

# THE BIG RIG

Merritt High School - September 2014

## Business Spotlight

### Cudd Energy Services

By: Derek Capps

Cudd Energy Services provides coil tubing, nitrogen, wireline, and snubbing services. Cudd controls the pressure and energy of a well, and also reenergizes the well. The manager of Coil Tubing, Nitrogen, and Wireline is Mark Spitz. The manager of Snubbing is Keith Hulen. The regional manager is Donald Bridge. "The best things about working at Cudd is the excellent benefits, the good pay, and the family-oriented environment." Scott Capps (nitrogen employee at Cudd) says "This job brings a new adventure everyday."



## Apple Distinguished School

by Levi Finley

Merritt Public School has recently been nominated by the Apple administrators to be a Apple distinguished school. In order for Merritt School to be an Apple distinguished school, Merritt has to publish a book on iBooks, on how the use of Apple products have impacted the learning on Merritt's students and faculty. The categories to be addressed in the iBook are; visionary leadership, innovative learning and technology, ongoing professional learning, compelling evidence of success, and the flexible learning environment. There are around 17 faculty and teachers who have been meeting several times a week to meet the deadline of Sep. 29, 2014. We will know the results within the next month. If we win, students, teachers and administrators from all around Oklahoma and the United States will come to Merritt to see how to implement Apple products within the classroom to enhance learning.

# **Business Spotlight**

## **J&P Cafe**

Owners: Ivonn  
Valenzuela and Jorge  
Sepulveda

by Renan Gonzalez

When it comes to restaurants, the Merritt community offers several restaurants to choose from. On this month's "Business Spotlight" we have J&P Cafe, also known as "Triggers" by many of the locals. If you want very authentic Tex-Mex food then J&P is the restaurant for you! One review from a continuing customer states "J&P offers great authentic Tex-Mex food, and everything is fresh and homemade. My wife and I eat there at least once a week." J&P also offers a very well organized catering section. If you're wanting to get a bite to eat drive on out to the intersection of HWY 6 and HWY 152, or for that special catering job, call 580-225-5502.

## **MPTO MEETING**

Tuesday, Sept. 30

5:30

Merritt school cafeteria



## **Merritt Football**

by Tristan Dornon

In football news Merritt beats Corn Bible thirty-eight to six, which is a great way to kick off the season. For the first quarter of the game Corn Bible was winning six to nothing. However, hope was not lost. The second quarter the boys came out ready ready to make comeback.

When asked later about how he thought the team did early in the game, Coach Richardson said, "We had a slow start and made many mistakes, hopefully we fixed all those mistakes." By the end of the second quarter Merritt had made two touchdowns and a two point conversion, putting Merritt in the lead fourteen to six.

"I feel we're a good athletic team," says player Cody Pruitt. "We just need to be more disciplined." By the end of the third quarter Merritt scored two more touchdowns and made both conversions.

After the game we asked coach how he thought the next game would go. He said, "It'll be a tough game, and we'll need to play hard against Seiling to win. I think if we practice hard this week and study film then we will be fine".

# New Faces At Merritt

## Leah Wing

by Justine Courtney

As you may have noticed, Merritt has grown, with 42 new students in the high school and junior high building. One of the new students is Leah Wing. She moved here from Burns Flat. Leah is currently in the seventh grade, and she likes Merritt because she thinks all the teachers are really nice, although she misses seeing her friends every day at her old school. When she isn't busy with school, she likes to run and read for fun. Her favorite subjects in school are reading and English. When she gets out of high school, she plans on going to college to be a veterinarian or an English teacher, but for now she wants to make good grades and achieve what she needs to. Leah has two brothers and one sister. Christopher is 16, Erin is 14, and Clayton is six. Clayton and Erin go to Merritt also.



## Justin Jantz

by Sarah Cruzen

Justin Jantz, a 18 year old senior, moved to Merritt from Sayre. He enjoys hunting and fishing. Although his music taste is diverse, he favors country. The sports he's interested in are football and basketball. Also, he has three brothers: Jeremy, Colton, and Nathan, and one sister, Cameron. He also has an old English Bulldog named Devin. His goals after high school are to go to Southwestern or Oklahoma State University to be an architect.



# High School Softball

by Tristan Dornon

In the first home game of the school year, Merritt lost to Elk City 11-1. It was a tough game and until the third inning, there was no clear winning in sight.

All the Merritt girls went into the game feeling prepared and ready to play. After the game every member of the team walked away, their heads held high, and their dignities intact.

"I feel we need to work on our batting," says Abigail Willis. "I think this loss will help our team focus more."

It's the top of the inning, Elk City is up 5-0. Although losing, the girls expect a comeback. "I think we could've kept our heads up a little better," says player Tristan Noyes. "We really need to cleanup our routine plays," says player Courtney Reyes.

At the end of the third, Courtney Reyes steals home scoring Merritt's only point. By the end of the fifth, Elk City had scored six more points, winning the game. However, even in the loss, every softball girl believes that this experience will help prepare them for future challenges.

## Jr. High Softball

by Zachary Beals

In an astonishing game September 15 against Cordell, Merritt Junior High Softball girls won 18-0. Cordell stood no chance against the determination and team work of our girls. The team, along with the coach, must feel very confident in the ability of this year's team.

Brooke Fox is one of the young ladies who helped destroy Cordell in September 15th's mind blowing game. She says she went into the game glowing with certainty; she knew they could win. Her beliefs were that all they needed were focus and hard work, and that is exactly what won them this game.

"The team is basically family," said Brooke. "We are very close and treat each other the way we should treat a teammate." This might be the reason why they go on the field so cheerfully, but do not show any weakness nor confusion. "They only thing we need to improve on is our cockiness," says Brooke.

Brooke tells the reporter that there is one girl who went above and beyond, and that would be Allison Justus. They made no mistakes, so of course, they couldn't be disappointed with this outstanding victory. They hit the ball great and played the field like they were born to do so. I imagine the coach was most honored to have such a great team of girls. We all know he must be proud of them.

# Cross Country

by Lauren Cummings

Merritt is known for such sports as basketball, softball and football. One of its lesser known activities is cross-country, which, Senior Nate Carr insists, is not the same as track. Nate runs cross-country alongside teammates Carson Rutherford, 8th grade; Noah Ligon, 9th grade; Ashlee Carr, 10th grade; and Madison Rutherford, 10th grade.

Cross-country has had two scheduled meets so far: one on August 30th at Weatherford, where Nate ran 2 miles, and another at Watonga, which was cancelled due to rain.

When asked about practices, Nate said that the runners basically practice on their own, focusing on long distance and speed work. "I run at home," Nate adds. As far as a certain diet, the runners mostly eat healthy and try not to eat after 8 p.m.

As with every interest, Nate has high expectations for cross-country this year to make it to state. "I expect to do my best," he says. But cross-country isn't Nate's only passion. He also enjoys track, which is part of the reason he joined cross-country. He confides that cross-country is extra practice for track, and if anything, it helps better him as a track team member.





# Fellowship Of Christian Athletes

by Justine Courtney

FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) had a prayer walk on September 17. They started at 7:45 a.m. to pray for all the students and encourage them to find Christ. Abigail Willis, Nate Carr, Randy Hayward, and Noah Ligon are the leaders of FCA. They encourage anyone to join if they'd like to. If you would like to get in touch with them their Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook is MerrittFCA. FCA meets every Friday morning at 7:50 in Mrs. Brady's room.





## FFA OFFICERS

President- Kara Eckart  
 Vice President- Chayce Whittenburg  
 Secretary- Logan Thetford  
 Sentinel- Nate Carr  
 Reporter- Renan Gonzalez  
 Treasurer- Oran Miller  
 Chaplain- Karli Droke  
 Junior Officer- Sydney Sander  
 Junior Officer- Brooklyn Parker  
 Junior Officer- Timothy Jones

## FCCLA OFFICERS

President- Madison Nagle  
 Vice President- Lauren Cummings  
 Secretary- Julie Luthy  
 Photographer- Randy Hayward



## STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS

President- Madison Nagle  
 Vice President- Madison Rutherford  
 Secretary- Courtney Reyes

## FCA OFFICERS

President- Abigayle Willis  
 Vice President- Nate Carr  
 Secretary- Randy Hayward  
 Treasurer- Noah Ligon



Photo credits: Dana Gifford, Randy Hayward, Aaron Posey, Justine Courtney

# Colt Conference

by Renan Gonzalez

Last Monday, September 16, 2014, the Merritt FFA chapter officers attended the Southwest Oklahoma FFA colt conference at Lawton, OK. The officer team: Kara Eckart (President), Chase Whittenburg (VP), Logan Thetford (Secretary), Oran Miller (Treasurer), Renán González (Reporter), Nathan Carr (Sentinel), and Karli Droke (Chaplin) arrived at the Great Plains Convention Center and gathered with all the other chapter's officers and got the opportunity to take a picture with the state officers. The conference included activities and public speakers. The local chapter had the privilege of being recognized for it's work and was named a three star chapter along with many other chapters from the Southwestern Oklahoma District.

## Beckham County Fair

by Renan Gonzalez

The Beckham County Fair was held Sep 6, 2014, at Sayre, OK. The Merritt district was featured, as in other years, for the dedication and commitment that the farm youth in our community always display. Congratulations to the Merritt High School and Junior High students and the following list of participants for proudly representing our community well.

Logan Thetford: (gilts) reserve champion in cross guilt, (barrows) reserve champion Hamp, senior Showmanship champion.

Laramie Thetford: (cattle) reserve grand.

Klayton McGee: (gilts) 1st and 2nd.

Mikiah Carnes: (cattle) grand prospect, (gilts) reserve grand.

Riley Forrester: (barrow) reserve grand.

Jonathon Garrett: (barrow) Champion berk.

Reece Hightower: (gilts) champion spot.

Chayce Whittenburg: (barrow) 1st hamp.

Tyson Rose: (gilts) 2nd spot.

Jayden Darling: (sheep) 2nd.

Riley Herndon: (barrow) southdown champion, class 1, first, champion dorset.

Ravin Ray: peanuts display 1st, watermelon, oblong type, 1st, cantaloupe 1st.

Sara Vaught: (barrows) 1st, champion spot, 1st class, second cross.

Merritt School group showmanship: beef, swine.



# How Well Do You Know Our Fight Song?

by Makayla Doty

We're \_\_\_\_\_ for you Merritt High, to your \_\_\_\_\_ we are \_\_\_\_\_ Merritt High. We're \_\_\_\_\_ beside you to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ old Merritt High, RAH! RAH! Stay in there and \_\_\_\_\_ Merritt High. You'll always be \_\_\_\_\_ Merritt High. We'll \_\_\_\_\_ you to \_\_\_\_\_ against the \_\_\_\_\_ in the land, for we know you are \_\_\_\_\_ Merritt High, RAH! \_\_\_\_\_!

Send your submissions in at [mdoty3819@gmail.com](mailto:mdoty3819@gmail.com)

If you have any questions, comments, pictures  
or any other information you would like to see  
please E-mail the information to  
[merrittbigrig@aol.com](mailto:merrittbigrig@aol.com).