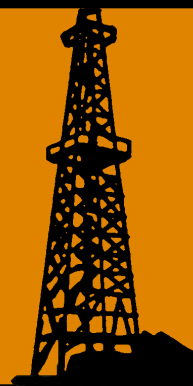


# BIG RIG



Merritt High School, February 2015

## The Pickup Toy Box

by McKayla Doty

The Pickup Toy Box is a great place to visit if you're an automobile or motorcycle enthusiast. The people there are friendly and provide great service. They specialize in vehicle accessories, lids, step-sides, visors, liners, grills, screen fronts, taillights, pick-up bed covers, and pick-up truck campers, but they also carry many other items that may fit your needs.

You can find them at 19678 West State Highway 66, Elk City, OK 73644. You can also give them a call at (580)-225-0225. Owners - Terry and Virginia Bodey



## Legacy Week

By: Timothy Jones

This February, Merritt students celebrated a new week called "Legacy Week". The goal of this week was to spread kindness and do community service. Every grade in the school was actively involved in random acts of kindness and service to others. For Monday and Tuesday the HS mentored elementary classes, and on Wednesday, they mentored to JH classes.

This year's community service project was to honor our men and women actively serving overseas in the U.S. military by gathering care package items. Items included nonperishable food products and personal hygiene items. Several classes wrote thank you letters to the soldiers serving. These letters were packed in the care packages.

On Friday a school wide pep assemble was held to celebrate the week of kindness. Merritt counselor Jamie Partain organized a new group called "Oilers Of Tomorrow" that will be creating and developing community projects for Merritt students in the future. The names of the students that are the 2015 Oilers of Tomorrow are the following: **Ashlee Carr, Brooklyn Parker, DeLeon Noyes, Emily Miller, Gabby Carter, Jadyn Edney, Mercedes Rangel, Kensley Krien, Madison Rutherford, Sydni Sanders, Tori Gilreath, Tanner Mong, Jon Jon Garrett, and Brett Custer, Courtney Reyes, Karli Droke, Logan Thetford, McKayla Doty, Taylor Barnett, Zachary Beals, Abigayle Willis, Javehn Roberts, Kenny Price, Lauren Cummings, Nate Carr, Renan Gonzales, and Madison Nagle.**

# Moler's Mobile Home Transport

by Zachary Beals

If you are looking for transportation services for mobile homes, then Moler's Mobile Home Transport is the place for you. They specialize in transporting, leveling, and setting up trailer homes. It is a very convenient company if you live in the Merritt area. It is run by Robert Moler. If you need any mobile home services, Robert and his trusty crew would be a reliable source.

Address: 11445 Hwy 34,  
Elk City, Ok  
Phone #: 580-339-0770

## Catilea Swartz

by Lauren Cummings

Moving to a new school can be overwhelming, when you are a freshman, like Catilea Swartz. It can be stressful to face starting over. She had a good impression of Merritt by her fifth week, though.

Catilea moved to Elk City over the summer from Burns Flat, where she attended school. It was different than Merritt because the teachers weren't as attentive or caring, according to Catilea. Her favorite part of Merritt is the technology, particularly iPads. She says that she prefers the technology over books and papers because this way, fewer things get lost.

So far, she is only involved in one extra curricular activity: yearbook. Of all the factors involved in making a yearbook, such as reporting and web design, Catilea enjoys photography the most.

Catilea confides that she doesn't wish for anything from her old school to be offered here. Her only wish is that Burns Flat also provided students with iPads. Overall Catilea is happy with her new school.





# Josie Fields

by Randy Hayward

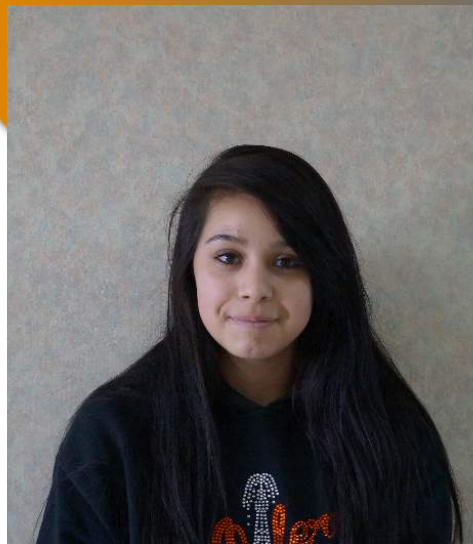
Josie Fields is a new student this year at Merritt. Josie really likes to play basketball, but she will not be playing on the basketball team this year. She really wishes that Merritt's dress code wasn't so strict. Her favorite subject is reading. She would like to improve her grades this year. She really enjoys drawing outside of school. Josie, we are glad you are here.



# Lilia Cardenas

by RJ Bustamante

Merritt High School has gained a new student: Lilia Cardenas. She recently moved into the Merritt district from Worthinston High School in Minnesota. She says that she is adjusting to the stricter style of Merritt. Her old high school was a lot more lenient with their dress code. Her favorite teacher at Merritt is Mrs. Ray because she teaches video editing, which is Lilia's favorite subject. She is making friends everyday at Merritt. Lilia plays soccer with friends and family but is not involved in any after school activities. She adds that she loves listening to music. She is adjusting to her new school. Welcome Lilia!



# Miguel Saenz

by McKayla Doty

Miguel Saenz came from Austin Academy and this is his first year at Merritt. He is in the 9th Grade and he likes his science class the best. His main goal is to graduate high school. In his free time he likes to play soccer with his friends. He said, "I like Merritt so far, but it was hard saying goodbye to all my friends." We hope Miguel has a great year at Merritt.





# Mrs. Barnett's Class

We are becoming great readers by using the "Chunky Monkey" and "Stretchy Snake" reading strategies. Zoey Seymour and Caleb Ruiz are having fun while they learn to read.



# Mrs. Calloway's Class

This week in Mrs. Calloway's class, we are learning about kindness. We read the story, Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch. We are discussing how important kind words are and how they make you feel. We made a compliment wall. Each classmate was able to give a compliment to their friends.

All week, a fifth grade class has visited our room. They helped our students write letters to the troops and taught us the class chant. They really liked that!

We are making a Valentine's Day lantern for our families with a special handwritten note! We will celebrate Valentine's Day with homemade mailboxes, party games, and snacks!

Lilli Rippetoe is preparing for Valentines Day as she reflects on what she loves.







# Merritt vs. Burns Flat

by Destry Pollard

Merritt Oilerettes defeated BFDC Lady Eagles 37-35 Saturday night at home. Burns Flat scored the first two points of the ball game, but after a three from Javehn Roberts, who also scored the game-clenching free throws, the Oilerettes never allowed them to regain the lead. Freshman Mikiah Carnes led the Oilerettes in scoring with 12 points. Merritt will host Cordell Tuesday night for Senior Night, tip-off at 6:30.



During half-time of the high school games, the 3rd and 4th grade basketball teams played a quick scrimmage against one another.



# Boys Basketball

By Taylor Barnett and Randy Hayward

The Oilers have worked very hard this basketball season from fifth grade all the way up to high school. The 5th and 6th grade boys basketball ended up with a win to loss ratio of 6-4. The boys are proud of the season that they have had this year and are looking forward to another great year next year. The high school JV concluded the season beating Cheyenne JV 33-20 and Cordell JV 40-13. The JV boys were proud of their season with a win to loss ratio of 7-1.

High school boys ended the regular season games with a win to loss ratio of 17-6. The boys have had some good games leading up to the district tournament. They defeated Cheyenne/Reydon Bears 58-31, Sentinel Bulldogs 58-21, Burns Flat-Dill City Eagles 51-44, and

# Jr. High Basketball

by Lauren Cummings

The junior high and 7th & 8th grade teams wrapped up their basketball season after a rewarding winter of hard work and progress.

On Monday night, February 9th, the Oilers and Oilerettes played their last basketball games of the year against Arapaho. The junior high girls fought hard and successfully defeated the Arapaho Indians 34-18.

The boys played an aggressive and honorable game, ending with a score of 17-24. Despite this loss, the fans and players were both very proud of the Oilers. Seventh & eighth grade proved to be very determined as well.

All in all, the junior high basketball teams had a successful season and are looking forward to a great season next year.





# 5 County Speech Contest

by McKenna Archer

Merritt 1st-6th grade attended the 5 County Speech Contest in Cheyenne, February 2, 2015. All students represented Merritt very well. The 4th-6th grades won the sweepstakes award. This award is given to the school with the highest overall average of scores. After, they celebrated with pizza. We are very proud of all who participated!



# OGPAC Award Banquet

by Lauren Cummings

On Monday, February 16th, the annual Oklahoma Great Plains Academic Conference Banquet was held at Sentinel. High school and junior high teams from around the western part of the state met for a meal, along with a brief awards ceremony. After this, four representatives from the High School All-Star team competed against Carnegie, the conference champions, in one half of a regular academic match.

The players were accompanied by their coaches, family members, and friends. Two of Merritt's own academic coaches helped to host the ceremony. Renee Fletcher, the junior high coach, held the introduction, and Brenna Rippetoe presented the awards.

Two Merritt players won awards. Alyssa Donaldson received the Junior High MVP and Junior High All-Star team award, and Lauren Cummings received the High School MVP award.







# Good For You

By : Derek Capps

These are the students being recognized for the good deeds they have done this month.

Kurtis Pittman and Caitlynn Rodriguez helped Mrs. Yarbrough with the popcorn heart clean-up.

Yaleigh Yarbrough help Teri vacuum Mrs. Yarbrough's floor.

MacKenzie Mong and Devyn Pollard helped make signs for Legacy Week.

Levi Finley helped kindergarteners read and write.

Bailey Wilhelm, Chase Whittenberg, and Kolten Zimms for shoveling snow off the sidewalks on campus.