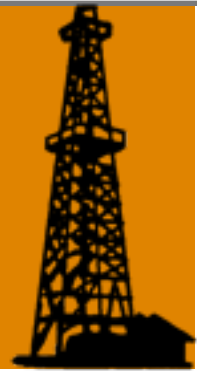


# BIG RIG

Merritt High School, October 2014



## Hutch's

by Emilio Deloera

Hutch's is a family owned, growth oriented company committed to providing outstanding service to customers and to being the employer of choice. Hutchinson Oil now owns fourteen Hutch's convenience stores and an additional five CNG stations.

Hutchinson Oil also owns a CNG-powered semi for hauling diesel. This is the first of its kind in Western Oklahoma.

Kurtis Hutchinson, who is in charge of wholesale operations for the company, says the vehicle has been a money saver. Hutchinson says his family became involved with Oklahoma Natural Gas twelve years ago when Hutch's partnered with ONG. Hutch's then put in a CNG refueling station at their office.



## Merritt UFO Sighting

by Levi Finley

Have you ever thought that truth is sometimes stranger than fiction? This is an article that is given as truth. On January 8, 2002, a UFO was seen by two teenagers who were headed home at 8:40 P.M. They were going south down Merritt Road when they noticed what appeared to be a large fire ahead of them. When they came within 1/2 mile they noticed that it was actually an object behind a barn. It was larger than the barn and was giving off a real bright light mixed of white, yellow, and orange, which appeared to elevate from behind the barn. The object then turned sideways with blue and red flashing lights in three rows around the outer edge of the object.

The UFO was flying around 600 ft. in the air, when it flew upward to a point where it was almost over them and then dimmed until it disappeared. No sound had been heard and the object was in sight for several minutes. No electrical disturbance was made note of, nor was there any loss of time reported and the skies were clear as they would have been during the day. They had noticed more red and blue lights in the road ahead of them, just where the object had last been seen. This happened to be an Oklahoma Highway Patrol vehicle that had stopped a vehicle. The officer didn't appear to have noticed the flying object, which would have had to have been in plain sight. A neighbor lady had also reported spotting the same object the night before. Have you seen a UFO? If you have let the Merritt Big Rig know at [merrittbigrig@aol.com](mailto:merrittbigrig@aol.com).

# Tech Team

The Merritt Apple Team, comprised of teachers and administrators, met on Friday, Oct. 10, to evaluate the student applicants for the very first student-led technology team.

This team will be available before and after school to be trouble-shooters for any teacher or student having technical difficulties with his/her iPad or MacBook. This will be similar to Apple's "Genius Bar".

To apply the students needed two teacher evaluations and a video titled, "What I Wish My Teachers Knew About Technology."

The Tech Team members are:

Bobby Whittemire  
Mackayla VanCamp  
Benjamin Mills  
Jaquelin Olivas  
Nate Carr  
Tristan Dornon  
DeLeon Noyes  
Jada Galley  
Jonathan Garrett



## Green Room

A new subject here at Merritt High School, although currently under construction, is green room. This class is for the use of producing and editing videos and is taught by Mrs. Custer and Mrs. Sarah Partain. Mrs. Custer thinks that this will be good for the students and hopes it will unleash creativity in them, and that she, too, will learn from it. This class is offered to 10th-12th grade and is mainly, students involved in migrant programs.

Photo Credits: Randy Hayward, Tristan Dornon, Nathan Finley, Ryan Mills, Derek Capps, Justine Courtney, Emilio Delorea

If you have any questions or comments or would like to contribute information or photos for the Big Rig, please email the information to:

[merrittbigrig@aol.com](mailto:merrittbigrig@aol.com)



## Potter's Trailer Park

by: Renan Gonzalez

This month's business spotlight is Potter Enterprises. Potter's Trailer Park is located at 11171 N 1960 Road in Elk City and its owned by Potter Enterprises located at 6803 West 20th Street in Elk City. You can contact them with questions at (580) 225-2186.

Potter's Trailer Park is home to approximately 70 of Merritt School's students, their families, and many other people. More and more kids move to the trailer park every year and most of those kids end up becoming students of our schools.

The trailer park has been in business since 1985 and according to Julia Potter, the place will be existing as long as somebody wants to live there. Eighty trailers, and 21 travel trailers compose the trailer park and the place has never reached its limit of capacity.

One of the qualities that makes Potter's Trailer Park a better option when it comes to deciding where you want to live is that you experience more privacy and get the opportunity to live in a country environment. Also, being in the Merritt School's district is a big draw to the park. There are requirements you need to complete to get the privilege to live there: First, you need to go through a background check; you have to live in the trailer you are parking in the lot; you cannot rent or abandon the trailer; you have to follow the rules of the park owners.

"Potter's Trailer Park is a good place to live if you're thinking about trailer parks. It is clean, peaceful and it offers the best price in town. We also offer free water and a trash service once a week." remarked Julia Potter.

## Student Council

by: Derek Capps

The Student Council is an organization of students completing community service projects to better our school and community. The Student Council is currently having a food drive to collect cans for the Food Bank. They will be accepting cans until Nov. 7th. Their goal is to obtain 2000 cans. Items in need are canned meats and beans, dried beans, canned or boxed meals, pasta, rice, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, and peanut butter.

The Student Council is having a Pink Out at the home high school game on Oct. 24th. A Pink Out is where everyone wears pink in support of Cancer research, and is being held in honor of Hollie Husband, a third grade teacher at Merritt.

The Student Council also hosts the Veteran's Day Assembly in November and the Coaches vs. Cancer basketball tournament in January. Merritt has won first place the last two years by raising the most money of any school in the state for Cancer research.

The MPTO meeting will be held at the school's cafeteria on November 18, 2014 at 5:30.

## Discovering Hidden Talent

By Lauren Cummings

Everybody has a talent that they keep hidden from the public. Sometimes these talents never surface without some sort of prompting. It's impossible to tell who can secretly dance, sing, or play an instrument. Aaron Posey is a junior with a special talent: he plays the piano.

Aaron started playing two years ago. He says he loved it from the first time he ever touched a piano, and has been playing ever since. "When studying or just having a bad day, it helps to let it all out," Aaron adds.

When it comes to music types, Aaron doesn't have a particular preference. "It's just whatever catches my ear," he says. Currently Aaron is working on "Departures".

Some musicians go through years of lessons; Aaron is not one of these. He taught himself to play despite being unable to read music. Through online videos and tutorials he began to get the hang of playing and even composes his own songs.

The first keyboard Aaron ever played was "just a regular 61-key Casio". He then saved up enough money to buy his own upright piano. He played this for six months, and eventually bought a digital piano.



## Broadway Dinner Show

by Randy Hayward

The Merritt High School and 5th and 6th Grade Honor Choir put on a Broadway Dinner Show on October 9. They performed songs such as "Footloose" from the Broadway musical *Footloose*, "Step In Time" from the musical *Mary Poppins*, and "All that Jazz" from the musical *Chicago*. The choir kids did a great job performing all of the songs. The menu at the dinner was lasagna, salad, garlic bread and cherry cheesecake with tea and water to drink.

The choir and the 5th and 6th grade honor choir are led by Mrs. Renae Hancock. The dinner show is one of the more profitable fundraisers that the music department has all year long.





# Football Homecoming

by Lauren Cummings

Homecoming was held on October 3, at 6:30 P.M. at the football field. Nominated for queen were Madison Nagle, Javehn Roberts, and Destry Pollard. Their escorts were Cody Pruitt, Devan Carnes, and Tahner Loyd. The candidates and their escorts rode in trucks donated by Barber Dyson. Afterwards, the winners were announced. Javehn Roberts and Tahner Loyd were named homecoming queen and king.

Senior Javehn Roberts confides that she didn't expect to be nominated but was excited to get to do it with Destry and Madison. Her general thoughts are that she feels happy about winning and that she had no predictions of the outcome. "Honestly, I didn't know," she said.

When asked about her expectations of the Canton game directly following homecoming, Javehn confidently replied, "We're gonna win!" (Her assumption was correct; Merritt won 62-32.) Javehn would like to thank her supporters and the people who voted for her.

## High School Football

by Zachary Beals

This season our Oilers have done an outstanding job against opposing teams. They have lost a lot of size, but they are faster and more coordinated than the team from the previous year. This year's Oilers are more like family than teammates. They have excellent communication and their teamwork is outstanding.

The Merritt HS Football team has a great mind set. "We constantly stay positive during every game," said Cayde Fletcher. "We stay focused on winning and that's what keeps us positive." Before the season started, the team could feel their confidence building.

They have been very successful this year and they are only getting better. Due to the strength in their conditioning, they have incredible stamina and power. They just need a slight improvement on their pass covering, and they will have a nearly unbeatable team. We are in for an excellent season this year. Good luck to our Merritt Oilers!!



# Elementary News

by McKenna Archer

Welcome to Mrs. Calloway's Pre-K Class! This past week they reviewed their letters and worked on fall crafts, and the class painted orange pumpkins with a special handprint leaf for a fall keepsake. They discovered a new app this week called the Color Mix app. It is a free app that allows the class to color a Halloween coloring sheet using their creativity and fine motor skills. The coloring sheet is scanned with the Color Mix app and the artwork becomes 3D. They are all so excited to be using the new app! Also, they are growing a monster for their science experiment of the week. The class placed a small plastic monster in water and have charted its growth every day. The monster is currently 5 inches tall and growing! In the coming weeks, they look forward to continuing their letter unit and building an igloo for the letter I.

Mrs. Skelton's Pre-K class is working on the letter D and the color purple, and they also know how to spell purple. They did a hexagon puzzle with Honeycomb cereal, and got to mix dough and bake their own bread. On Oct. 9 they read "The Little Red Hen" and acted out the story, and Hayden Mayfield was the Little Red Hen, Calico Cat was Caylor Zachary, Mr. Goose was Carter Rippetoe, and Rosie Rabbit was Ona Rakestraw. They also are learning titles, authors, illustrators, and characters.

Welcome to Mrs. Chaney's Pre-K class! They have had a very busy year so far. They're learning their letters, numbers, and writing their names. They have two Zebra Finch birds in their classroom, and the birds have laid three eggs, and guess what, they have a baby bird. He is currently two weeks old. They haven't been able to see him yet, because his momma has him hidden very deep inside the nest. Mrs. Chaney says, "We can hear him chirp though, and we are so excited!" He is going to go to Mrs. Shepherd's class when he gets big enough. Please go by Mrs. Chaney's classroom and take a look at their birds, if you would like.

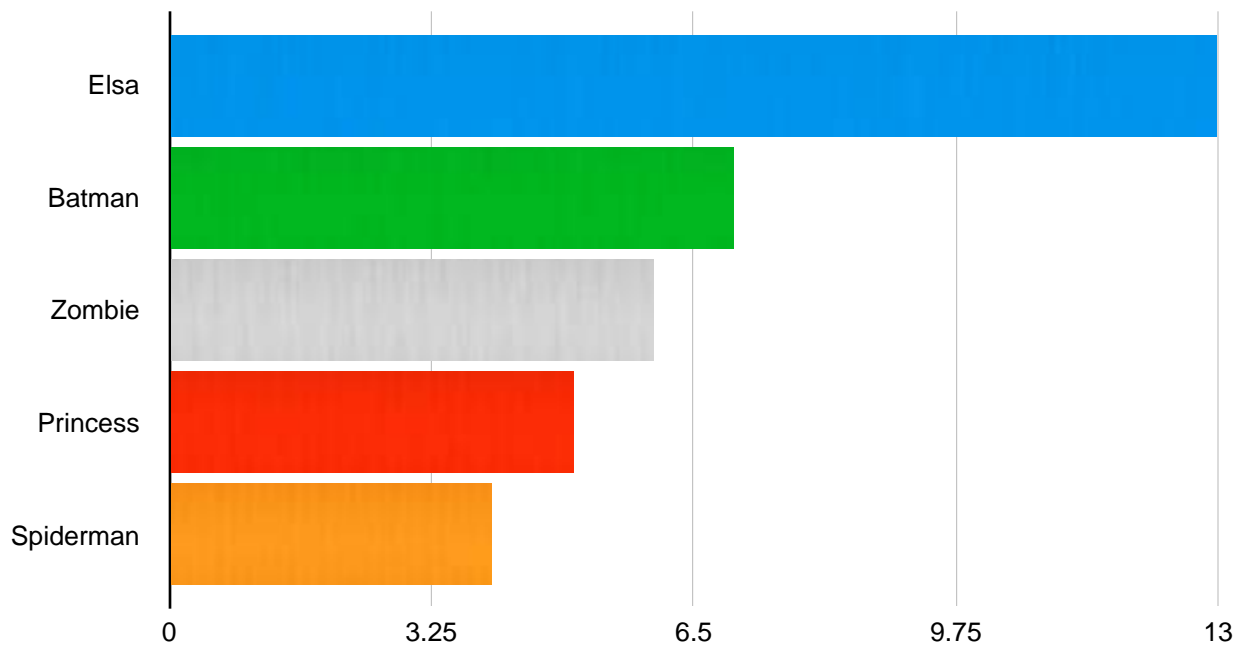
Welcome to Mrs. Sander's 1st Grade class. The students are learning and reading about bats. They also learned in their story how flowers grow. Soon, Mrs.





# Elementary Costume Poll

We asked the elementary students what they thought the BEST Halloween costume was and these are the results of that question.



# Junior High Football

by Zachary Beals

We all know our Merritt High School team is an astonishing team, but they are not the only ones that shine bright in our eyes. The Junior High Oilers are also outstanding in their own right. They have had an exceptional season this year due to their hard work and commitment. Our future high school Oilers are on a great path in not only their athletic abilities, but their dedication as well.

The junior high football team was confident with this year's team when they had realized the new skills coming from the young 7th graders who had joined the team. "The 7th graders have done a lot better than expected," says freshmen, Hunter Newton. "They have a lot of heart and desire in them, so they fit in right away."

Just like their older Oiler role models, they treat each other more like family than just ordinary teammates. Before every game they push each other to do better and encourage one another to succeed.

They have had a great season but they still have work to do. They have a problem of getting too confident when they are ahead. Other than that, they are excellent teammates and a great team in general. They will make great Merritt High School players in the future.

## Elementary Football

by McKayla Doty

We had a great High School football season, but we also had a wonderful Elementary team as well.

This year our Elementary only had two losses. As a team they felt like their greatest strength was working together, and they improved greatly on their conditioning.

"This was my second year playing for Merritt," says Parker Hust. "I feel like we have all gotten closer, playing together."

Even though they worked hard all season, the boys had a great and fun season. They are very excited to play for Merritt next year in Junior High.





# Merritt Fast Pitch Softball

by McKayla Doty

Our girls had a great softball team this year with an astounding 8 wins and 17 losses. They had a great year and our girls worked really hard to make our school proud.

They had some really great wins throughout the season: both the game against Hammon, in which they won 6-0, and the one against Cheyenne/Reydon, where they won 10-0.

"This season was the best learning season I've ever been a part of," says Karli Droke, a player on the team. "With our new coach we have learned a lot of new stuff."

Throughout the season our girls felt like they improved really well with their catching and throwing. They also improved with their routine plays.

Another player, Carley Carnes, said "Our defense improved tremendously, but we struggled on hitting throughout the entire season, but it was a great season for us all."

The softball season came to an end at districts. On August 23, 2014, they played their first game of the tournament against Cheyenne/Reydon. They struggled with their hitting because they had a pitcher they had never seen, but they played really strong defense. They won 14-16. On the same day they lost to Burns flat-Dill City. The girls played good defense on that game as well, but they just couldn't get a solid hit. At the end of the game the score was 2-3, ending the season.



# New Teachers and Students

## Roger Givens

by Levi Finley

Roger Givens has been teaching a total of 24 years, and he has taught in Sayre, OK and Houston, TX. He graduated from high school at Merritt High School. After high school, Givens went to college at SWOSU and graduated from there with a math degree. Mr. Givens has several quotes that he favors but one stands out, "No matter what happens to you, there is always hope for a better tomorrow." Some of his hobbies include leasing oil and gas royalties, and trading commodities.



## Justin Pruitt

by Tristan Dornon

You might notice many new faces this school year. One is a young named Justin Pruitt.

Justin originally came from Kansas, and says that probably the biggest difference between Merritt and his last school is that Merritt has better food.

Justin says that he really wanted to play football this year. Justin is also involved with FFA, and it is his favorite class.

At the moment Justin does not have a job here. He does, however, want to work at Simon's Catch.

"I don't really have any plans for college right now," says Justin. Although he doesn't have any plans for college, Justin does want to be a pilot in the military when he gets older.

To conclude, although Justin likes to spend time playing on his iPad, he still finds time to strive towards his belief of what success is. He believes as long as you have a good education, you're making good money, and you're living easy, then you are succeeding.



## Luak Tut

by Nathan Finley

One of the new students at Merritt is Luak Tut. His last school was Antioch in Nashville, Tennessee. He loves sports, such as football and basketball. He says playing sports is exhilarating. His interests are playing football and watching racing. Although he is undecided about this, his plans after school are to go to Michigan State.

His favorite quote is "There is no great genius without the same touch of madness." He said he hopes for a good year, now let's go play some football.





# Merritt Rodeo Team

by Taylor Barnett

This school year has started with a bang for the rodeo team. Many of the teammates have been very successful.

The students involved in the rodeo team are Emiley Mathes -8th, Dalen Smith -8th, Yaleigh Yarbrough -9th, Cadlyn Smith -9th, Brett Custer -10th, and Oran Miller -11th. They participate in Oklahoma and Tri-State High School Rodeos. The rodeo team sponsor is Bobbi Yarbrough.

Student Oran Miller had a good weekend on September 27th and 28th at Hinton, OK. Oran came in 2nd and 5th in the team roping with partner Ethan Price of Leedey, OK. He hopes to do better October 18th and 19th in Boswell and is now set 2nd in the standings for the OHSRA (Oklahoma High School Rodeo Association).

Oran Miller isn't the only one in rodeo, however. Many others have had an amazing season, such as sophomore Brett Custer.

Brett had a good weekend in Pampa, TX. He won the bull riding and is now tied for first in the TSHSRA (Tri-State High School Rodeo Association).

From these excellent results we can definitely expect the rest of the season to go just as well.





# Merritt FFA Meat Sales

by: Renan Gonzalez

The ag students have been heavily involved in their yearly meat sales to raise money to support the Merritt FFA Chapter. The students worked hard and the result of their selling did not disappoint Mr. McCune, the teacher in charge of the agriculture classes and advisor of the Merritt FFA.

The goal for this year's meat sales was to raise \$50,000 and the students nailed the challenge by raising \$48,300 in total sales.

The meat sales included DJ fundraising products and the very popular Blue & Gold products as well.

The top class in sales were the Juniors with a total of \$4,640. The number one DJ's Salesman was Taylor Davis with a total of \$1,164. The number one Blue & Gold salesman was Dustin Walker, with a total of \$1,648.

"Thank you to all the people that bought products from us and to all the students for working hard on the meat sales this year," Mr. McCune expressed.



by Montana Paige

## Hidden Talents

By Lauren Cummings

Artistic abilities don't present themselves in people very often, but for 8th grader Montana Paige, the talent for drawing has always been evident.

Montana has been drawing "since I was really little". She says that her favorite part about her hobby is getting to express herself, and the subjects of her art include cartoons and anime characters.

When asked about her inspiration to start drawing, Montana revealed that her grandpa is very artistic and was her main motivation. She added that her grandpa, too, enjoys drawing cartoons.

Despite her talent, Montana has never attended any art classes or lessons. However, she confides that she would love to incorporate drawing into her career someday and that she would like to be an animation designer.

# FCCLA Rally

By Lauren Cummings

FCCLA members attended a leadership rally on Wednesday, September 14 at Weatherford. At the door seniors were given tickets and presented with the opportunity to win a \$500 scholarship to SWOSU. Door prizes were also available for any student to win (Courtney Reyes and Katey Patterson won gift cards).

Once the opening ceremony was conducted, representatives from each FCCLA chapter went onstage to announce their community service projects scheduled for that year. Madison Nagle and Bailey Wilhelm reported Merritt's plans to donate to the troops and hold a canned food drive. After a short break, Sean Abbananto spoke about how to succeed and be your own person. "The speaker was inspirational," said Julie Luthy, FCCLA secretary. Randy Hayward, FCCLA photographer, was also very impressed with the speaker. "The speaker was amazing!" he exclaimed.

# Backpack Buddies

by Justine Courtney

Backpack Buddies is a program through the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank. They provide the backpacks with food to the elementary students. Merritt started this program three years ago to help out families that are in need for extra food. Every Friday 15 to 20 students get a backpack filled with food to take home with them for the weekend. If they need extra food the next weekend, the students bring the backpack back on the following Monday. The bags come already packed so that they can just be put in the student's bag and sent home with them. There are two separate bags that are sent with the students: sack A and sack B, so that the students can have something different every week. The kind of things sent home with the students, are nutritious but mainly something that is easy to open and prepare.



# Spirit Week

By Lauren Cummings

On the week of Sep. 29- Oct. 3, Spirit Week was held from kindergarten through 12th grade. The students expressed their school spirit in preparation for homecoming by dressing up: Monday was America Day; Tuesday was Disney Day; Wednesday was Senior Citizen Day; Thursday was Throwback Thursday; and Friday was Spirit Day.





# Local Stock Show 2014

by: Renan Gonzalez

The Merritt Local Stock Show was held in the school's ag barn on Sep, 20th at 4:00 P.M. Students of all ages showed their livestock and had a good time with their friends and family from the community.

Every single participant did their best along with their animals, and once again showed what a competitive and committed community we are. Congratulations to all the participants, parents, and FFA officers that made this 2014 local stock show great.

## List of officers who attended to the event:

Vice President - Chayce Whittenburg  
Secretary - Logan Thetford  
Reporter - Renan Gonzalez  
Junior Officer - Sydney Sanders  
Junior Officer - Brooklyn Parker  
Junior Officer - Timothy Jones

## List of Winners:

### GOATS

Doe: Devyn Pollard - 1st, champion, grand  
Devyn Pollard - 1st, reserve, reserve grand

### SHEEP

Dorset Ewe: Kayde Herndon - 1st, champion  
Hamp Ewe: Riley Herndon - 1st, reserve champion, reserve grand  
Southdown Ewe: Riley Herndon - 1st, champion  
Dorset Weather: Riley Herndon - 1st, grand champion, champion  
Speckled Weather: Jayden Darling - 1st, champion

### GILTS

Chester: Mikiah Carnes - 1st, reserve champion  
Spot: Sara Vaught - 1st, champion  
York: Mikiah Carnes - 1st, grand champion  
LT Cross: Reece Hightower - 1st, champion  
MD Cross: Riley Forrester - 1st, breed champion  
HVY Cross: Logan Thetford - 1st, reserve grand champion

## **CATTLE**

Angus Heifer: Laramie Thetford - 1st, breed champion, grand champion

Hereford Prospect Steer: Mikiah Carnes: 1st, breed champion, reserve grand champ

Simmental Prospect Steer: Mikiah Carnes - 1st, breed champion, grand champion

Crossbreed Market: Mikiah Carnes - 1st, grand champion

## **CROSS BARROWS**

LT WEIGHT: Sara Vaught - 2nd  
Kaden Cloud - 3rd  
Amanda Berlin - 1st

MED WEIGHT: Klayton McGee - 2nd  
Sara Vaught - 1st, reserve grand champion

LT HVY WEIGHT: Klayton McGee - 1st

HVY WEIGHT: Riley Forrester - 1st, breed champion, grand champion

## **BARROWS**

LT BERK: Mikiah Carnes - 1st, reserved breed champion

HVY BERK: Jonathan Garrett -1st, breed champion

DUROCK: Kennedy Cloud - 1st, breed champion

LT HAMP: Chayce Whittenburg - 1st, reserve breed champ

MED HAMP: Logan Thetford - 1st

LT HAMP: Kennedy Cloud - 1st, breed champ, reserve grand champ  
Riley Forrester - 2nd  
Logan Thetford - 1st  
Mikiah Carnes - 2nd

POLAND: Sara Vaught - 1st, breed champ

LT SPOT: Tyson Rose - 1st, reserve breed champ

HVY SPOT: Reese Hightower - 1st, breed champion

MED YORK: Kennedy Cloud - 1st, reserve breed champ

HVY YORK: Mikiah Carnes - 1st, breed champ