

Merkel Matters

HOPES, HAPPENINGS AND OTHER NEWS FROM A GREAT LITTLE WEST TEXAS TOWN

HOME COMING

**A GREAT COMING HOME
EVENT FOR ALL**

There were lots of old Badgers around, especially the class of 1963! The special 50th was celebrated and remembered by a host of '63 grads and there were other classes partying as well. Homecomings bring lots of folks back to their roots and hopefully some will come back to live and contribute in our little hometown. Go Badgers! No! Stay Badgers!

★ DEVELOPING NEWS! ★

From the Economic Development Corp.

Besides selling Merkel to potential businesses and families, one of the main goals of the EDC has been to help change our image among our Big Country neighbors. Present us as vibrant, quality people who are willing to clean up neighborhoods and work on our streets and drainage. Our local newspaper and our editor does a fine job informing the home folks but we need to get the word out to the whole area. I am happy to report that we've gotten over 15 positive stories in the Abilene paper as well as some KTAB and KTXS coverage that has been extensive and positive. Sure, there have been negative stories as well, but we're holding our own! Lets all keep working and remember, Merkel Matters!

Christmas Parade moved a week because of snow and ice. Goes off without a slip-up!

Our nighttime Christmas Parade is always special, but this year's effort on December 14th was a show of resolve by organizers!



When old man winter said "not now", parade officials said how about next week? The crowd was a little light but made up for it in enthusiasm. The entries were unique and varied. A really special event for kids.



Treats around Town was a real treat!

Everybody got into the spirit of the occasion this time...maybe because this was a "13" year!! Seriously, the crowds were impressive and costumes were outstanding!! It's good to see all the kids having fun and getting these sugar "highs"! There were goblins and super heroes all over Merkel. This has turned into a big family event.

BizBeat!! WE'RE IN A LITTLE BOOM HERE FOLKS!

New business in town! Rhinestone Gypsies has expanded to the corner of Kent and 2nd street and are doin' great selling fashionable fashions for fashionable folks. Say that three times real fast.

- 5H Hardware at 2nd and Edwards has reopened, stronger than ever! Come see the improvement and array of products.
- The "Pipeline City" at I-20 and FM 1235 is blowing and going. Reports estimate 300 or more workers are spending time and money in Merkel.
- A new Metal Mart is on the way! McElroy Metal has committed to a retail storage building operation out on I-20. Good timing for spring cleaning!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Texas Independence Day Celebration March 2nd
- Antique Car Show downtown April or May
- Citywide Garage Sale in June



Citywide Garage Sale brought in bargain hunters from all over.

People from all over the Big Country were exposed to our new streets, unique downtown and more---I heard lots of people complimenting us.

Shop Merkel!