

The Merkel Mail

Thursday, February 4, 1988 . . . Merkel, Texas

30 cents

UIL finally decides on

Badger's 1988-89 district foes

It didn't start out that way but the Merkel Badgers ended up in just about the same football district as the UIL announced realignments last week.

The Badgers will lose Brady and Sonora and face five familiar foes in district play. The football district includes Merkel, Ballinger, Wylie, Clyde, Coahoma and Colorado City.

Badger head coach Dick Lepard told **The Mail** Tuesday "They took three months to set the districts and then they changed it in one day. I liked the way it ended up, it took our two longest trips away and preserved some good rivalries."

Lepard said he has already set all but one game and a scrimmage for football season next year. The Badgers will again open their

season at Sweetwater and will have a scrimmage against Hamlin. Other non-district opponents include Bangs, Haskell and Coleman. Lepard said "It's hard to find non-district 3A schools to play without having to go way out west."

He added "This will be a good district and it will be good for us." Lepard said the reason the football district was changed from the initial announcement was due to a school in far West Texas that dropped their football program. Lepard also said the high school would be fielding a freshman team next season.

The basketball district will include Merkel, Wylie, Ballinger, Breckenridge, Clyde and Comanche. The spring sports will follow the football district for their competition.

Trent's UIL district changes please coaches

The Trent Gorilla football team will contend with a new face in their district struggles and the basketball teams will face two new teams in district play.

With the UIL realignment completed Wednesday, the Trent High school coaching staff was informed that Loraine had replaced Jayton, who moved East to district 9 along with Rochester, Guthrie, Harrold, Goree, Patton Springs, Vernon Northside and Weinert while Loraine and Westbrook were added to the basketball district to enlarge the district from four to six teams.

All three coaches at Trent were pleased with the realignments. Coach Doug Gore told **The Mail** "It went just about like I figured. The only real surprise was putting Jayton in the East and moving the Christoval, Lohn and Panther Creek district to the West." Coaches Robbie Shugart and Ed Donahue added "I like our basketball districts, all the schools are about the same size and it should make for equal competition."

Region II looks to be the

toughest in 6-Man football. Along with Trent and Loraine, Region II contenders include Fort Hancock in district 5; Sands and Loop in District 6; and in District 8 Christoval, Panther Creek and defending state champion Lohn.

Six-Man football also welcomes three teams new to Six-Man, McLean, Wilson and Blanket all drop to Six-Man. Of the three, Wilson is a team to watch. The Mustangs have qualified for the playoffs the last two years and would love to keep their winning ways in their new surroundings. Two other teams, Lazbuddie and Trent's new district rival, Loraine, are not new to Six-Man. Both teams have played an independent schedule the last two years with Lazbuddie handing Jayton its first regular season defeat 48-0, last year and Loraine finished 10-0 two years ago.

Trent's district in football includes Trent, Blackwell, Hermleigh, Ira, Loraine, Highland and in basketball Trent will face Blackwell, Loraine, Roscoe, Highland and Westbrook.

by W. E. Dulaney

Bingo rebates up 24%

The City of Merkel's tax rebates on legally held Bingo games here started off the year right as they are 24.2 percent ahead of payments received through the same period last year.

The city recently received a check of \$5,963.39. That money is being set aside by the city to build a new city hall.

Last year's payment through the same period was \$4,801.78.

The City of Tye is also ahead of last year's pace by 15.5 percent.

Tye recently received a check for \$6,104.34 compared to \$5,287.32 through the same period last year.

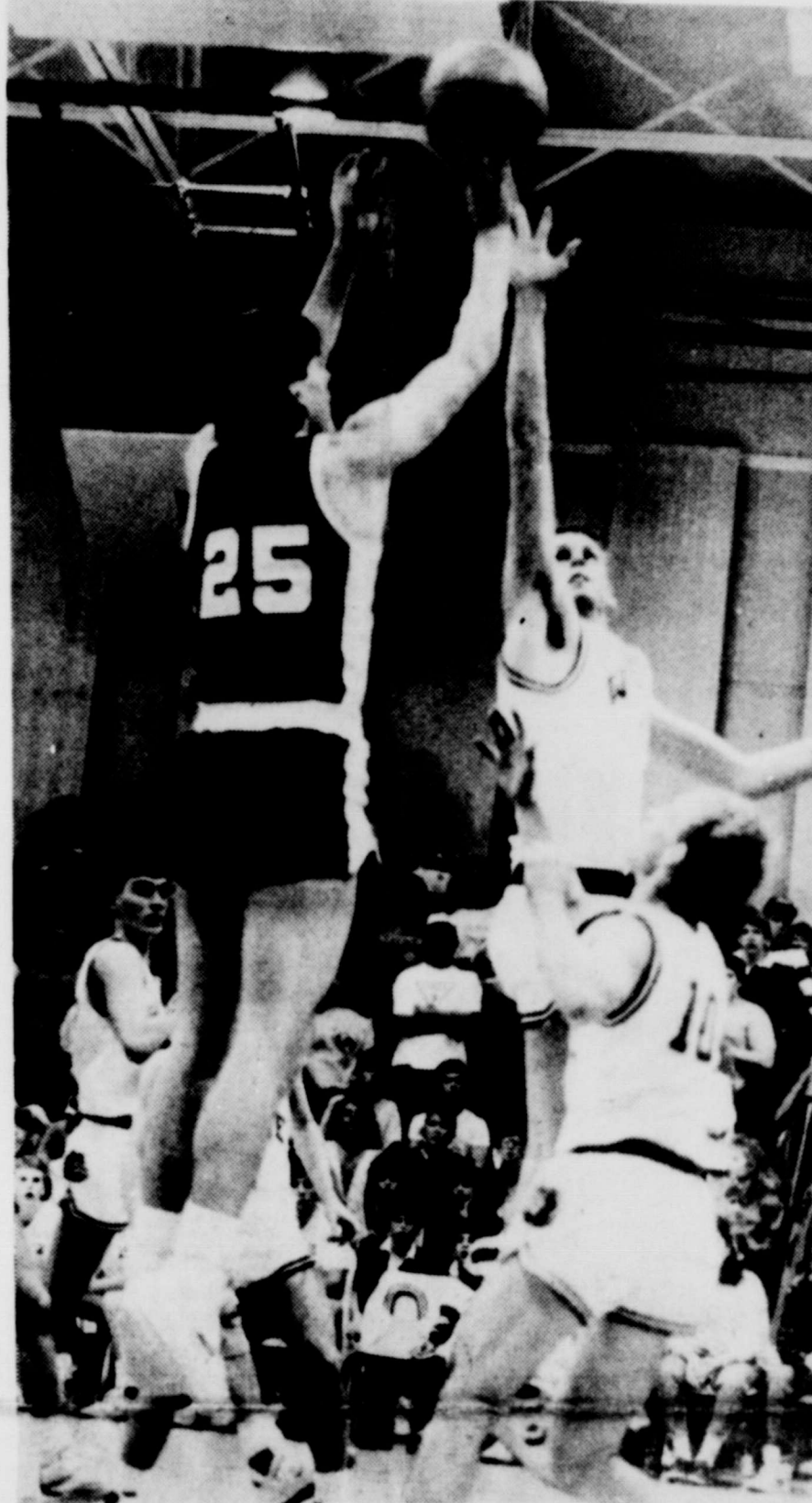
Texas State Comptroller Bob

Bullock sent fourth quarter checks of \$1.6 million to 100 cities and 65 counties that have legalized charity Bingo and levy the two percent gross receipts tax on the game.

As of last week, a total of 1,668 non-profit organizations were licensed to hold Bingo games in Texas.

Last year, Bingo games in the state grossed over \$345 million and awarded \$253 million in prizes, and contributed over \$46 million or 50.95 percent of their adjusted gross receipts to Texas charities.

In addition to local taxes, Bingo generated \$2,071,962.71 in state taxes last year.



§ Shayne Newberry goes up for a jumper in a game against Abilene Wylie earlier this season. The Badgers won the first half district championship here last Tuesday with a win over state-ranked Ballinger. Staff photo

Badger boys in playoffs after beating state-ranked Ballinger 61-40

The Badger boys won the first half district basketball championship and the girls lost two close games in action last week.

The Badger boys ended their first half of play with a perfect 6-0 record as they easily downed Ballinger 61-40. It was Ballinger's first loss in 22 games this season, who came in to the game ranked 8th in the state.

Ted Seymore led the Badgers as he scored 18. Monty Griffin added 16 and Kenneth Jowers had 10. Boys coach Johnny Hampton told **The Mail** "I thought we played very well on defense for the first three quarters. At one time we led 43-19. There was a very large crown on hand and it was a big game. The kids responded to the pressure very well. They were a little tight at the beginning of the game but they played a great defensive game for about two and a half quarters. We are just glad to be in the playoffs."

Regardless of the outcome of the second half of play, the Badgers assured themselves a playoff spot with the win. Hampton said "If we tie for the lead in the second half of play or we win it outright, we will go into the playoffs as the number one team from the district and that's what we want. Wylie, Ballinger and Coahoma all know there's only one playoff spot left."

The boys opened their second half of district play on the road last Friday in Coahoma and cruised to a 66-47 win. Lynn Hays led with 14, Jowers and Griffin

each had 13 and Brit Pursley had 12. The Badgers were 8 of 10 from the free throw line.

Hampton said of the Coahoma game "We jumped off to a 13-0 lead and after that, it was a pretty even game. It was a long game. They had shot well the first time we played this season. It was just good to get a win on the road."

The Lady Badgers lost two close games last week. Last Tuesday, the girls lost to Ballinger 53-52 as Teresa Lucas had 19 and Amber Whisenhunt added 11.

Girls coach Jan Whisenhunt told **The Mail** "When games get tight, we just seem to freeze up. We made some silly mistakes, missed a couple of layups and we didn't play natural at the end. They want to win so bad."

The girls lost to Coahoma Friday 51-48 in overtime. The girls came from a deficit of seven to pull ahead by four with 30 seconds remaining, but couldn't hold on. Whisenhunt said "we gave up three or four opportunities to win and it was a tough loss, especially after we came back they way we did." Amber Whisenhunt led the way in that game with 16 points.

In this week's action, the boys and girls hosted Clyde here Tuesday night (details unavailable at deadline) and will travel to Colorado City Friday before returning home Tuesday to host Sonora.

The boys are 19-5 on the year and 1-0 in the second half while the girls are 0-3 in the second half of district play.

1987 was a good year for Texas agriculture

By Bill Braden
Communications Specialist
Texas Agricultural Extension

1987 was a banner year for the production of many agricultural commodities in Texas despite some extremes in the weather. The year started on a good note as winter conditions were generally mild. However, a late spring freeze devastated fruit and berry crops and also damaged the state's pecan and wheat crops. Wheat losses averaged 30 to 40 percent in some locations.

Dry weather blanketed much of the state in April and early May and then the rains came, heavy rains that brought on flooding in some locations. But the late May and June rains also gave a boost to young crops and pastures and ranges that sustained plant growth through much of the summer.

Dry Weather Returns
Farmers and ranchers again had to contend with dry weather in the fall. That allowed for excellent harvest conditions, but soil moisture was too short for small grain planting. Many small

grains weren't planted until late October and early November, and thus got off to a slow start.

Mild weather prevailed through the fall until a cold front brought more than a foot of snow to some western areas about mid-December. Soil moisture remained short over parts of southern and western Texas as 1987 drew to a close.

Despite the vagaries of the weather, many farmers got excellent yields from crops to boost profits, noted Dr. Zerle L. Carpenter, director of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, System. Record cotton yields helped crop profits. Market prices for some commodities were fairly good due to tighter supplies brought on by increased exports of about 15 percent over 1986.

A Look at Commodity Prices
Most livestock prices averaged higher in 1987 than the previous year, Carpenter said. Feeder prices remained strong throughout the year, and favorable slaughter prices and low grain prices boosted profits for live-stock.

Beef cattle prices averaged \$61.98 per hundredweight compared to \$53.32 in 1986. Calves averaged \$76.40 per hundredweight compared to \$59.63 the year before. Hog prices averaged \$50.26 per 100 pounds compared to \$49.17 while sheep averaged \$33.09 per hundredweight in '87 compared to the '86 average of \$27.63.

Lambs averaged \$83.95 in '87 and \$71.56 in '86. Wool prices were up 16 cents at 98.6 cents per pound while mohair prices increased slightly to just over 3 cents per pound. Broiler prices, however, dropped more than 6 cents per pound in '87 due to large supplies.

On the crop front, cotton was kingpin in 1987 with its record-setting average of more than 490 pounds per acre. A lot of dryland cotton in the plains and western areas averaged one to one-and-a-half bales to the acre. Cotton sold for more than 60 cents per pound at times while averaging 54 cents compared to about 49 cents in 1986.

However, most crop prices for 1987 averaged lower (1986 prices in parenthesis): Corn \$1.91 per

bushel (\$2.34); wheat, \$2.34 per bushel (\$2.51); grain sorghum, \$2.82 per bushel (\$3.43); peanuts 26.5 cents per pound (27.2 cents); rice \$4.08 per 100 pounds (\$5.36); and soybeans, \$4.74 per bushel (\$4.66).

Total Receipts Up

Cash receipts from agricultural production should total about \$10 billion for 1987, up about one-and-a-half billion dollars from 1987, Carpenter estimated. That total would put cash receipts back at the level they were two years ago. So, essentially, farmers and ranchers were able to recoup some of the losses they experienced in 1986. Cash receipts from livestock should surpass \$6 billion for 1987 while crop receipts should exceed \$3.6 billion.

Adding significantly to the state's agricultural receipts was the citrus crop. Grapefruit and orange production continued to increase following the devastating freeze of 1983. The 1987 crop was estimated at more than 60 percent

Please see page 2

Badgers, photos, voters, bookies . . . more

by Cloy A. Richards

The Badger boys basketball team will be going to the playoffs for the first time in at least ten seasons as they whipped state ranked and previously unbeaten Ballinger here last week.

Coach Johnny Hampton's cagers are now trying to enter the playoff as the district's number one seed in the playoffs as a tie or outright win of the second half play will assure the Badgers of that ranking.

I was told the crowd at last week's game was the largest in a long while.

I had a phone call Monday morning from a person who was pretty upset about the lack of photos from the Taylor County Stock show in last week's paper and after our conversation, she seemed to understand.

I told her we had very limited

space in last week's edition because of a lack of ads to print more than six pages. I also reminded her that if she purchased her next grocery order at Carson's, checked out the cars at Palmer's, dropped in at Cunningham's for their specials, looked at Starbuck's at their mattress sale and supported the businesses that advertised in last week's paper, she could be assured there would be plenty of room for more local news and photos in future editions.

She said that made sense to her. There's a big campaign being waged by an Abilene tv station to shop "Big Country" first. Of course, they mean Abilene, but as far as Merkelites are concerned, your civic duty is to buy all you can here. That's the only way you can insure that goods and services that are here will stay here.

A reminder to folks that have

not registered to vote in Super Tuesday March 8th. The deadline for registration is Feb. 5th by mail. Registration forms are available at the JP office here.

The bookies took a beating on Sunday's Super Bowl.

All I wanted was to see a good game for a change and we didn't get that.

If you want your child to play soccer this season, registration is going on now. Call the Big Country Soccer Office in Abilene between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for more details.

Pee Wee Basketball registration in Merkel is also going on now. Contact Jackie Reynolds during the evenings for more information on that league. They still need coaches, scorekeepers and volunteers.



Kris Harris of the Merkel FFA shows his duroc at the recent Taylor County Stock Show. Kris' duroc was reserve champion in the duroc division. Staff photo

Farmers enjoy good '87, hope for good '88

From Page 1

above 1986 production. The Texas Christmas did a booming business in 1987 with sales of about half a million trees totaling an estimated \$8 million. Another bumper hay crop was harvested in many areas in 1987 following an excellent harvest the year before. Many producers harvested three cuttings, how-

ever, dry conditions limited hay making in some southern counties. Hay supplies generally were abundant over most of the state. So, combined with considerable carryover from the previous year due to the mild winter, hay supplies were abundant in most areas. However, hay feeding started early this past fall as dry

weather reduced grazing and delayed small grain plantings.

The '88 Outlook

As far as 1988 is concerned, farmers and ranchers, in general, should fare well once again barring extreme weather conditions and other factors beyond their control that could jeopardize both production and market prices. Carpenter noted that an expansion in meat supplies could keep the lid on consumer prices as well as returns to producers. But generally tight supplies of most other commodities as well as improving export markets bode well for farmers in 1988.

Lower prices for pork, poultry and cotton will likely be offset by slightly higher prices for beef, wheat, soybeans, corn and rice. Farm exports should increase some due to competitive prices, and the weak dollar abroad also should make U. S. farm commodities more attractive price-wise and lead to additional sales. Production costs should remain fairly stable, with perhaps a slight increase, and government payments in commodity programs will likely be slightly less than in

1987 due to federal budget restrictions.

The decline in farmland prices should slow in 1988. In fact, prices may even turn slightly higher in the top dryland farming and ranching regions.

Farmers Spending Less

Farmers and ranchers will continue to spend less on inputs in the year ahead as they continue to be more frugal in their spending habits due to economic conditions that may have prevailed in recent years. Most are continuing to "make due with what they have" in the way of equipment and machinery, Carpenter said. Many are paying off debts as fast as they can to keep interest costs down, and borrowing is declining as cash flows improve.

An attitude of less spending is pervasive throughout the agricultural communities throughout the nation, and that is a major factor in the improved financial condition of many farmers and ranchers. In turn, that type of attitude is having a marked effect on small town businesses that have long depended on producer spending.



Brit Pursley goes in for a layup in a recent win over Abilene Wylie. The Badgers are 19-5 on the season and will be in the state playoffs this year as they went 6-0 in the first half of district play. The Badgers travel to Colorado City Friday and will host Sonora Tuesday. Staff photo



Local State Representative Steve Carriker recently presented a Texas flag to the Merkel VFW Post. The flag was flown over the state's capitol building. Shown are [from left] are VFW Commander R. G. Seago, County Commissioner Precinct 2 Don Dudley, Carriker, Justice of the Peace of Precinct 2 Jack Keenan and regional VFW officer J. D. Sandusky. [Staff photo]

IRS changes IRA rules

by Andy Hart, CPA

This week's topic is Individual Retirement Accounts. The IRA has always been a good way to get a tax write-off and defer taxes as well as planning for retirement. However, for many this will not be the case in 1987.

A person who is not covered by an employer retirement plan can still take a full IRA deduction of up to two thousand dollars or one hundred percent of compensation, whichever is less. A person who is covered by another plan may be entitled to a full, a partial, or no deduction at all, depending on how much income he or she has. Married couples are entitled to a full deduction if neither spouse is covered by a plan at work. If one or both spouses are covered by a plan then your deduction may be reduced or eliminated.

An employer retirement plan is one that is set up by the employer for the benefit of the employees. Anyone who is not certain whether he or she is covered should ask for their employer. The 1987 W-2's have a box on them called "Pension Plan" to be filled in by the employer.

As mentioned above, if you are covered by a plan you may still be able to take a full or partial deduction based on your income. If you are single and your adjusted gross income is between \$25,000 and \$35,000 you will get a

partial deduction. Over \$35,000 you will not get a deduction. If you are married and your adjusted gross income is between \$40,000 and \$50,000, you will get a partial deduction. Over \$50,000 you will not get a deduction. The IRS has allowed you a \$200 minimum contribution if your income falls into the above ranges.

A taxpayer with a spouse who does not work, who qualifies for a full deduction can set up a spousal IRA and contribute up to \$2,250.

You can still make nondeductible IRA contributions, which will give you tax deferred income until the point you start drawing the money out. However, a new form has been created to keep up with these type contributions, since they will not be taxable when withdrawn. You can start withdrawing your IRA's at age 59½ without penalty. Prior to this age there is a ten percent tax imposed plus you pay income tax on the withdrawal. You are required to start withdrawing your funds by April 1st of the year following the year in which you reach the age of 70½. There is a substantial penalty if you do not withdraw the correct amount. You should contact your plan representative to determine the correct amount.

There is still some tax benefit from IRA's but they are not as attractive as in the past. Good luck.

Compere group meets

Compere Extension Homemakers met Jan. 21 at 2 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Ginger Hoog. President Bertha Hunter called the meeting or order.

Amie Price led a quiz "Found on Almost Any Table."

Roll call was "How to Improve Our Club Meeting" and was answered with good suggestions from six members.

Minutes of the last meeting were read. A treasurer's report was given by Annie Taylor. Council report was presented by Bertha Hunter.

Those present paid their dues. Coins For Friendship were collected.

The program was on parliamentary procedure and was given by Amie Price. The theme was "What is your IQ as a club member?"

Amie Price received the hostess gift - a handmade pillow case.

Members reviewed the Thanksgiving supper with 35 present and a Christmas party with seven members and a guest.

A card was signed for Hugh Taylor who was in the hospital.

The club met Jan. 28th at Ann's Flowers in Merkel. The program was on arranging silk flowers was presented by Cecelia Mims. Members met first at P. L. Lee's

Restaurant here for lunch. Refreshments were served to Dolores Adair, Bertha Hunter, Amie Price, Annie Taylor, Ailene Terry by hostess Ginger Hoog.

Trippe on Dean's List at SWTSU

Kimberlie R. Trippe of Merkel has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos.

Quality, a student must at least earn a 3.5 grand point average.

Massey named

to all-zone band

Trent senior band member Brian Massey was chosen for the South All-Zone Band in tryouts held at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene Jan. 23rd.

The contest consisted of all Region II bands in class 1A through 3A so it was a big honor for Brian.

He will join the rest of the band in concert Feb. 6th at 7 p.m. in the Cullen Auditorium on the Abilene Christian University campus. Mr. W. B. Dalaney

Comptroller of the Currency
Administrator of National Banks

REPORT OF CONDITION
Consolidating domestic and foreign subsidiaries of the

The Farmers & Merchants National Bank of Merkel
Name of Bank City

In the state of Texas, at the close of business on December 31, 1987
published in response to call made by Comptroller of the Currency, under title 12, United States Code, Section 161.
Charter Number 7481 Comptroller of the Currency 11th District

Statement of Resources and Liabilities

	Thousands of dollars
ASSETS	
Cash and balances due from depository institutions:	
Noninterest-bearing balances and currency and coin	1,749
Interest-bearing balances	-0-
Securities	13,102
Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell	575
Loans and lease financing receivables:	
Loans and leases, net of unearned income	13,000
LESS: Allowance for loan and lease losses	101
LESS: Allocated transfer risk reserve	-0-
Loans and leases, net of unearned income, allowance, and reserve	12,899
Assets held in trading accounts	-0-
Premises and fixed assets (including capitalized leases)	467
Other real estate owned	-0-
Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies	-0-
Customers' liability to this bank on acceptances outstanding	-0-
Intangible assets	673
Other assets	29,495
Total assets	29,495
Losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823(j)	-0-
Total assets and losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823(j)	29,495
LIABILITIES	
Deposits:	
In domestic offices:	
Noninterest-bearing	8,052
Interest-bearing	18,926
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	-0-
Demand notes issued to the U.S. Treasury	96
Other borrowed money	-0-
Mortgage indebtedness and obligations under capitalized leases	-0-
Bank's liability on acceptances executed and outstanding	-0-
Notes and debentures subordinated to deposits	-0-
Other liabilities	337
Total liabilities	27,411
Limited-life preferred stock	-0-
EQUITY CAPITAL	
Perpetual preferred stock	-0-
Common stock	375
Surplus	375
Undivided profits and capital reserves	1,334
Total equity capital	2,084
Losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823(j)	-0-
Total equity capital and losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823(j)	2,084
Total liabilities, limited-life preferred stock, equity capital, and losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823(j)	29,495

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the correctness of this statement of resources and liabilities. We declare that it has been examined by us, and to the best of our knowledge and belief has been prepared in accordance with the instructions and is true and correct.

Betty Jane Tittle
Name
Vice-Pres., Cashier
Title

of the above-named bank do hereby declare that this Report of Condition is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Directors

Betty Jane Tittle
Signature
January 19, 1988
Date

Ferguson's announce daughter's engagement

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Ferguson of Merkel have announced the engagement of their daughter Beth Alyse to Duane Michael Kuopus, son of Mr. & Mrs. Larry Kuopus of San Angelo.

The bride-elect graduated from Merkel High School and attends Angelo State University.

The prospective bridegroom graduated from San Angelo Central High School and is employed by the WestTexas Rehabilitation Center in San Angelo.

A July 9th wedding is planned at First Baptist Church here.



Alyse Ferguson & Duane Kuopus

TISD menu

The following is the TISD breakfast and lunch menu:

Feb. 4: juice, cinnamon rolls; pizza, corn, salad, chocolate pudding.

Feb. 5th: juice, oatmeal; chili dogs, pinto beans, peaches, cookies.

Feb. 8: juice, cereal; chicken strips, green beans, creamed potatoes, peach cobbler.

Feb. 9th: juice, biscuits / sausage, jelly; barbecue weiners, creamed style corn, fried okra, applesauce.

Feb. 10th: juice, donuts; meat loaf, white beans, spinach, banana pudding.

Feb. 11th: juice, cinnamon rolls; tuna fish sandwich, vegetable soup, potato chips, cookies.

Feb. 12th: juice, malt-o-meal; burgers, fries, fruit, brownies.

Spots still open on D. C. trip

There are still some positions available on the trip planned for Washington D. C. this spring.

The trip is open to every student in the Middle School and High School. If you are interested, please contact Monica Irwin at the Middle School.

Fortnightly group on computers

The Jan. 26th meeting of the Fortnightly Study Club was at Merke, Elementary in the computer room with Lucille Wilson hostess.

Alice King, president, presided for the business meeting. Reports of officers and committees were made. Mrs. King distributed report forms for reporting the past years work to the Mesquite TFWC.

Ruby Hammond, program chairman, asked Lucille Wilson to comment on the status of education in the United States compared to industrialized countries of the world which finds the U. S. far behind. Mrs. Wilson introduced Laura Stegemoller, computer instructor in the elementary school. She gave our program "Bits and Bytes."

Mostly of us know very little about computers other than they are used in business, schools and medical records. If mistakes were made "the computer was to

blame." We were given terms in learning the computer. They can be programmed to be used in many ways. Even teaching music, art and playing games. We were asked to use classroom computers to go on the Oregon Trail from Missouri to Oregon. Many obstacles were on the way and very few of us made it, we were almost across Idaho when time was called. We did appreciate Mrs. Laura Stegemoller presenting the program.

Those present were Laura Stegemoller, Grace Lee Brown, Pam Carson, Mary Collins, Bess Dixon, Anna Lou Ferguson, Mildred Hamm, Ruby Hammond, Lucy Haynes, Madelon Horton, Nina Belle Hughes, Joyce Jay, Alice King, Aileen Knight, Mary K. Logan, Evelyn Martin, Leota Patterson, Becky Rogers, Alwyne Sandusky, Ida Seymore, Anna Belle Shouse, Sybil South, Clara B. Walla, Maurine White and Lucille Wilson.

Services held for Johnni Derrington

Johnni Bell Derrington, 88 of Merkel, died Jan. 27, 1988 at Starr Nursing Home here.

Funeral services were held Jan. 29th at Starbuck Chapel with Charles Jacobs officiating, assisted by Jerry Russell. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery here under the direction of the Starbuck Funeral Home.

Born Jan. 21, 1900 in Fanning County, she was the daughter of

the late Jim Jordan and Fannie Brister. She married C. E. Derrington in August of 1916. He preceded her in death June 21, 1979.

She was a member of the Church of Christ and a housewife. She was described as a good cook and housewife.

She is survived by two daughters Dorothy Noster of Merkel and Mary Childers of Merkel; a

daughter-in-law Ann Derrington of Merkel; two sisters, Thelma Ward of Horse Creek, Ca., and Oma Adama of Long Beach, Ca.; six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son, Bud Derrington.

Serving as pallbearers were Danny Malone, Danny Wade, Chris Childers, Scotty Childers, Terry Derrington and Jerry Russell.

McDonald's services are held here

Funeral services for Lt. Col. Andrew Gerald McDonald of Fort Worth were held Jan. 25th, 1988 at

Rose Hill Cemetery here. Born Nov. 30, 1915 in Ballinger, he was a Methodist.

He is survived by his wife, Bess

Church McDonald of Ft. Worth; a daughter, Geryln Bess McDonald of Fort Worth and a sister, Cassie Galtcher of Little Elm, Texas.

Trent honor roll

The following is the A-B Honor Roll for the 3rd six weeks:

Kindergarten: Jerrod Brown, Becky Gregory, Brandy Kelly. 1st Grade: Mandy Brenem, Kathy Callas, Laramie Gorbett, Josh Gregory, Nolan Munoz, Dawn Schriber, Misty Simpson, Keith Tackett.

2nd Grade: Jarety Cabral, Lindsay Jones, Brandy Rifenburg.

3rd Grade: Dee J. Bland, Jamie Dean, Becky Galvin.

4th Grade: Tammie Dean, Teri Brazelton, LaDonna Stephens, Belinda Falcon, Warren Fair.

5th Grade: Brad Clark.

6th Grade: Jamie Alexander, Mark Payne, Sara Rios.

7th Grade: Juanita Fair, Britt Sipe.

8th Grade: Scotty Hudson, Janet Gibson, Tammy Spraggins.

9th Grade: Cipi Falcon, Ginger Massey, Troy Marburger.

10th Grade: Sheli Boles, Jon Evans, Brenda Galvin, Lee Hunt, Keith Oden, Kim Jones.

11th Grade: Dock Carriker, Sandy Collier, Micki Gaskill, Jason Massey.

12th Grade: Leslie Brazelton.



Middle School Student Council members are (front row from left) Angie Nault, Trinh Tran, Wendy Cummings, Troy Roberts, Corley Segovia (middle row) Caleb Kelso, Cheryl Wood, Sebastian Ascencio, Cecily Caro-

land, Lana Rogers, Horacio Martinez (back row) Cody Tittle, Jennifer McKee, Julie Harding, Lillian Leach, Lori Best and Ricky Riley. Not pictured is Chris Baber.

MISD menu

Feb. 4th: chicken fried steak with creamed gravy, whipped potatoes, green beans, pink apple sauce.

Feb. 5th: hamburgers, fries and all the trimmings, peanut butter cookies.

Feb. 8th: spaghetti, combination salad with choice of dressing,

green beans, rosey pears.

Feb. 9th: tacos, pinto beans, grated lettuce and cheese, sliced peaches.

Feb. 10: pizza, buttered corn, seasoned spinach, whipped jello.

Feb. 11: burritos, macaroni & tomatoes, leaf lettuce with choice of dressing, apple cheese crisp.

Feb. 12: corn dogs with mustard salad with choice of dressing, tard, fries, beans, fig bars.

Your Energy Dollars Could Be Going Up In Smoke!

Fireplaces are built to draw. Even when there's no fire, this massive column is drawing air from inside your home — air you have paid to heat.

Closing the damper in your fireplace when it's not in use keeps winter heat from escaping up your chimney. This reduces the natural draft created by warm air inside the house as it rises. It also prevents any down drafts.

A glass fireplace cover can also help save you energy and money by decreasing the amount of inside air going up the chimney. When selecting glass door covers check for the following: air tightness, glass thickness (3/16" to 1/4"), frame strength, frame insulation and be sure they are heat tempered.



WEST TEXAS UTILITIES COMPANY



A Member of The Central and South West System

Serving you with dependable electrical energy from the Red River to the Rio Grande.

you'll love this sale

 BANGLES* LADIES' QUARTZ BRACELET FASHION WATCHES 4.99	 READING GLASSES 6.99	 SALON SELECTIVES* SHAMPOO OR CONDITIONER 1.79	 TYLENOL* EXTRA STRENGTH CARLETS 3.39
 BASIS* SOAP 1.79	 ADVIL* 3.39	 B-D* ALCOHOL SWABS 50¢	 ALKA-SELTZER* PLUS 2.29
 FIBRE TRIM* 4.49	 OS-CAL* 500 CHEWABLE TABLETS 4.49	 PHILLIPS* MILK OF MAGNESIA 2.39	 B-D* INSULIN SYRINGES 13.00

Looking good feeling good

SALE

QUALITY NATURAL VITAMINS

Children's Bite-A-Mins

#304 90 tabs #305 90 tabs

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 Vitamin E 400 I.U. 90 caps #269 Reg. 5.99 SALE 2/5.99	 Super Stress C750 Vitamins Per 90c with Zinc #218 90 tabs #217 90 tabs Reg. 5.98 Reg. 5.98 2/5.98 2/5.98	 MIRACLE HEALTH & HEART NUTRIENT FROM THE SEA REDUCES CHOLESTEROL LEVELS! OMEGA III 1000 mg Capsules According to recent scientific discoveries, Omega 3 fatty acids (EPA and DHA) reduce cholesterol levels and help prevent build-up of fatty deposits in arteries. 60 capsules #566 SPECIAL 30 FREE WITH 60¢ RETAIL VALUE 9.98 SALE PRICE 6.29 PLUS 30 FREE!	

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42-TFC

We make hydraulic hoses. P & L Auto Parts 135 Edwards 928-4738

TFC

P & L Auto Parts is open from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and from 7:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. each Saturday at 135 Edwards Street.

TFC

For sale: Riding mower, 25 inch, recoil start, Murray 1982 model Tecumseh engine. Runs good, price negotiable. Joe E. Lassiter 1211 S 3rd.

5-2tp

For Sale: 19 inch Zenith color tv. \$50 or will trade for good lawn mower. Berlie Wilson 928-5211 211 Cherry.

5-1tp

Orders to go. Let us do your cooking on Saturday for you. Pug & Leis 1 20 Merkel 928-5672.

MISC.

Handy Man. Try me, I may be able to help. All types of clean up jobs, trash, garage, small repair jobs. For any job around the house, inside or out, call 928-3373.

TFC

Alcoholics Anonymous and A-Anon meetings are Tuesday & Thursday at the New Testament Church in Merkel on S. 5th & Trundy.

Overeaters Anonymous meetings are held at the New Testament Church on S. 5th & Trundy each Tuesday at 5 p.m.

Child care in my home, day and or night, school delivery, references. 606 Orange Rita Moore Call 928-3516 or 928-4838.

4-3tp

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

TFC

Red Male Adult Pit Bull Cross Found and available for adoption if not claimed. Merkel Vet Clinic 928-5235

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

TFC

Sticks N Stones Day Care Center 201 Oak, open Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Call 928-4381

TFC

would like to clean your house weekly or bi-weekly. Can give references. Telephone 928-5656.

4-2tp

Own your own apparel or shoe store, choose from jeans/ sportswear, ladies apparel, mens, childrens/ maternity, large sizes, petite, dancewear/ aerobic, bridal, lingerie or accessory store. Add color analysis. Brands: Liz Claiborne, Gasoline, Levis, Healthtex, Lee, Camp, Beverly Hills, St. Michele, Chaus, Outback Red, Genesis, Foreza, Organically Grown, Over 1,000 others or \$13.99 one price designer, multi-tier pricing store discount or family store. Retail prices unbelievable for quality shoes normally priced from \$119. Top \$80. Over 450 brands, 4,690 styles, \$14,800 to \$26,900 inventory, training, fixtures, grand opening, airfare, etc. Can open in 15 days Mr. Loughlin (612) 888-6555

TFC

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

1-4tc

Wanted: Lady to live in to take care of my mother for room and board and small salary. Call 928-5694

1-TFC

TAX TIME PROBLEMS? Let us help you solve them. Individual, business, partnership and corporate returns. Periodic accounting by word processing available. Tax returns and accounting done by accounting professional enrolled to practice before IRS, word processing by graduate executive secretary with legal experience. Call 915-672-6017 or 673-1863 weekdays or after 6:00 p.m. weekdays.

3-3tc

Pug & Leis Open Everyday 8 am till 2 pm 1 20 Merkel 928-5672

Local quail hunter would like to buy your land from now until the end of February. Won't leave track behind and will pick up the front bulls. Please call Cloy 928-5212 or 928-4072

FOR RENT

For rent: 2 bedroom unfurnished rear duplex. Central heat & air, carpeted \$200 per month plus \$100 deposit. Inquire at 401 Runnels 928-5787.

For rent: 2 bedroom house, refinished, near school. Call 928-5189

TFC

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

TFC

Equal Housing Opportunity: **Shannonside Apartments** 1,2&3 bedroom apartments, all electric, central heat & cooling. For more information, call 928-5038.

TFC

For rent: 5 year old apartments, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 3 ceiling fans, sprawling living room, fully loaded kitchen, rent \$195- \$225, last month's rent free. Call Sheley at 928-3472

TFC

For sale or rent: Large 2 bedroom house, near schools and churches, \$325 per month, 1st month's rent and \$500 damage deposit required before moving in. Owner will sell with small down payment and carry note for qualifying individual. Call 817-835-4898 after 5 p.m.

52-TFC

REAL ESTATE

For Sale: 168 acres of farm land, all minerals, 4 miles South of Merkel call after 7 p.m. 862-6328.

5-2tc

Home for sale in Humphrey's Village. Reduced, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, corner lot, water well, must sell. Call 928-4487.

4-TFC

For sale: 2 nice large lots on S 2nd Street in Merkel. Owner will finance with small down payment. Call 928-3281

2-TFC

For Sale: 3 bedroom house to be moved off a lot at 202 Locust. Contact Mildred Starbuck 928-4712

House for sale in Trent: 3 bedroom, 2 bath, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, steel siding, storm windows, carpet, central air & heat, built-in range & oven, dishwasher, water well, Cyrus Pee, Realtor 928-561

TFC

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

TFC

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

TFC

For Sale: 50 acres in the Hawley area. Lovely country home, oak trees, established coastal, irrigation. Dalzell Realtors 691-1300 Jean Rutledge 692-6640.

4-2tc

For sale: 21 acres near Clyde with 3 bedroom brick home, water wells. Dalzell Realtors 691-1300 Jean Rutledge 692-6640.

4-2tc

For Sale: 1412 Sunset 3-1-1/2 corner lot, water well 130's. Dalzell Realtors 691-1300 Jean Rutledge 692-6640.

4-2tc

Having trouble qualifying or having credit problems? 2 bedroom, 1 bath, newly remodeled, new carpet & paint. Call me now Ken Hogan at Century 21 Abilene Big Country 692-8311, 928-4826, 675-9138.

For Sale: 46 acres approximately 4 miles North of Merkel. Dalzell Realtors 691-1300 Jean Rutledge 692-6640.

For Sale: 96 acres in Merkel area, good farm land. Dalzell Realtors 691-1300 Jean Rutledge 692-6640.

4-2tc

For sale: 29 acres near Merkel, good building site. Dalzell Realtors 691-1300 Jean Rutledge 692-6640.

4-2tc

Classifieds

New listing: Large 3 bedroom, 2 NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF FORTY-TWO DAYS AFTER YOU WERE SERVED THIS CITATION AND PETITION A DEFAULT JUDGEMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU A COPY OF THE PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ACCOMPANIES THIS CITATION.

Attorney for Plaintiff is JOE E. COPE. A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: An installment note and security agreement in the original principal sum of \$6,563.44 payable to the First State Bank, Abilene, Texas on or about April 3, 1985 (note executed) Upon default of defendant in making installment payments are required by the note, First State accelerated the note pursuant to the terms. The principal remaining due and owing on the note was \$2,212.85 as of June 1st, 1987. In addition to the interest accrued due through June 1st, 1987 \$333.93 which is continuing to accrue at the rate of \$1.09 per diem until the date of Judgement.

GARAGE SALES

Garage Sale, Friday 9 until 7 and Saturday afternoon, weather permitting. Antiques, dishes, lots of odds & ends, books. Old Sadler Clinic Hazel Park.

5-1tp

PUBLIC NOTICES

CAUSE NO 16,661 THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CIVIL

TO: ELLIE FLORES, FORMERLY KNOWN AS ELLIE GARZA 4425 FLEETWOOD LANE APT # 7, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS Defendant, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before ten o'clock A.M. of the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of the issuance of this citation, same being Monday the 22nd day of FEBRUARY 1988, at or before ten o'clock A.M. before the Honorable County Court at Law of Taylor County, Texas, at the Court House of said County, in Abilene, Texas.

Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said Court, on the 22nd day of OCTOBER, A.D. 1987, in this cause, numbered 16,661 on the docket of said Court, and styled THE FIRST STATE BANK, ABILENE, TEXAS Plaintiff vs. ELLIE FLORES, FORMERLY KNOWN AS ELLIE GARZA, Defendant.

The names of the parties to the cause are as follows: THE FIRST STATE BANK, ABILENE, TEXAS are Plaintiff's and ELLIE FLORES, FORMERLY KNOWN AS ELLIE GARZA are Defendants.

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY DO NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO ISSUED THIS CITATION BY 10:00 A.M. ON THE MONDAY

of FEBRUARY 1988, at or before ten o'clock A.M. before the Honorable County Court at Law of Taylor County, Texas, at the Court House of said County, in Abilene, Texas.

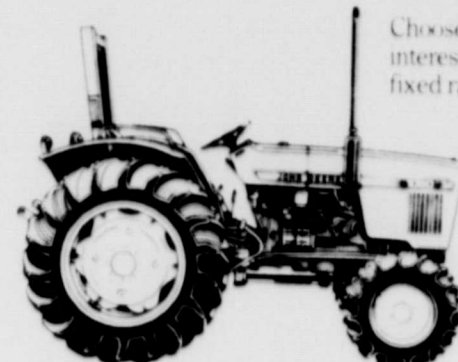
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RANCH & HOUSE CALLS BY APPOINTMENT FM 126 NORTH OPEN MONDAY- FRIDAY 8:30 - 5:30 (CLOSED 12-1) SATURDAY 8 UNTIL NOON CALL 928-5235 928-4176 AFTER HOURS



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Honor rolls Merkel elementary

The following is the Merkel Elementary Honor roll for the third six weeks of school:

1st grade All A: Amy Albritton, Amanda Alexander, Rex Alston, Amanda Baker, Jana Beasley, Elizabeth Clinton, Rebecca Cochran, Mitchell Collins, Lacey Dearing, Casey Dohogne, Shayla Dozier, Cheryl Early, April Fisher, Gabriel Flores, Elizabeth Green, Jodi Hellums, Heath Henderson, Hillary Heuerman, Tabitha Hill, Ashli Hobbs, Jonathan Hood, Brandi Ingram, Phillip Johnson, Heath Jones, Dee Dee Lambeth, Crystal Malone, Elizabeth Martinez, Landry Meeks, Jenny Myers, Trey Naron, Kristen O'Rear, Robert Paden, Santiago Paden, Elizabeth Ramirez, Curtis Rollins, Chastity Savage, Cindy Stephens, Katie Taylor, Crystal West, Kyle Whisenhunt, Shawn Williamson.

1st Grade A-B
John Campbell, Brenda Cruz, Charlie Dodd, Bo Dunagin, Christy Frazier, Crista Gray, Rhonda Hollis, Rusty Holmes, Keith Jones, Tamera King, Shayna McNeil, Matthew Marez, Courtney Melton, Sharonda Morgan, Jordan Paulsen, Wade Schramper, Alaina Segovia, Michele Simmons, Jerri Smith, Casey Strange, Adam Tarpley, Veronica Zamora.

2nd Grade All A: Eric Beaird, Shayla Boone, Brandy Bryan, Wesley Carter, Brandon Cobb, Natalee Cravens, Jason Davis, Cheryl Dodd, Anna Dutton, Jamie Hellums, Guillermo Hernandez, Tamra Helmer, Brad Hicks, Tony Layher, Brian Lerma, Caleb Linzy, Christina McCarty, Jerry McFarland, Justin Mann, Monty Moore, Elizabeth Morales, Mark Moreno, Amy Pack, Della Rister, Nicholas Rodriguez, Diana Rogge, Melissa Sanderson, Amanda Smith, Cameron Strange, Sharlet Sutterfield, Tamara Tarpley, Monetta Teague, Kacy Trawick, Rachelle Van Zandt, Carolina Vera Cruz.

2nd Grade A-B: Brandon Blue, Britanny Burton, Candice Carson, Monty Clay, Chris Crouse, Patsy Flores, Bryce Freeman, Nichole Giesler, Nieves Gonzales, John

Ledozma, Carolyn Lee, Shannon Middleton, Esther Morales, Jason Myers, Duane Parsons, April Phillips, Tanya Rister, T. J. Roberts, Scotty Rodriguez, Jeremy Sanders, Julie Sanders, Clint Sparks, Michele Sparks, Beki Stephens, James Stewart, Adam Tucker, Cory Walker, Bobby Welborn, Brandon Wyatt, Stephanie Young.

3rd grade All A: Anthony Alexander, Taras Beasley, Sara Boggs, Bryan Cruz, Matt Dearing, Brent Fisher, Tabitha Garrett, Justin Goldsmith, Amy Haley, Cam Hendricks, Jeffrey Jacobs, Leslie Jacobs, Jamie Leggett, Amanda Love, Michael McMurray, Cody Minze, Craig Mullins, Melissa Paden, Zach Riggler, Jane Roberts, Amanda Sanderson, Eric Stagemoller, Jeremy Tipton, Crystal Watson.

3rd Grade A-B: Joni Beasley, Randy Dudley, Amie Ellison, Sheir Ely, Linda Flores, Robin Freeman, Amber Hatley, Francisco Hernandez, Roberto Hernandez, Adreane Holloway, Kenlea Jones, McKinsey Laird, Jeanette Lanford, Imelda Martinez, Shawn Maxwell, Jacob Necessary, Gabriel Rodriguez, Travis Rogers, Nicky Rucker, Shawn West, Tristan Wilburn, Christie Williams.

4th Grade All A: Lanae Baker, Chrystal Beaird, Jenny Browning, Wendy Elliott, Molly Griffith, James Hester, Rebecca Hobbs, Sandra Juarez, Shelli Leamon, Beth McClintock, Jessica McKee, Rendi Meeks, Michael Monor, Tabi Reed, Tina Rister.

4th Grade A-B: Elizabeth Acuna, Holly Browning, Rachel Buddin, Rhett Buntin, Nicole Burch, April Burns, Jeremy Burt, Oscar Cano, Brandy Casper, Cullen Coolman, Christina Danielski, Mike Deatherage, Cole Dempsey, T. J. Dohogne, Tessa Fudge, Shera Hammond, Joe Hankins, Ryan Holmes, Bubba Jackson, Paul King, Josh Kofeed, Richard Lee, Jessica Martin, Andy Miller, Michelle Reyna, Ryan Reynolds, Alison Siler, Nancy Stephens, Tabitha Sumrall, Candice Williamson, Angela Worley.

5th Grade All A: Rosemary Barredez, Crystal Boone, Bryce Buntin, Karly Byers, Jason Clinton, Steven Deitz, Rachael Haley, Angela Jowers, Marcus Malone, Cole Manahan, Amanda Myers, Anthony Paden, Lori Pirraglia,

Kim Rakoski, Aimee Roberson, Jason Seyffert, Tracie Smith, Brandi Tarpley, Trina Tittle.

5th Grade A-B: Matt Brnovak, Roberto Cano, Maricruz Castellanos, Erin Folkes, Augustine Gonzales, Jennifer Gonzales, Kevin Graham, Laurie Hellums, Martin Hernandez, Anthony Landeros, Dustin Lewis, Molly McCormick, Trisa Marsh, Hope Maxwell, Amanda Moreno, Ray Pace, Alma Prieto, Scott Richardson, Joey Richards, Justin Riggan, Christy Rister, Joe Ben Roberts, James Rogge, Linda Rodriguez, Amanda Sanders, Cne' Seymour, Mickey Simmons, Brian Sparks, Rikki Trawick, Rebecca Ussery, Gregg Valentine, Ricky Vaughn, Scott Walsh, Nancy White.

Trent

The following is the All A Honor Roll for Trent schools for the third six weeks:

Kindergarten: Brooke Bigbee, Stacy Brazelton, Michael Bishop, Amanda Callas, Kelly O'Kelly, Erin Sitter.

1st Grade: Kaci Bland, Aaron Dulaney, John Eaves, Ashlea Parker, Mindy Ray, David Rios, Kevin Sanford, Cody Smith, Chris Wolford.

2nd Grade: Melesa Alexander, Tye Christensen, Matt Davis, Matt Hackney, Wendy Harwell, Tracy Jennings, Amanda Keith.

3rd Grade: Ryan Bigbee, Scott Dulaney, Derek Galvin, J. P. Marburger, Adam Pruett.

4th Grade: Rebecca Evans, Allison Davis, Jamie Ray.

5th Grade: Krista Pruett, Suzanne Elmore, Crystal Christensen, Justin Williams.

6th Grade: Jason Jontra.

9th Grade: Julie Clay, Jamie Masonheimer, Travis Walker.

10th Grade: Denise Gibson, Renee Gibson, Mike Payne, Kristy Kelling.

11th Grade: Lewis Knapp, B. J. Poindexter.

12th Grade: Glenna Clark, Tammy Collier, Luci Masonheimer, Scott O'Kelly, Brian Massey.

Merkel Middle school

The following is the honor roll for the 3rd six weeks at Merkel Middle School.
All A's: Chris Baber, Lori Best, Son Hui Chon, Lisa Fenton, Elizabeth Hernandez, Jennifer Hobbs, Michelle Ingram, Lillian Leach, James Melendez, Stephen Santee, Callye Schramper, Amy Sparks.
Also, Mindi Brnovak, Matt Cravens, Tammy Graham, Susan Holden, Dee Dee Jackson, Caleb Kelso, Wendy Law, Andrea Richardson, Wendy Schramper, Lori Snowden, Coty Tittle, Trinh Tran.
Also, Judd Burton, Dana Hammond, Heather Henderson, Linda Layher, Brian Leopard, Zac Nagid,

Amy Podrovitz, Kathryn Rister, Elizabeth Smith, Sandi Wood.

A-B: Yvonne Alexander, Mandy Barnett, Amanda Biera, Scott Cannon, Manuel Cano, Randy Davidson, Hollis Deatherage, Dayna Doan, Becky Donaldson, Julie Harding, Stephanie Jones, Shayla Miller, Christy Minze, Lori Olvera, Billy Page, Troy Payne, Ricky Riley, Elynn Rutledge, Scott Taylor, Danny Sheffield, Kriste A. Smith, Chad Taylor, Hope Ward.

Also, Amanda Avalos, Joel Bird, Shayla Carter, Coby Clay, Spencer Duncan, Doug Hall, Patrick Harrison, Jason Heuerman, Austin Hill, Alisha Hobbs, Wendy Hudman, Kimberly Isreal, Jason Kofeed, Lonnie Liggins, Wayne Martin, Jennifer McKee, David Melendez, Angie Nault, Jason Putnam, Renli Reynolds, Travis Sanders, Shelly Seymour, Shawn St. Cyr, Krystal West, Terry Wiloth, Mark Wright.

Also, Kelly Atkinson, Jason Bowman, Cecily Caroland, Wendy Cummings, Nellie Gonzales, Jason Harrison, Jeremy Henry, Carmen Holden, Thomas Kirkham, Horacio Martinez, Brian Miller, Melanie Mitchell, Josh Perry, Troy Roberts, Corley Segovia, Angie St. Cyr, Corey Teichelman.

Xi Nu Eta's youth Valentine ball is set Friday

The Xi Nu Eta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi has announced the date of their Valentine Ball set Feb. 5th at the Methodist Church Gym from 8 p.m. until midnight.

The ball will be semi-formal and is for Merkel High and Middle school students. Price is \$3 each or \$5 per couple. A photographer will be on hand and prices for packages are \$20 for an 8 X 10, two 5 X 7's and 12 wallets or \$15 for two 5 X 7's, two 3X5's and 8 wallets or \$10 for two 5 X 7's and four wallets. The \$15 and \$10 packages are designed with couples in mind who want to buy a package and split it evenly.

A disc jockey will play music at the dance.

Cokes and popcorn will be offered at 50 cents each and a king and queen contest will be sponsored with votes being 25 cents each.

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Trent girls already in playoffs, boys a win away

Both Trent cage squads traveled to Roscoe last Tuesday for a key district 22A contest. Both Roscoe teams came into Tuesday's battle with unblemished district slates while the 'Rilla boys were 1-1 and the girls, like Roscoe, 2-0.

In the boys game, the 'Rillas gave the Plowboys all they could handle for three quarters, trailing 51-38 entering the 4th quarter. The 4th quarter has been a Trent strength this year but against the Plowboys, Trent's 4th quarter was disastrous with Roscoe piling up a 30-7 advantage enroute to a 81-45 victory. Despite the loss, Lee Hunt played tremendous scoring 21 and pulling down 16 rebounds while Danny Herrera led Roscoe with 18.

"We should have played the a lot closer. We went ice cold in the 4th quarter and couldn't hit a thing. Another thing that hurt us was Mike Payne fouling out in the second quarter. He's one of our team leaders and that killed us," said Trent boys coach Ed Donahue. "One good thing did come out of the game, Lee Hunt played tremendous, when Mike fouled out, Lee decided to take charge, he just played fantastic," continued Donahue.

In the girls game, Roscoe's Myra Richburg scored 24 to lead the Plowgirls to a 68-35 victory over the Lady 'Rillas. The game was close until the 3rd quarter when Roscoe outscored the Lady 'Rillas 23-4 to go up 59-28 entering the 4th quarter, a lead Trent was unable to dent. The Lady 'Rillas were led by Tammy Collier's 10 points while Donna Kay Aiken scored 15 to aid Richburg in the win.

"The score didn't indicate how close the game actually was. We got in foul trouble and they doubled us in rebounding, that's what beat us. Let me say this, the officials were great. We got ourselves in foul trouble, not the officials," said Coach Robbie Shugart.

Friday's action saw the Trent boys team avenge last week's loss to the Highland Hornets with a 85-57 victory while the girls whipped the Hornets 45-38.

In the girls game, the Lady 'Rillas received an inspired effort by post Rene Gibson who scored

10 of the first 12 points for Trent enroute to a 21 point 8 rebound effort. The 'Rillas led from start to finish leading by as much as 14 points before the Hornets rallied in the 4th quarter to close the final score. Gibson was the only Lady

'Rilla to score in double figures but Julie Clay lent strong board support with 10 rebounds. The Hornets were led by Jodie Miller with 14.

"Overall, I was real pleased to win," said girls coach Robbie

Shugart. "We played real good defense. We got in foul trouble and Ginger got hurt but our bench came in and did real well. Tina Holsteine and Denise Gibson both got to play a lot tonight and did a good job. We do need to pass the ball more in our zone offense but

like I said, I was pleased, we did a pretty good job."

In the boys game, Lee Hunt went crazy! Scoring 38 points, pulling down 16 reboundds and blocking eight shots, Hunt led the 'Rillas to a convincing win. Leading only by five at the half,

39-34, the 'Rillas proceeded to dominate second half action, outscoring Highland 46-23 to put the icing on their second district win of the year. Hunt was not the only 'Rilla to score big as Mike Payne ripped the nets for 17 and Chris Jones poured in 18. In all, the three sophomores combined for 73 of Trent's 85 points in an awesome display of offense. The Hornets were led by Justin Hester with 17 and Greg Wright who had 14.

A happy Ed Donahue told **The Mail** "the key to this game was, even when it was close, the guys kept their poise and had confidence. I really didn't have to do too much coaching, I just sat back and watched. Lee Hunt played tremendous but we had a complete team effort. Mike Payne and Chris Jones were hitting their shots, Joe Tarin, who I put on their best offensive player, played tremendous defense. Hester killed us the last time we played and Joe shut him down. Also, Dock Carriker and Jamie Masonheimer and Lewis Knapp played well when they were on the court. Like I said, it was a complete team effort."

The 'Rillas will now brace for the district leading Roscoe teams who will invade Trent gym Tuesday for a showdown (details unavailable) and will travel to Blackwell for the regular season finale Friday. The girls have already clinched a playoff spot either against Sterling City or Robert Lee. Girls coach Robbie Shugart informed **The Mail** that tentative plans have been made to play that game in Big Spring on a date to be decided. It would be a homecoming of sorts for Coach Shugart who played two years for Howard Junior College. The boys basketball team, regardless of Tuesday's outcome, have their destiny in their own hands. By winning one of their last two games, the 'Rilla boys team would also be playoff bound, against either Bronte or Sterling City.

On a related note, this writer would like to congratulate Merkel on the whipping they handed Ballinger last week. Good job men, hope you go all the way.
by W. E. Dulaney

Do we put too much emphasis on winning?

by W. E. Dulaney

In todays society, a parent has the opportunity to involve his or her child in nearly every sport you can think of, from tennis to football to basketball and soccer, the opportunities for todays child in sports is almost limitless. In Merkel alone, we are able to sign our children up for baseball, basketball and soccer; just 15-20 minutes away in Abilene, pee-wee programs exist in football, swimming and boxing.

The question is, do we put too much emphasis on athletics for our children? You can draw your own conclusion. For instance, there has been talk of disbanding the Trent baseball teams because they are not competitive. Whether or not this is true is a completely different arguement, the real question is, have you forgotten what Little League baseball is for? Little League is supposed to be fun and enjoyable for all the kids involved, it is not a league for parents and coaches to live dreams and scale heights they were never able to reach themselves. No, it is for the kids, some kids who otherwise, for various reasons, might not ever be able to play an organized sport.

Whether a kid is involved in soccer, football, baseball or basketball, too much emphasis is being put on being the best, being Number One. At the age of 5 through 13, when these kids are involved in various sports is when you should work on fundamentals, teach them the game, but also teach them to play hard, win or lose. And if you do lose, tell they to hold their heads high because if they tried their very best and gave 150 percent, they have nothing to be ashamed of.

Larry Bird of the Boston Celtics, arguably the best player in

professional basketball, once quit the game because his junior high coach only cared about winning and not about the fundamentals of basketball. This is what an overzealous coach or parent could cause. Can you imagine basketball without Larry Bird? How about football without Walter Payton. He holds nearly every record there is to hold, was once cut from his pee-wee football team because he wasn't good enough.

Closer to home, Scotty Pugh, of the state champion Abilene Cooper baseball team, has one leg shorter than the other due to a childhood car accident. This young man is not only being recruited by nearly every college that plays big time baseball, but also was an honorable mention all-state quarterback and plays point guard on the Cooper basketball team. What if his coach had said "there's no way that boy can

be competitive... get him off my team?"

Every child, boy or girl, should be allowed to play organized sports. It is healthy, teaches good sportsmanship and keeps the child off of the streets. Whether that child is the new Mickey Mantle or plays more like Mickey Mouse is not the question. The question is whether that child is having a good time when they take the playing field.

Trent Jr. High completes season

The Trent Junior High boys and girls basketball teams were involved in the Roscoe Tournament over the weekend.

The boys lost both games to Rotan and Aspermont while the girls brought home 4th place, losing to Roscoe 39-22 in the 3rd place game. The girls were sent to the 3rd place game by losing to Loraine 24-22. Despite the loss to

Lorraine, Cynthia Velasquez played well for Trent and Jennifer Cabral lent a strong effort in the loss to Roscoe.

In the first two games, Janet Marshall, Janet Gibson and Anna Rios led the Lady 'Rillas to a 37-10 whipping over the Rotan Yellowhammers and a 27-12 thumping of Aspermont. With their 2-2 record in Roscoe, the junior high stands

at 5-9 on the season.

The boys, whose record stands at 3-11 got strong efforts in the tournament from Mark Payne, Jeff Sanford, Pete Chavez, Tory Dean and Britt Sipe.

Both junior high teams completed their season Monday against Blackwell (details unavailable) in Trent Gym.
by W. E. Dulaney

Merkel art group sees demonstration

The Merkel Art Association met Feb. 1st at Taylor Telephone. The program was given by Wanda Kinnard of Abilene, she is an artist and teacher. She gave an excellent demonstration using a base of acrylic and painting in oil. She painted a beautiful white duck in an oval frame that was trimmed with a blue ruffle.

Mulberry fire group

The Mulberry Canyon Volunteer Fire Department will meet Monday at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Tabernacle next to the Pioneer Memorial Methodist Church.

explaining each procedure as she painted.

The business meeting followed with club president Dot Coker presiding. The members expressed a desire to help with the Merkel downtown park and a spring field trip was discussed.

Each member was given a red, silk stuffed valentine with a white lace ruffle for a lapel. The table centerpiece was a red and white queen valentine doll with red heart streamers. Ethel Pee was the winner of the door prize which was a scented pot holder made by Dot Coker.

The hostess, Marie Beaird and Dot Coker served refreshments to

the following: guests Wanda Kinnard and Anita Shirley and members Gay Featherston, Marie Beaird, Benny Rogers, Bonnie English, Ruth Cox, Imogene Coleman, Evelyn Stribling, Robbie Wilson, Ted Wilson, Ethel Pee, Dot Coker and Ruth Buster.

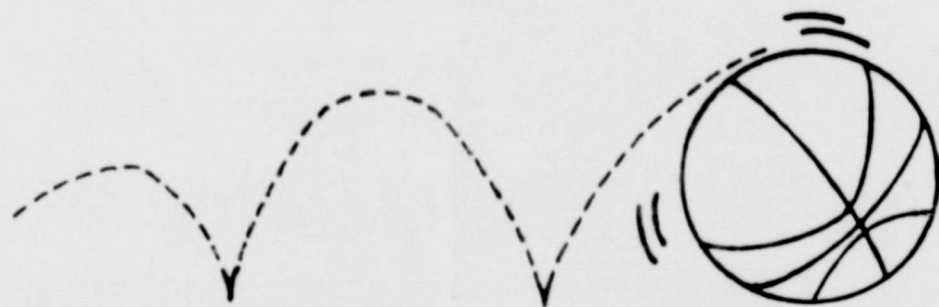
Gorilla jackets

Two Gorilla Booster jackets are still available, sizes large and 18-20. The jackets are \$40 each and can be obtained by calling Janie Massey at 846-4533. Proceeds will go toward the Senior Class fund.
by W. E. Dulaney



MERKEL HIGH SCHOOL
Feb. 5: Boys and Girls JV and Varsity at Colorado City
Feb. 9: Boys and girls JV and Varsity host Sonora
Feb. 12: Varsity and JV Boys host Wylie

MERKEL & TRENT BASKETBALL



TRENT HIGH SCHOOL
Feb. 5th Boys and Girls at Blackwell

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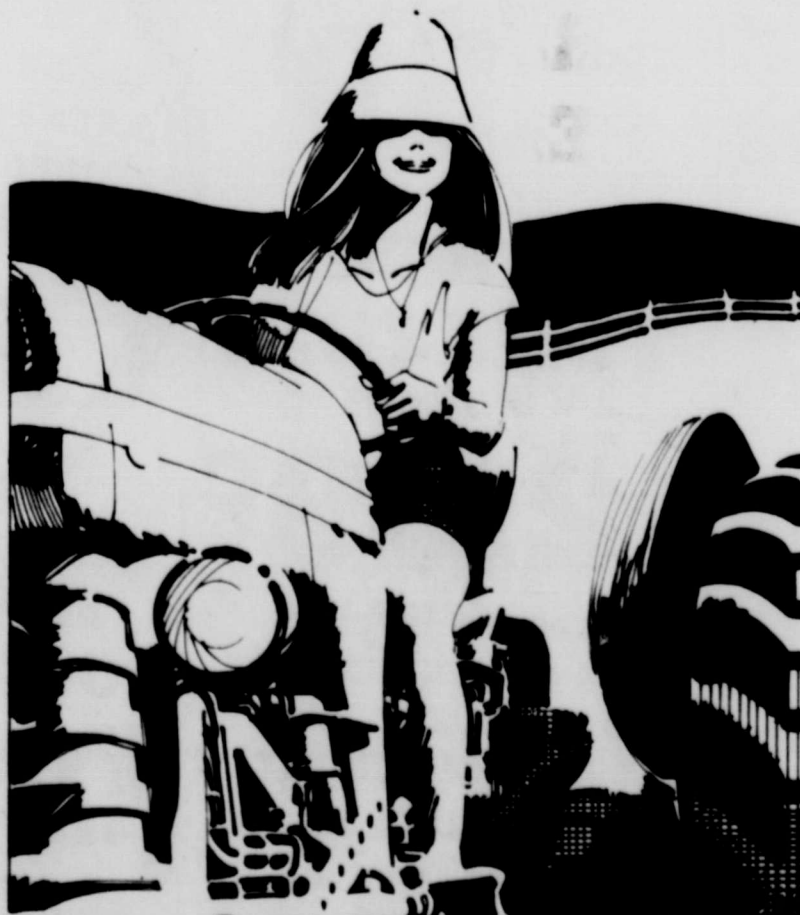
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