SPTB) annual report for the 1985 tax year.

at a slower rate in 1985 than the share of property taxes while ing \$1 billion. business owners were paying

for 1985 was 10.7 percent higher \$450.47 the year before," said residential property in particular, than in 1984, when the total levy Patterson. "After our staff adjus- took on a progressively greater was \$8.1 billion. By comparison, ted these figures to 1970 dollars to share of property taxes in this 1984 property taxes were 12.1 percent higher than in 1983.

largest increases in property from 1984 and \$49 from 1970. taxes occurred in school districts taxes grew the least, by 6.1 1983. taxes increased by 9.5 percent.

Local property tax levies in Texas," said Patterson. "It is the every dollar of their tax levy, Texas totaled \$8.9 billion for 1985, only source of taxes for school although some of the shortfall Patterson said several other

almost \$4.7 billion, or 52 percent, previous years. show that homeowners were hospital, junior college, and navi- the school tax base. paying an increasingly larger gation districts levied the remain-

The statewide property tax levy the 1985 fiscal year, compared to real estate, and single-family account for inflation," he added, period. On the other hand, busi-The report shows that the \$178.08 in 1985, an increase of \$10 ries, equipment, industrial ma-

Local property taxes made up 41 and gas reserves generated a and cities, whose levies each percent of all state and local taxes smaller share of taxes than increased by close to 12 percent during the 1985 fiscal year, and before. from 1984 to 1985. County property have remained at this level since

percent, while special district Patterson pointed out that the 31.6 percent of school taxes in report's figures represent total 1985. By comparison, their share "The property tax remains the property taxes levied and not the was 30.5 percent in 1984 and 54 most important source of tax amount of taxes actually collect- percent in 1981. revenue for local governments in ed. Taxing units rarely collect

have the plan fully in effect.

farm program benefits.

rant, Valera and Vernon.

each county.

Cash said.

Potentially highly erodible soils

Each county in the Abilene Area

county. This list is available in the

Soil Conservation Service Office in

complying with the 1985 Farm

Bill," Ken Cash, district conser-

vationist for the Soil Conservation

Service at Abilene said. "We will

are farming highly erodible land

and if they are we will assist them

in preparing a conservation plan

l'and may want to consider placing

it in the conservation reserve,

Farmers with highly erodible

to comply with the law."

'We are ready to help anyone in

may be made up through collec- factors helped reduce its share of School districts accounted for tion of delinquent taxes from the tax levy, which was 15.3

"Overall, property taxes grew of all property taxes levied in 1985. SPTB's annual report uses data percent in 1985. "Both the prices Cities and towns levied another reported by school districts to year before," said Ron Patterson. \$1.8 billion in property taxes while estimate how the 1985 property SPTB's executive director. "How- counties levied \$1.4 billion. Special tax burden was distributed among ever," he added, "our figures districts such as water, utility, the various kinds of property in

> "These numbers illustrate shifts in the property tax burden that 'Property taxes amo ated to have been going on since at least \$493.35 for each Texas resident in 1981," said Patterson. "Urban "the per capita tax levy was ness properties such as inventochinery, utility companies and oil

For example, owners of singlefamily residential property paid

As a whole, residential and commercial real estate generated close to 64 percent of school taxes in 1985, compared to 62 percent in 1984 and 54 percent in 1981.

Business properties of all kinds. including real estate, accounted for 50.2 percent of the school tax levy in 1985. These properties produced 51.6 percent of the total

Patterson sees several factors at work in this shift of the tax burden. "The growth in our state's population stimulated economic growth and demand for residenfor those who are not using a tial property, which in turn drove The list revealed that about 18 conservation plan. They have until up real estate values. Keep in

"In addition", he observed. The conservation compliance The provisions will have no "studies done by our agency show farmers who farm highly erodible you are farming highly erodible however, appraisal districts have land with a conservation plan, done a better job of appraising check with your local Soil Conser- these properties and their taxes vation Service office to find out if are likely to be based on values Some members of Xi Nu Eta it meets conservation compliance that are closer to true market value.

Onsite field visits will be needed Properties such as utility com-

highly erodible. Actual steepness historically been taxed at close to their full market value, according Members present were Marilyn of slope and length of slope will to Patterson. "The shift of affect final determinations. If the property taxes away from these land is not highly erodible, a properties represents a more conservation plan will not be equitable distribution of the tax required to continue receiving burden. In other words," he explained, "there has been a shift Highly erodible soils in Taylor in tax burden because of more County are Cobb, Cosh, Demona, accurate appraisals of property Hamby, Kavett, Mereta, Owens, that used to be undertaxed. Quanah, Speck, Stamford, Tar-combined with a decline in the value of property that used to be

> **FUR BUYER** WILL BE IN MERKEL BEGINNING **DECEMBER** 2 AT WYLIE TRUCK TERMINAL FROM 11:30 - 12 EACH TUESDAY

FUR SEASON WE BUY RATTLE SNAKES

THROUGHOUT

Some county farmland may be eligible for ASCS program

A list of highly erodible and land unless the land is being levy in 1984 and 56 percent in 1981. potentially highly erodible soils farmed in accordance with a was released this week by the conservation plan approved by the USDA Soil Conservation Service local conservation district. as mandated by the Food Security The Act allows a grace period

percent of the land in Taylor January 1, 1990 to develop and mind that the 1985 tax levy was County is highly erodible and begin actively applying a plan, based on property values as of about 17 percent is potentially They have until January 1, 1995 to January 1, 1985. highly erodible.

provisions of the Act denies most effect on farmers who are using that residential real estate was USDA farm program benefits to up-to-date conservation plans. If typically undervalued on the tax

Xi Nu Eta meets

met in the home of Marilyn Tittle provisions. on November 19 to decorate the money tree to be raffled off at the on land classified as potentially panies, industries and oil and gas Christmas Fair on November 22 highly erodible to determine if it is reserves, on the other hand, have

Tittle, Sherry Vinson, Danna Dunagin and Cathy Pack.

The money tree was won by Monah Sue Cannon. We would like to express our thanks to everyone who bought chances on the tree.

TISD menu

The Trent School menu is as follows:

Monday December 1: Breakfast: cereal, juice, milk, Lunch: are Pitzer, Shep and Weymouth. salisbury steaks, gravy, cream style corn, applesauce, cookies, has a list of erodible soils for that rolls, tea or milk.

Tuesday December 2: Breakfast: oatmeal, juice, milk. Lunch: bar-b-q beef patties, mashed potatoes, english peas, chocolate cake, rolls, tea or milk. Wednesday December 3: Break-

fast: biscuits, sausage, juice, milk. Lunch: fish wedges, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, lemon assist farmers determine if they pudding, rolls, tea or milk Thursday December 4: Break-

fast: donuts, juice, milk. Lunch: grilled cheese sandwich, stew, salad, cherry cookies, tea or milk. Friday December 5: Breakfast: cinnamon rolls, juice, milk. Lunch

Hamburgers, with all the trimmings, french fries, brownies, tea or milk

Garden club holds meeting

Leota Patterson and Inez Detrick co-hosted the Merkel Garden Club meeting held last Tuesday at the Patterson home.

Club president Becky Rogers presided over the business meeting at which time a report of the Texas State Garden Club Convention was given by delegates Alice King and Leota Sherrill. A report of the District 8 meeting, held earlier this month in Stamford, was also given. .

Plans for a float in the upcoming local Christmas parade were discussed.

The group then participated in a program of holiday floral arrangements and door decorations. Refreshments were served to Billie Hartley, Bessie Perry, Murl Thompson, Leota Sherrell, Mary Russom, Becky Rogers, Olga Peachey, Alice King, Peggy Black, Inez Detrick, Leota Patterson and honorary member and former Merkelite Ada Clark of

Pine Bluff, Ark. Their next meeting will be a noon Christmas luncheon and gift exchange at the home of Olga Peachey on Dec. 18th.

TODAY'S VIDEOS 137 KENT MERKEL 928-5668

overtaxed.

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GREGORY

percent in 1981 but only 11.3

for oil and gas and the size of the existing reserves have steadily declined in this five-year period, he pointed out. These figures don't and ranch lands, generated 6.2 reflect the more drastic drops in percent of school taxes in 1985. Its

Rural acreage, including farm oil and gas prices that began in share of the tax levy hasn't changed much since 1981.





Art Lawler

Ever since waking up on his 35th birthday in a cold sweat, Larry has been checking the obits in the morning newspaper.

People kid Larry about this.

"Find yourself in there this morning," they'll say at the coffee shop where Larry goes to drink herbal tea behind his newspaper. Coffee is supposed to be bad for you, and he worries his health is already more serious than even the medical profession is willing to admit.

He hasn't found himself in the obituaries yet, but that doesn't mean he's letting down his guard. One never can tell when the Big Hand will tap him on his arthritic shoulder.

Larry likes to get out his pocket calculator and solemnly total up the ages on the death page.

"Dying age for today in these parts is 59," he'll say, interrupting a recap of Sunday's Dallas Cowboys game.

Thanks to his best friend, Howard, the numbers seldom go unchallenged.

"Did you include car wrecks and suicides again?" Howard will ask. "Car wrecks don't have anything to do with natural physical health, and neither do suicides. Take those out and I'll bet the natural drying age for today is closer to

Larry does more figuring and grudgingly concedes the area's 72.5 nonwreck-non-suicide obit average for the day is close to the national mark of 73.0

Somebody asks Larry about the smokers. "How many of those that totaled up to 72.5 do you figure were

Nobody knows. You don't put that kind of information in obits:"Mr. Heater had been a three-pack-a-day Marlboro man for 28 years," according to family

The group talks Larry into a flat 10 percent "ballpark" figure for smokers who made the obit page. Before it's over they have him admitting the real average dying age for the day is closer to 90.

It works both ways, though. Larry emembers to point out that 80 percent of this group smokes, and that only he has had the courage to give up coffee. Then too, not one person at the table is a



"Factor that in, and you guys will be lucky to make it past lunch," he smiles.

Somebody interrupts long enough to quote Abe Lemons, the basketball coach. "Abe said the only thing runners have over non-runners is that they look better in their coffins." "

That leads to a round of Abe-isms. scored one point in a game, 'Congratulations, you just scored one more point than a dead man."

The quote reminds Larry of death again and he makes a motion for everyone at the table to commit themselves, "with a show of hands right now," to a running

Larry raises his hand as a sign of leadership. Since it's the only one in the air, the waitress sees it and asks him if he needs more herbs.

It wouldn't matter if the rest of this crowd decided to run. Larry has started several running programs - none lasting more than a week.

Running takes energy, and you can't worry properly if you're too tired to

Some people say Larry will worry himself into an early grave, but I'm not so sure. Some people begin early and gradually develop a talent for it. A professional worrier can do his thing with as little stress as a veteran brain

I'm more concerned with the amateurs, those people who suddenly discover worry and, with no well-developed misery skills, wind up buying a cheap

Copyright © Art Lawler, 1986 Shugart-Burrows will wed here

Mr. and Mrs. Honnie Burrows announce the impending marriage of their daughter, Robin, to Brad Shugart, son of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Shugart. The wedding is planned for December 6th at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Merkel. All friends and family are

MISD lunch menu

Nov. 26 Hamburgers with french fries and all the trimmings and cheese sticks, frozen mixed ve-School out Nov. 27 & 28 for

Thanksgiving Holiday.

and tomato wedges, corn bread and cherry cobbler.

Dec. 2: Pizza with beef and coney buns and fresh orange cheese, buttered corn, lettuce wedges

The following is the MISD wedges with choice of dressing and sliced pears.

December 3: Burrios with getables and blueberry squares. Dec. 4 Beef stew with potatoes,

carrots and onions, vegetable Dec. 1: Fish nuggets with tarter salad with choice of dressing, corn sauce, blackeyed peas with lettuce bread and chilled sliced peaches. Dec. 5th: Hot dogs with chili, pinto beans and french fries.

Sr. Citizens postpone activities

The Senior Citizens at 122 Their regular singing has been "He also told one of his players who had Edwards will not meet Nov. 27th postponed until 7 p.m. Dec 4th.

> La Casita de la Paloma CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THEIR

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AND MUCH MUCH MORE

Fund for state school begins

Project Love is a community will give a 3-dollar gift certificate Black, coordinator of the project. gifts for almost 1,000 residents of store.

December 18th. As part of Project State School.

dents range in age from seven to by the volunteer council, which is showing these people we care." The project starts November and individuals dedicated to the should be new and unwrapped. 25th and will continue thru well being of clients of Abilene There are many drop points for

Christmas Tree, which will have over \$30,000 in Christmas gifts for vience store locations, Interfirst pictures and wish list of the the residents of Abilene State Downtown, Interfirst South, Rock various residents of the school. School, this year expectations are 108 at 1740 North First, J.C. Penny

project to help collect Christmas for every gift brought into the "These are special people who Abilene State School. These resi- Project Love is being organized and Project Love is our way of

a non profit group of organizations All gifts donated to project love

Project Love, all five Wes-T-Go Love, J.C. Penny will sponsor a Last year, the council raised locations, KWIK Lube and Con-J.C. Penny, on December 2nd, for even more, according to Sue and all three local TV stations.

Taxpayers over 65 can defer taxes

Texans aged 65 or older can "This law means that, if the period, taxes and delinquent postpone paying delinquent pro- proper affidavit is on file, an older penalties and interest continue to perty taxes on their homesteads homeowner can't lose a home- add up," he said. "When the option called over-65 deferral. The es," Patterson said. elderly homeowner simply signs a deferral affidavit at the local appraisal district office.

This special form of tax relief can also halt a lawsuit already filed to collect delinquent property taxes on an older Texan's homestead, according to Ron Patterson homestead as long as that person executive director of the State owns it and lives there. Property Tax Board. To stop a delinquent tax suit, Patterson tax deferral for the elderly only explained, the over-65 homeowner postpones paying delinquent taxes files the deferral affidavit with the on the homestead; it does not court in which the suit is pending. cancel them. "During the deferral Patterson said.

over-65 tax deferral affidavit with the appraisal district, no taxing unit can initiate or pursue a suit for delinquent taxes on the

Patterson stressed, though, that

by taking advantage of a tax stead because of delinquent tax- elderly taxpayer no longer owns accrued amounts become due. Taxing units can then sue to Once a homeowner files an collect all the deferred tax, penalty and interest.

> Forms for filing a tax deferral affidavit are available from the chief appraiser of the county in which the over-65 taxpayer lives. The homeowner should fill out the form and have the signature witnessed by a notary public,

Seat belt law saves 200 lives

"We have good reason to be thankful this November," said rence. These figures prove it," George Gustafson, president of said Gustafson. the Texas Safety Association and Texans are buckling up at spokesperson for the Texas Coali- unprecedented rates. On Septemtion for Safety Belts. He reminded ber 30, Texas Safety Association motorists to buckle up during the and the State Department of four-day Thanksgiving weekend Highways and Public Transportaas they head for dinner with tion completed a three-year Traffamily and friends.

tember1, 1985 through August 31, final report, released this week 1986, just released by the Depart- put safety belt usage at 81 percent ment of Public Safety, show 2,005 in Austin's capitol area complex. drivers and front-seat passengers. A separate study of 14 cities, done killed on Texas highways, as by the Texas Transportation compared to 2,234 during the 12 Institute in the first six months of

The first year under the manda- months before the law went into tory safety belt law brought Texas effect. Incapacitating injuries through a very busy tourist season were down about 3 percent from with 10 percent fewer fatalities in 16,454 to 15,919. Non-incapacitatthe seating positions covered by ing injuries dropped by more than 15 percent.

"The law has made a diffe-

fic Safety Awareness Project Preliminary figures for Sep- focusing on state employees. The

1986, showed usage rates ranging from 57 percent to 77 percent.

In 1984, only 10 percent to 15 percent of the state's motorists used safety belts, Gustafson not-

The anniversary of the belt law came at the end of the summer of 1986, when low fuel prices and special Sesquicentennial events led state residents and visitors to hit the road in record numbers. By the end of July, according to SDHPT estimates, 88 billion vehicle miles had been logged on Texas highways, a 6 percent increase over the previous high recorded in 1985.

With more vehicles traveling greater distances, the risk was unusually high," said Gustafson. "Our citizens rose to the challenge obeyed the law and reduced fatalities by more than 200."

Xi Nu Chi will hold December bake sale

Xi Nu Chi, Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, met at 7:30 p.m. on November 11 in the home of Vicki Rodriquez. Sandra Wurst was bany chapter of Beta Sigma Phi.

to a needy family.

presented a yellow silk rose members will be going to the interesting program on ceramics, following the transfer ritual, House of Hunan Restaurant in showing different pieces she and having transferred from an Al- Abilene for a Ladies Night Out. her family had painted. Members.

Hostess Vicki Rodriquez served were then given paint, brushes, Committee reports were then refreshments to members Anita and little reindeer to paint.

given and it was decided that the Allen, Donna Bryan, Nancy Dunchapter would hold a bake sale in can, Judy Elliot, Mary Hill, Nancy December with the proceeds going Johnson, Minyon Seymore, and Sandra Wurst.

Tuesday evening, November 18, Vicki Rodriquez gave a very

Hellums has 14 to lead 8th grade girls

The 8th grade girls basketball veries with 6. team was defeated by Wylie 27-23. The leading scorer was Betsy Hellums with 14 points. Also scoring was Melanie Tankersley with 3, Tammie Pierson, Jayma Goldsmith and Cristi Moore with 2

Leading the rebounding was Jayma Goldsmith with 6, followed by Brandy Fenton with 4. Angie Leverich led in steals and reco-

Pomroy honored on 94th birthday

The Dorcus Class met Saturday November 22 for a surprise party for Irene Promroy. She was 94 years old. She was really surprised and said it was the first birthday party she had had. She enjoyed it very much.

Those present were: Laura Mae Pinkley, Sarah Bryd, Marie Briggs, Goldie Malone, Minnie Coats, Marie Reeves, Cleo Reece, Billie Hartley, Lorene Beaird, Irene Promroy, Edith Fox, Edna Finch, Ollie Deatherage, and visitors, Edna Teaff, Margaurite Watson, Hazel Pargann.

WWI auxillary meets

The Ladies Auxillary of World War I met November 18 in the home of Jewell Criswell for a Thanksgiving Dinner. All enjoyed the dinner. Old business was discussed. Billie Hartley read the minutes of the last meeting. New business was planning our Christmas Dinner with each bringing a gift to exchange. Dinner will be

Dec. 16. Present were: Trula Cox, Maggie Rentro, Mrs. Cox, Parlea Gibson, Mrs. Lucy Beaunaux, Jewell Criswell, Lorene Beaird, Mabel McRee, Billie Hartley.

the team were Phuong Thao Tran, Their next game will be in Tonya Moreno, Ava Bohannan, Sweetwater, November 24 at 5:00.

Jamie Beasley, Melissa Cuellar, Other girls who contributed to April Griffith and Lori Stockard.

Merkel 928-5113



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GALLON

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