

BIG RIG

Merritt High School, October 2015



Literary Festival

by Jaquelin Olivas

On October 7, the newspaper staff went to Southwestern Oklahoma University at Sayre to the Literary Festival. First, we had snacks and worked on our Trivial Pursuit questions, and we then listened to authors, journalists, and writers talk about their experiences. They also gave us tips on how to be better writers, depending on what kind of writer we are or want to be. One thing that they told us, that I think that everyone should know, is that we shouldn't be scared or embarrassed of who we want to be. Don't be scared to pursue your dreams. When that was over we entered a scavenger hunt, which was pretty fun to all of us. After that we had a Vine contest, which Tristan and Kurtis won first place, Caitlynn won second, Sierra, Bobbi and Valora won third place. They won money and assorted prizes. We all had a great time at the Literary Festival, and we are looking forward to going again next year.



October Construction Update

by Tristan Dornon

This month the construction work on the new Merritt Middle School officially began and we couldn't be more ecstatic. Presently, the workers are pouring footing and will later set to work on the flooring. Next, the crew will began laying down concrete and installing the electrical work. "We're very excited to get started." said Mr. Daugherty. When completed, the building will contain twelve classrooms, two offices and a boardroom. The 6th, 7th and 8th grades are expected to be moved to the new building when completed.



Financial Advice from Robbie Gilbert

By: Caitlynn Rodriguez

The seniors received a special visit October 22 from a talented financial adviser, Robbie Gilbert. Robbie and her trusty canine, Junior, shared some words of wisdom about buying and selling stocks. She explained that with stocks you don't get money immediately. It is something that takes time and patience. She also said that you need to make sure you are balanced physically, mentally, spiritually, and financially.

Robbie gave some important tips: think about what's going to happen, any profit is a good profit, and greed and fear hurt you when it comes to stocks. Robbie finances millions of dollars a day and she never thought she would be doing what she does every day. When asked how much she enjoys her career she said "I love it. True success depends on how many people I have helped at the end of the day."

Thanks to Robbie Gilbert and the Oklahoma Securities Exchange Commission, who sponsors the class, the Financial Literacy class is learning how to succeed when buying and selling stocks.



Tech Team

by Bobii Schreck

The high school tech team had a meeting on October 5, to discuss their future plans. They will be doing training this month, and starting in November, the tech team will be available to teachers every Wednesday during flex. On October 27th they will be training on digital storytelling at the Apple store in Oklahoma City. If anyone in the community has a need for technology training, contact Mrs. Bollinger at the high school. We will be glad to set up a free training.



HS/JH Merritt Cheerleaders

by Peighton Timms

The 2015-2016 High School Cheerleaders are Kailen Tahsequah (Sr.), Emily Miller (Jr.), Hagen Simon (Soph.), McKenzie Berg (Soph.), Kelsey Ferris (Soph.), Niki Martin (Soph.), Tiffany Price (Soph.), and Brystal Van Buren (Soph.). Their sponsor is Julie Copeland.

The 2015-2016 Junior High cheerleaders are Avery Simon, Mackenzie Mong, Shelby Thomas, Allison Justice, Brooke Puckett, Emily Dornan, Blakely Barnett, and Alexis Criswell. The junior high cheerleading sponsor is Pam Criswell.

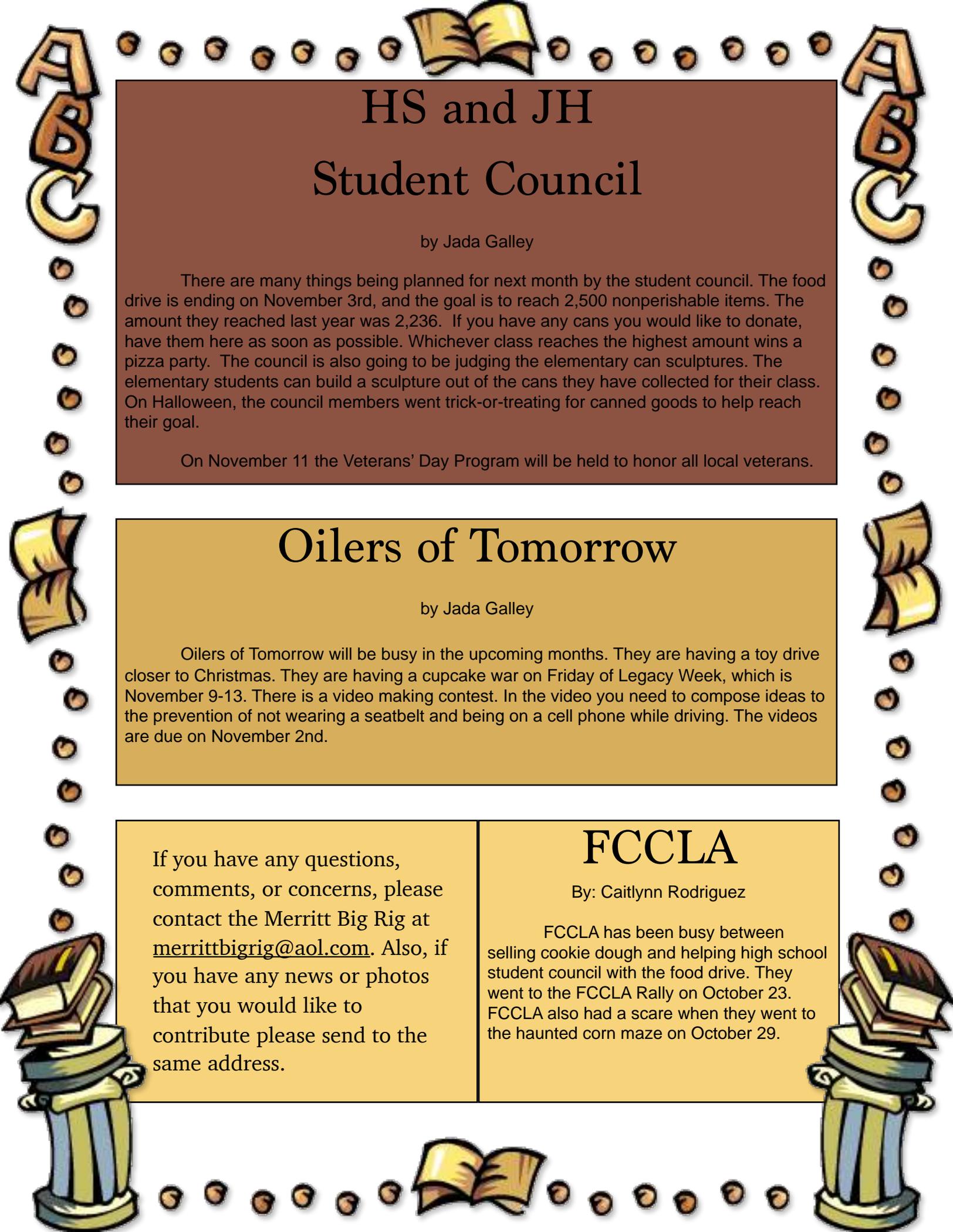


Music

By: Caitlynn Rodriguez

The Music Department is in full swing right now. The choir will be performing at Woodward on November 24th. The high school choir is performing for the Veterans' Day Program on November 11. Halie Davis, eighth grader, advanced to Western Oklahoma Honor Choir. Congratulations to Halie for this accomplishment!





HS and JH Student Council

by Jada Galley

There are many things being planned for next month by the student council. The food drive is ending on November 3rd, and the goal is to reach 2,500 nonperishable items. The amount they reached last year was 2,236. If you have any cans you would like to donate, have them here as soon as possible. Whichever class reaches the highest amount wins a pizza party. The council is also going to be judging the elementary can sculptures. The elementary students can build a sculpture out of the cans they have collected for their class. On Halloween, the council members went trick-or-treating for canned goods to help reach their goal.

On November 11 the Veterans' Day Program will be held to honor all local veterans.

Oilers of Tomorrow

by Jada Galley

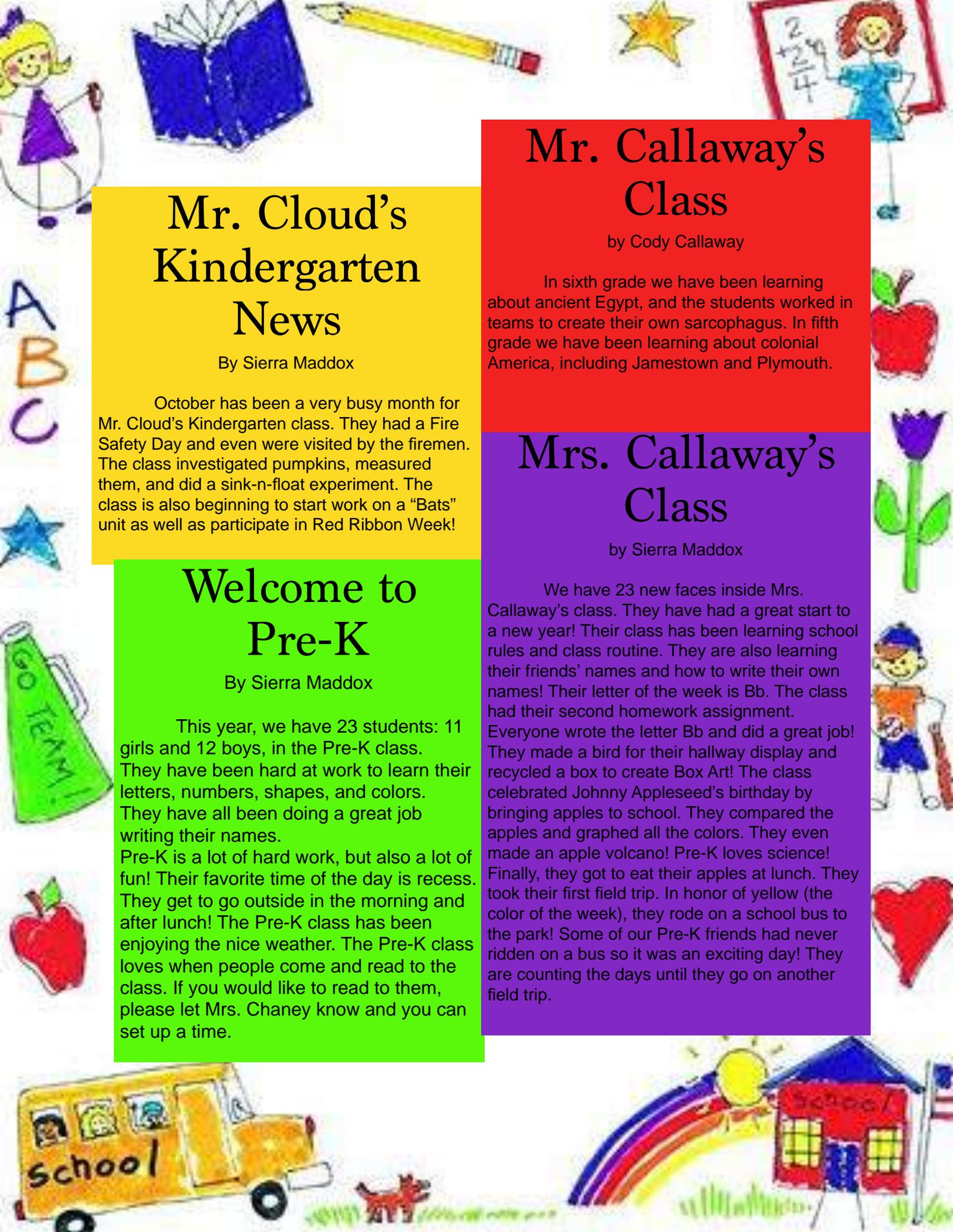
Oilers of Tomorrow will be busy in the upcoming months. They are having a toy drive closer to Christmas. They are having a cupcake war on Friday of Legacy Week, which is November 9-13. There is a video making contest. In the video you need to compose ideas to the prevention of not wearing a seatbelt and being on a cell phone while driving. The videos are due on November 2nd.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact the Merritt Big Rig at merrittbigrig@aol.com. Also, if you have any news or photos that you would like to contribute please send to the same address.

FCCLA

By: Caitlynn Rodriguez

FCCLA has been busy between selling cookie dough and helping high school student council with the food drive. They went to the FCCLA Rally on October 23. FCCLA also had a scare when they went to the haunted corn maze on October 29.



Mr. Cloud's Kindergarten News

By Sierra Maddox

October has been a very busy month for Mr. Cloud's Kindergarten class. They had a Fire Safety Day and even were visited by the firemen. The class investigated pumpkins, measured them, and did a sink-n-float experiment. The class is also beginning to start work on a "Bats" unit as well as participate in Red Ribbon Week!

Welcome to Pre-K

By Sierra Maddox

This year, we have 23 students: 11 girls and 12 boys, in the Pre-K class. They have been hard at work to learn their letters, numbers, shapes, and colors. They have all been doing a great job writing their names. Pre-K is a lot of hard work, but also a lot of fun! Their favorite time of the day is recess. They get to go outside in the morning and after lunch! The Pre-K class has been enjoying the nice weather. The Pre-K class loves when people come and read to the class. If you would like to read to them, please let Mrs. Chaney know and you can set up a time.

Mr. Callaway's Class

by Cody Callaway

In sixth grade we have been learning about ancient Egypt, and the students worked in teams to create their own sarcophagus. In fifth grade we have been learning about colonial America, including Jamestown and Plymouth.

Mrs. Callaway's Class

by Sierra Maddox

We have 23 new faces inside Mrs. Callaway's class. They have had a great start to a new year! Their class has been learning school rules and class routine. They are also learning their friends' names and how to write their own names! Their letter of the week is Bb. The class had their second homework assignment. Everyone wrote the letter Bb and did a great job! They made a bird for their hallway display and recycled a box to create Box Art! The class celebrated Johnny Appleseed's birthday by bringing apples to school. They compared the apples and graphed all the colors. They even made an apple volcano! Pre-K loves science! Finally, they got to eat their apples at lunch. They took their first field trip. In honor of yellow (the color of the week), they rode on a school bus to the park! Some of our Pre-K friends had never ridden on a bus so it was an exciting day! They are counting the days until they go on another field trip.



Alex Bryant

by Daniel Hernandez

Alex Bryant is a 15 year old freshman, who is a new student attending Merritt School this year.. He is from Heber Springs, Arkansas and went to Heber Springs High School. He lives with his dad and has two older sisters and one older brother. He participates in football and it's also his hobby. What he likes about Merritt its that it's a small school.



Cafeteria Staff

by Daniel Hernandez

Staff's name:

District Manager: Balinda Kowing
Manager: Nelda Guthrie
Dishwasher/Cook: Jonathan Rejino
Salad Bar/Server: Juanita Courtney
Cook/Server: Stacy Wells

Balinda Kowing, the school cafeteria's District Manager works at Simons Catch and loves spending time with her grandchildren.

Nelda Guthrie is the manager for the school cafeteria and also loves to spend time with her grandchildren.

Jonathan Rejino is one of the cooks/dishwashers, and he's also a band tech at Elk City High School.

Juanita Courtney is the salad bar server.

Stacy Wells is a cook/server, and she also loves to roller skate and to take care of her daughters.



Science Fair

By: Caitlynn Rodriguez

The 7th grade Science Fair was held September 29 in the high school commons area. There were refreshments and the parents were provided an opportunity to check out all the exhibits. Blakey Barnett won 1st place, followed by Corbin Davis winning 2nd, Bryce Smith winning 3rd, and fourth place went to Zach VanCamp.

Elk City Fall Festival High School Art

Entries

Zachary Beals

Mckayla Doty

Sarah Cruzen

Sydni Sanders

Breanna Reynolds

Winners

by Jada Galley

There was an art show at the Elk City Fall Festival of the Arts at the Civic Center. Art students from Merritt submitted entries to be judged. Zachary Beals received 2nd place in Watercolor and Sarah Cruzen won 3rd place in Graphics II.

Merritt Local Fair

by Sally Schoenhals

Merritt hosts a local livestock show every year with many different events. We had games and competitions, such as bobbing for apples, a dog show with several categories, egg toss contest, and the animal exhibits. This is an opportunity for our students to showcase their projects while having a community-wide opportunity for fun.

In the apple bobbing contest, the winner for the 6 and under division was Carter Rippetoe. The 7-10 year old division winner was Micah Harris and our 11 and older division winner went to Nicholas Dornon.

The show also featured a dog show which consisted of several different categories. The dog with the cutest hair-do was won by Anndi Dobbins and her dog Scooter. Second place went to Allie Hamilton and her dog Noah. Also, the best trick category went to Kate Carnes and her dog Pepper, with second place going to Jordan Garrett and her dog Maggie, and third place being taken by Allie and her dog Noah. Next, was the Ugliest dog category of which first place went to Emma Partain with her dog Guss Guss. Second place went to Gracie Carnes and her dog Bella, and third place went to Jordan Garrett with her dog Maggie.

Egg toss winners were Addison Darling, Alli Hamilton, Brinlee Williamson, Nicholas Dornon, Blaine Price, Clayton McGee, Coy Carnes, and Logan Thetford.

There was a lot of tough competition this year with goats: Gracie Carnes won Grand Champion with her doe, Reserve Grand Champion went to JJ Cloud with his doe, and Gracie Carnes received reserve grand champion with her weather. The goat showmanship winners went to JJ Cloud, Lexi Carnes, and Hannalee Cloud. Ewe sheep breed champions were Kaylee Herndon, Riley Herndon, Kolton Darling, Addison Darling, and Jayden Darling. Reserve breed champions went to Jayden Darling, Kaydee Herndon, and Addison Darling. Sheep showmanship winners were Addison Darling and Riley Herndon for older kids. Peewee sheep showmanship went to Remi Breeze and Lucas Buckner.

Grand champion barrow went to Riley Forrester. Reserve grand champions went to Logan Thetford and Jancy Rippetoe. Breed champion winners were Jonathan Garrett, Max Herndon, Riley Forrester, Logan Thetford, Sally Schoenhals, and Paykus Graham. Reserve breed champion winners were Logan Thetford, Clayton McGee, Sally Schoenhals, Max Herndon, and Mikiah Carnes. Pig showmanship went to Paykus Graham, Max Herndon, and Riley Forrester.

Grand champion heifer went to Tristan Dornon. Reserve grand champion went to Josh Harris. Heifer breed champions went to Corbin Price, Micah Harris, Tristan Dornon, Caitlyn Harris, Nick Dornon, Mikiah Carnes, Emily Dornon, and Josh Harris. Reserve breed champions with heifers were Josh Harris and Laramie Thetford. The cattle showmanship winners were Laramie Thetford in the junior division and Tristan Dornon in the senior division.

Tulsa State Fair 2015

by Sally Schoenhals

October 5th-10th Merritt students Paykus Graham, Jancy Rippitoe, Carter Rippetoe, Riley Herndon, Kaydee Herndon, Sally Schoenhals, Mikiah Carnes, Max Herndon, Riley Forrester, Logan Thetford, Jonathan Garrett, Tristan Dornon, Emilee Dornon, Nick Dornon, and Caitlyn Harris all took part in showing their project livestock against countless other kids in the state of Oklahoma. The show team did very well for our 4H and FFA chapters.

Tristan Dornon placed 2nd in his class with his Maintainer and 6th in class with his Simmental. Emilee Dornon received 2nd in her class with her Simmental and 4th with her Commercial. Caitlyn Harris received 4th in her class with her Red Angus and 3rd in her class with her Commercial. Nick Dornon received 3rd in his class with his Shorthorn.

Mikiah Carnes received 8th in her class with her cross-bred barrow and received 4th in her cross-bred gilt class. Max Herndon received 11th in his class with his Duroc barrow. Jancy Rippetoe received 10th in her class with her cross-bred gilt. Logan Thetford received 10th in her class with her crossbred gilt. Carter Rippetoe received 8th place in his class with his Chester gilt.

Riley & Kaydee Herndon received multiple 1st and 2nd places with their Bantam chickens.

