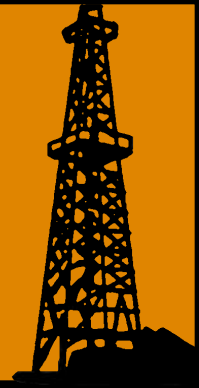


BIG RIG

Merritt High School, January 2015



Elk City RV Sales

By Aaron Posey

Have you ever wanted to rent an RV or a trailer? Well, look no more and go to Elk City RV Sales. James and Lanette Redd started this business in 1999, after renting and buying RV's and trailers to oil companies. Since the demand for these vehicles was so high, they decided to open up a dealership.

The services provided there are RV sales of course, but also RV repairs and parts sales. They market their business through newspaper ads, radio stations, and trade magazines.

So if you are ever interested in buying an RV or a trailer go to Elk City RV Sales where their goal is to "Provide the best service possible."

Elk City RV Sales
3306 S Highway 6
Elk City, OK 73644
(580) 243-3300



The Old High School Building

By Lauren Cummings

The rock gym and the old high school building are the two oldest buildings at Merritt. Recently, the January 13 bond was passed, permitting the school to tear down the old high school and build a new middle school in its place. However, this decision has proven to be bittersweet to members of the Merritt community. Some believe that the building, built in 1923, is a beloved landmark and vital factor in the history of Merritt. While others agree with this, they are also convinced that the bond is a very positive addition to the school system. The high school building is no longer useable, and as the number of students increases rapidly each year, it would only be logical to create more space by adding a new building in the place of the old one. While the high school building will be missed, it will ultimately be beneficial to the development and progression of Merritt.

Celeste Tovar

by Lauren Cummings

Like every school, Merritt continues to grow each year. Moving to a new school is always stressful, but imagine moving for your first year of high school! However, freshman Celeste Tovar has almost nothing but good things to say about her new school.

Celeste attended Elk City School last year. She moved here a year ago from Los Angeles, CA. Her school there, ISLC, was a lot bigger than Merritt, as one may imagine. She said that the difference in the two schools is that her California school had lots of fighting and cultural differences, unlike Merritt, where the teachers are nicer and pay more attention to students.

Her favorite part of Merritt is the caring teachers. Celeste says that here, as opposed to her previous schools, the teachers care whether the students pass or fail and work with them personally when they need help. Her favorite teacher so far is Mrs. Rutherford.

Celeste is not yet involved in any activities or clubs. She had hoped to play soccer here and wishes that Merritt had a soccer team, but this is the only thing she would add to the school.

Overall, Celeste has a positive opinion of Merritt. "I think it's a great school," she concludes.



Rhinestone Schnauzers

By: Allison Shepherd

This month's business spotlight features Rhinestone Schnauzers. Rhinestone Schnauzers is locally owned and operated business. The owner Lorie Bradshaw takes pride in the beautiful puppies she provides for her customers. Lorie started her business 25 years ago after buying a schnauzer as a family pet. She loved the qualities that schnauzers exhibit and wanted to share them with other families. They are a very friendly, loving, and devoted breed. A few more perks to becoming a schnauzer owner is they are a small breed that do not shed. Lorie's puppies are raised in the home with lots of TLC. Lorie's husband Don also sells French Bulldogs and Minnie Aussies. If you or anyone you know is looking for an addition to your furry family, check out Rhinestone Schnauzers on Facebook or contact Lorie at 580-210-9127.

Lori Fields

by Zach Beals

One of our new students is a junior by the name of Lori Fields. She is a unique girl, and from what I have noticed, a very open person. She has been very polite and friendly during our interview.

Lori moved here with her family from Pampa, Texas. She says she moves around all the time, so this move didn't affect her much. She came here focused on school and is eager to pass. She and her family plan on staying this time.

"There are some things different here than from my old school," said Lori. Merritt is a lot smaller than her old school. It does have classes that Lori enjoys quite a lot.

"I really love cars!" was a statement given by Lori. That is probably the reason why her favorite activities include going to Western Technology Center. She attends a diesel tech class which she really enjoys.

"I really like my life right now," says Lori. She is happy with herself and is confident. She is an outgoing and friendly person. She will make a great addition to the Merritt community. She is worth getting to know just like all the other new students at MHS.



Aaron Ligon

by Justine Courtney

There are 41 new students from seventh to twelfth grade at Merritt High School. One of the new students is Aaron Ligon. He is a seventh grader this year. Aaron moved to Merritt from Ada, Oklahoma. For fun, Aaron Ligon likes to play sports. The sports that he is involved in is basketball, baseball, football and track. Aaron is a type of person that rather be outside, playing sports, instead of listening to music. When asked what he thought about Merritt, Aaron stated that it is a very good school and has great teachers. His favorite subject in school is math. When asked if Aaron considered himself an outgoing person, he stated "I would say so," and he is very involved in the community. Aaron has five siblings, three which attend Merritt also. His brothers are Noah, ninth grade; Caleb, sixth grade; and Joshua, third grade. His two sisters are DanaLynn and Hadlie, which both are still in daycare.



New Playground

by McKayla Doty

This year Merritt School purchased an entirely new playground set. We replaced the wood chips that had previously been on the playground with shredded rubber. The shredded rubber is a great improvement for the children's safety.

The new playground will be a new experience for the children. Now the kids can shake off all their extra energy on all these great new upgrades. This purchase was a wonderful addition for our school that will last us for years to come.



Merritt vs. Hammon

by Destry Pollard

The Merritt Oilerettes picked up their 3rd win in a row against the Hammon Lady Warriors. Despite struggling to score and being down by 9 points at one time, the Oilerettes we're able to pull out a 34-33 win in overtime by playing tough defense. Senior Javehn Roberts led the Oilerettes in scoring with 15 points. Coach Fletcher said, "We're finally finding ways to win close games." Merritt will next take on Cheyenne at home Tuesday with tipoff at 6:30. In addition the Merritt boys won by six points in overtime.

High School Basketball

The Oilers and Oilerettes faced off against the Leedey Bison on January 6, 2015. The Oilers and Oilerettes had a climatic battle that ended with the Bison coming out in the end with the victory.

The Oilers and the Oilerettes fought hard although they couldn't pull through for the win in the end. The Oilers ended up with a loss of 42-44 and the Oilerettes ended up with a loss of 30-42.

Madison Nagle was the lead scorer of the girls' game scoring eight points and Courtney Reyes was the second top scorer with six points, while the boys' team resulted in Tanner Mong being the top scorer and Tahner Loyd being the second top scorer.



6th Annual Merritt Classic

Merritt hosted their 6th annual Merritt Classic this month. The Oilers and Oilerettes ended up playing some hard fought games. The Oilers ended up placing second in the tournament, and even though the Oilerettes fought some hard games they did not end up advancing to the finals.

On Thursday night, both teams had some challenging games. The boys played Mangum Tigers and ended up winning with a score of 37-25. The girls played a rough game against Calumet Chieftains but ended up with a loss with a score of 37-35.

Friday night, both of the teams had another challenge. The boys had to face off against the Hobart Wildcats and ended up winning the game with a landslide score of 48-30. The girls played against the Hollis Tigers but end up losing with a score of 21-23.

Saturday morning, the girls played against the Navajo Indians in a tough and challenging game with the Indians but ended up losing with a final score of 40-44. The boys played the Hollis Tigers and ended up taking second place with a final score of 32-34.



2015 Merritt Classic All-Tournament Team

Girls

Peyton Waylan- Arnett

Hannah Shoaf- Arnett

Nichole Means- Mangum

Kensi Laughlin- Mangum

Ashli Richardson- Calumet

Amanda Hart- Hydro-Eakly

2015 Girls MVP- Katie Percival- Calumet

Aaron Custer MVP- Jamie Stockton- Hobart

Boys

Miseal Gonzalez- Navajo

Preston Reed- Hobart

Jace Webb- Hollis

Jared Hart- Hydro-Eakly

Malic Johnson- Hollis

Tahner Loyd- Merritt

Tanner Mong- Merritt

2015 Boys MVP- Kahlil Johnson- Hollis

Aaron Custer MVP- Malic Johnson- Hollis
& Tahner Loyd- Merritt

5th & 6th Grade Math

by
Jordan Rippetoe

The 5th and 6th grade students are a really good group of students. This year the students have been working diligently in math class to prepare for the end of the year test. Although we have had our ups and downs, I am really proud of the effort that the students have shown. Our classroom is decorated with hunting decor, and we are big fans of Duck Dynasty. One quote that we have been using as a class motto throughout the year is from Willie Robertson. Willie has said many times on his show, "When in doubt, figure it out! That's the redneck way!". I felt that this quote was appropriate because we have discussed that there are many ways to work math problems, we just have to have an open mind and figure it out. As the end of the year test approaches, we are going to use this quote to help us to reach our goals of passing the test and doing our best.

Fourth Grade News

The Fourth Graders are very busy this time of year. They, along with their teachers, are working hard in preparation for their 4th Grade State Test coming this spring. The fourth grade girls' and boys' basketball teams are participating in a festival at Arapaho on January 31st. It will complete their season. They are in the tedious process of choosing poems to use in the 5-County Speech Competition. They must qualify for the competition by January 27th in order to travel to the speech competition on February 23rd. Last, but not least, the fourth graders are extremely excited about the new playground. Their favorite things are the bridge, the slide, and the swings. They eagerly await warmer weather so that they can further enjoy the new additions.



MERRITT 7/8 GRADE HONOR ROLL

1st Semester

**2014-15
SUPERINTENDENT**

Ben Mills, Brooke Puckett, Carson Rutherford, Avery Simon, Dalen Smith, JocieLyn Thomas

PRINCIPAL

Mallory Babek, Loren Ballard, Miranda Brady, Aydin Chatfield, Trevor Damron, Allysa Donaldson, Mackenzie Dyer, Madison Faylor, Josie Fields, Weston Fish, Brock Floyd, Adam Gibbins, Braiden Jarvis, Mackenzie Mong, Devyn Pollard, Tyson Rose, Alexia Shepard, Laramie Thetford, Shelby Thomas, Lindsey Wells

MERRITT HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

1ST Semester

2014-15

SUPERINTENDENT

Edith Armendariz, McKenzie Berg, Mikiah Carnes, Ashlee Carr, Gabby Carter, Lauren Cummings, Tristan Dornon, Jada Galley, Morgan Jones, Niki Martin, Emily Miller, Ryan Mills, Tanner Mong, Shayla Morris, Destry Pollard, Javehn Roberts, Madison Rutherford, Hagen Simon, Cadlyn Smith

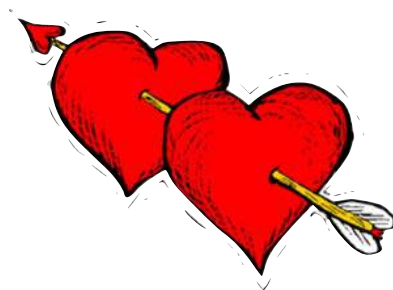
PRINCIPAL

Nathan Carr, Justine Courtney, Andrew DeRocher, McKayla Doty, Karli Droke, Kara Eckart, Tryston Fox, Renan Gonzalez, Sydney Hanks, Noah Ligon, Tahner Loyd, Sierra Maddox, Destanie Moler, Arik Mullican, Madison Nagle, Hunter Newton, Tristan Noyes, Amarillis Olguin, Haley Oliver, Katey Patterson, Kenny Price, Tiffany Price, Mercedes Rangel, Ravin Ray, Courtney Reyes, Sydni Sanders, Sally Schoenhals, McKenzie Smith, Cooper Taylor, Logan Thetford, Brystal VanBuren, Bailey Wilhelm, Abigayle Willis, Yaleigh Yarbrough

The Perfect Valentines Day!

by Timothy Jones

This month at Merritt High School the newspaper members took a survey of what students thought would be the perfect Valentines Day. Some said that their idea of the perfect Valentines Day was spending it with loved ones, and to others it was just a normal day, but what we have inferred is that the most preferred, by the students at Merritt High School, was getting a box of chocolates and getting a huge stuffed bear. Others thought that the perfect Valentines Day is receiving a note from their secret admirer or loved ones living in other states. Whatever is your idea of the perfect Valentines Day, Merritt Schools would like to wish you a Happy Valentines Day.



Good for You!

By: Allison Shepherd

In this second edition of the Big Rig's Good for You article we are glad to recognize some of the good deeds that the people in our school have done in the last couple of weeks. We try to gather as many good deeds as we can, but it would be really helpful if our readers could help us recognize even more people. This can be done by nominating a good person and emailing a brief explanation of what the person did to merrittbigrig@aol.com.

This month's "Good for You" goes to:

Jarret Smith for stopping a fight.

Byron Carillo for translating to Francisco Munoz who doesn't speak English.

Ben Mills for being very polite, opening doors, and being very helpful to teachers.

Mr. Givens 7th grade boys for taking out the trash for the janitors.

Lexus Criswell for working hard in class

Aaron Posey for standing up in class and giving everyone a compliment.

Merritt Oiler Legacy Week 2015

We are excited to announce a new Merritt Spirit Week coming this February! Merritt Oiler Legacy Week will hopefully be a yearly spirit week unique to Merritt Schools. Each year we hope to fill Legacy week with fun interactive activities, develop and build on one characteristic that describes what it means to be an Oiler; all leading up to a school wide service project. This years' service project will be sending and preparing care packages for our military. We will have more information this week! Legacy Week 2015 will be February 9th-13th! #oilerlegacy2015

