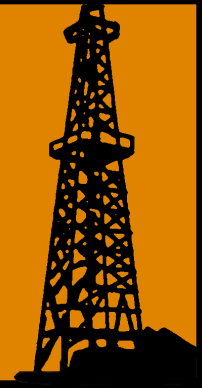


BIG RIG



Merritt High School, May 2015

Merritt School History

by McKayla Doty

As everyone knows Merritt School has many upgraded facilities and advanced technology in the classrooms, but did you know it hasn't always been that way?

In 1901 a group of men got together and started a school in a half-dugout. They only had one teacher, Gabriel Tjensvold, who also helped open a new Merritt general store and Merritt post office, as well. The school then took the same name. After a year or two of life in the dugout, a two-room schoolhouse was built near the dugout, but that didn't last long either. In April, 1912 a tornado destroyed the building.

A new three-room school house was built to replace the destroyed one and 3 new teachers were hired. This next school house was short lived also; it burned down in a fire in 1920. The students then had to attend school in the Merritt Presbyterian Church which was located 1.5 miles west of the present day Merritt School. Roy Hilgenberg and Mrs. Bevie Hart taught the students in the church for the year it took a new school to be built.

Merritt consolidated with Prairie View and Willow Springs in July 24, 1920. Out of all the Oklahoma schools, Merritt was the first to have a graduating class in 1926 and to consolidate. Superintendent S.L. Simpkins was responsible for Merritt being rated Best Consolidated school of the year.

In 1930, a new brick building was built for high school students, which later became the grade school. The rock gym was completed in 1941, and a new high school, auditorium, and agriculture and shop building soon followed in 1952. Since then, there have been many changes, and more to come.

The faculty and students at Merritt School have come a long way from attending class in half a dugout. It has now become a school that we are all proud of.

Parker Drilling Rig #114

by Levi Finley

Have you seen Parker Drilling Rig #114? I'm sure you have; it's known as one of the world's tallest drilling rigs. Parker Drilling Rig #114 sits in downtown Elk City.

The rig once worked for the government in the atomic energy field, and then rose over the Anadarko Basin in the heart of America.

The rig is 17 stories high, and is known as the tallest structure in Elk City. Parker Drilling Rig #114 is on loan to Elk City; Parker drilling has retained ownership just in case a large boom takes over again. This would allow old-timers, such as rig #114, to be pushed into service once more!

Brooke Puckett

By : Derek Capps

Do you know all of the new students here at Merritt? If not, Brooke Puckett is a new student here at Merritt this year. She is in the 8th grade and has two siblings attending Merritt school. Brooke has interests in softball and hanging out with her friends.

She came here from Sayre, and so far, is enjoying the change. Brooke stated "If I could change anything about this school I would make the hallways wider." Brooke's day after school consists of watching television and hanging out with her friends. She enjoys Merritt because everyone is kind and she is able to make friends easily here.

Brooke says that her favorite subject would have to be world history. Not only that, but she also says she loves this school and she hopes that she can stay here until graduation.



Jessie Flaming

by Levi Finley

Jessie Flaming a new student in the 8th grade. Jessie moved to Merritt from Weatherford, OK. Jessie loves all of her classes this year, but one truly stands out above the rest. Jessie really enjoys 5th hour music with Mrs. Hancock. Jessie states "That is the best class to take here!" Jessie plans on attending college at SWOSU after she graduates in 2019.



Jennifer Saenz

By: Randy Hayward

Jennifer Saenz is a new student this year at Merritt High School. She moved to Merritt from Dallas, Texas. Jennifer's favorite thing about Merritt is reading. Her favorite subject is science. Jennifer wants to stay focused on her school work this year. She is not involved in any extra curricular activities, but she would like to be.



Kevin Gregory

By: Aaron Posey

Merritt has gained many new students this year. One of these new students is a young man named Kevin Gregory. Kevin is a 7th grader this year, and he moved here from Elk City. Kevin likes Merritt a lot more than his old school because the people are much kinder here.

When asked about his favorite part of Merritt, he said "The lunches are a lot better here." The only after school activity Kevin participates in is football. After high school he wants to go to college to become a game designer. Kevin loves to draw because his dad draws too. He likes the color blue because "It's just a cool color." Kevin seems to be adjusting just fine and is enjoying his time here at Merritt.



Mrs. Partain

This month has been filled with testing, testing, and more testing. As of today, third through eighth grade testing is completed, mailed in to Measured Progress, and patiently awaiting results. High School testing is almost finished too!

May was also bustling with elementary field trips, Teacher Appreciation Week, and Awards Assemblies. Whether it is a day at the park, a trip to the water zoo, music programs, Reading Reward trips to the bowling alley, or track days, our kids enjoyed every last moment with each other and with their teachers.

Teachers were honored with daily gifts from students and parents during the second week in May, and could not be more grateful for the support shown by the MPTO. It was topped off by a potluck lunch that was delicious!!

To everyone who has played a role in our school year: Thank you!! and Have a Fantastic, Safe summer!

Mrs. Shepherd's 5th and 6th grade

Fifth graders have been working hard reviewing all the science skills for the state test. We have also been going to Starbase one day a week for the last five weeks. The goal of Starbase is to motivate students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) as they continue their education. This program engages students through the inquiry based curriculum with its "Hands-on, Mind-on" experimental activities. Teamwork is stressed as they work together to explore, explain, elaborate, and evaluate concepts.

Sixth graders have been doing a unit over the life cycle of a chicken with the main emphasis on embryo development. We have been candling our eggs to track embryo growth and comparing them to the images we find on the internet and in books and manipulatives we have in the classroom. We have six healthy chicks so far and looking forward to 4-5 more. Our final project of the year has started as we build and launch rockets!!

Mrs. Phelps

In Mrs. Phelps' classroom they recently read Charlotte's Web. They also talked about friendship between Charlotte and Wilbur and what friendship means to them.

Mrs. Cantrell

The students in the Gifted Program went on a field trip to Oklahoma City last month. Each year, the graduating class decides the location of the field trip. One hundred and six students had the opportunity to go to the Oklahoma Science Museum on April Fool's Day. Along for the ride were 48 adult sponsors. Students were able to explore the museum and learn about things that involved a wide variety of science topics.

Great White

by Emilio Deloera

When you talk about oil field services in Western Oklahoma, Great White Pressure Control always pops up in the conversation.

It has become known as one of the premier oil field providers. Great White Pressure Control employees are some of the most experienced pressure control and well control experts in the oil field services industry.

Great White Pressure Control was formed in 2006 as a joint effort by some of the industry's top professionals to be a new leader in the service, stimulation, and pressure control industry. With several hundred combined years of experience, the leaders at Great White Pressure Control are ready to face any challenge that may arise. With a brand new fleet of equipment, including wireline, nitrogen services, pressurized fluid pumping, coil tubing, and rig assist snubbing units', Great White Pressure Control has proven to be an emerging leader in the services industry.

Photo credits to Derek Capps, Stacey Custer, Allison Shepherd, Randy Hayward, and Aaron Posey

WTC Awards

Nathan Finley

There were two students from Merritt that received awards from the Western Technology Center. The awards went to Oran Miller and John Slife. Oran received outstanding student award for the 1st quarter, outstanding attitude for the 2nd quarter, outstanding student for the 4th quarter, and outstanding attitude of the year. John received the service career's outstanding student of the 1st quarter, service career's outstanding student of the 2nd quarter, and the service career's perfect attendance 1st and 2nd quarter.

Congratulations on a job well done!



Track

by Timothy Jones

On May 1st, seven Merritt students proudly represented their school by running in the regional track meet at Chisholm. These students were Madison Rutherford, Ashlee Carr, Javehn Roberts, Ravin Ray, Nate Carr, and Cooper Taylor. The results of the meet were that four out of the seven students will advance to state. Among these students were Madison Rutherford, Ashlee Carr, Javehn Roberts and Abigayle Willis. Madison Rutherford placed 3rd in the 1600 meter run (1 mile) and 4th in the 800 meter run and qualified for state in both events. Ashlee Carr placed 5th in the 3200 meter run (2 miles), 6th in the 800 meter run, and 7th in the 1600 meter run (1 mile). She qualified in all four events. Javehn Roberts placed 6th in the 3200 meter run. This qualified her state. The relay team, consisting of Javehn, Madison, Abigayle and Ashlee placed 4th, which qualified them for state. The 3200 meter run was held Friday May 8. The 800 meter run and the 1600 meter run were held Saturday May 9th at Carl Albert High School.

We also want to congratulate the other track team members that didn't qualify for state. Nate Carr, Ravin Ray, and Cooper Taylor. Nate Carr ran and placed 17th in the 800 meter run and 9th in the 1600 meter run. Cooper Taylor placed 13th in the 800 meter run and 10th in the 1600 meter run. And Ravin Ray placed 13th in the long jump and 29th in the 200 meter run. Good luck to our state qualifiers this week!

The results have come in and we would like to congratulate our four hardworking track athletes that placed in the state track meet at Carl Albert High School last Monday and Tuesday. These students were Ashlee Carr, Madison Rutherford, Abigayle Willis and Javehn Roberts. On Monday, in the 4x800 meter relay, the relay team placed 6th. The team consisted of Abigayle Willis, Madison Rutherford, Javehn Roberts, and Ashlee Carr. Two other oilers placed in the 3200 meter relay; these students were Ashlee Carr and Javehn Roberts. On Tuesday Madison Rutherford placed 6th and Ashlee Carr placed 8th in the 1600 meter run. The two also placed in the 800 meter run: Madison Rutherford placed 5th and Ashlee Carr 8th.





Good for you!

by Taylor Barnett & McKenna Archer

Mrs. Yarbrough had to brag about the things she received for Teacher's Appreciation Week: Amarillis Olguin brought her peanut butter, a grape Propel, and crackers. Javehn Roberts brought her a cupcake, and Madison Nagle brought her a sandwich from subway. Nate Carr and McKenna Archer, were some of the many students who brought Mrs. Musick gifts for Teacher's Appreciation Week also.

MTPO fed all of the teachers May 5, and Mrs. Bollinger said, "It was amazing!"

Byron Carillo for always translating for one of his fellow students. Mrs. Ray said, "He has been so much help!"

Avery Simon stays after class to help another student finish his work and gather his things before lunch.

Bailey Wilhelm held the door open for another student.

The junior class worked hard decorating for prom.

Mrs. Choice bought bracelets for her entire class and made a donation to the sophomore class.

High School Graduation

by Aaron Posey

Merritt High School graduation was held in the new gym on Friday, May 15th at 7:00 p.m. The class of 2015 have finally finished their long journey of public school. Javehn Roberts and Morgan Jones were awarded co-valedictorian. Destry Pollard was awarded salutatorian. Each one gave a speech thanking their family and friends for all their support, and wishing the best for their fellow classmates. Nate Carr and Javehn Roberts were named Students of Today.

We would like to wish these students luck in each and every endeavor they attempt. We know that you will be successful!



Junior High Graduation

by Lauren Cummings

Monday, May 18 was the 8th grade graduation. It was held at 7 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. The junior high salutatorian was Dalen Smith and the co-valedictorians were Benjamin Mills and Carson Rutherford. Two students were also awarded the prestigious title of Student of Today- Carson Rutherford and Mackenzie Mong. The graduates presented their loved ones with roses before receiving their diplomas.



7th and 8th Grade Graduation Dance

by Randy Hayward

On Monday, May 18, 2015, the seventh graders hosted a dance for the eighth graders. The dance was held immediately following the 8th grade graduation. Jadyn Edney was the DJ this year at the dance. A few of the eighth graders were overheard saying that they were really pleased with the DJ this year because she made the dance fun. A fun evening was enjoyed by all and the seventh graders are looking forward to their graduation and dance next year.



Merritt High School Awards Day

The Merritt High School awards assembly was held on Friday, May 15, 2015 in the gymnasium.

Co-Valedictorian Morgan Jones, Javehn Roberts
Salutatorian Destry Pollard
Student of Today Javehn Roberts, Nate Carr
High School Teacher of Today Jaime Partain
Oklahoma Academic Scholars Lauren Cummings, Destry Pollard
Boys State Levi Finley, Zach Beals
Girls State Kailan Tahsequah, Karli Droke, McKayla Doty

Merritt Honor Roll **Supt.** Edith Armendariz, McKenzie Berg, Mikiah Carnes, Ashlee Carr, Calista 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 **Prin.** 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
Student of the Month McKenzie Berg, Yaleigh Yarbrough, Mikiah Carnes, Shayla Morris, Noah Ligon, , Jada Galley, Hagen Simon, Cadlyn Smith, Allison Justus, Hunter Newton, Ashlee Carr, Courtney Reyes, Javehn Roberts, Madison Rutherford, Karli Droke, Nate Carr, Gabby Carter, Haley Oliver, Destry Pollard, Tanner Mong, Ryan Mills, Abigayle Willis, Emily Miller, Logan Thetford, Tahner Loyd, Tristan Dornan, McKayla Doty, Morgan Jones, DeLeon Noyes Zachary Beals, Madison Nagle, Mercedes Rangel, Lauren Cummings, Carley Carnes, Ryland Jones, Taylor Barnett, James Pruitt

Oiler of the Month McKenzie Berg, Yaleigh Yarbrough,, Mikiah Carnes, Shayla Morris, Cadlyn Smith, Ashlee Carr, Javehn Roberts, Nate Carr, Destry Pollard, Karli Droke, Madison Rutherford, Abigayle Willis, Morgan Jones, Madison Nagle

Oiler of the Year Nate Carr

Junior High Oiler of the Year Shayla Morris

Perfect Attendance John Slife, Logan Thetford, McKenzie Berg

Shirley Allen Scholarship \$1,000.00 Madison Nagle

Nora Bee Austin Award Scholarship \$ 500.00 Destry Pollard

Merritt Alumni Foundation Scholarship Nate Carr, Morgan Jones

Aaron Custer Memorial Scholarship McKenzie Smith, Nate Carr

Colton Brown Memorial Scholarship \$500.00 Morgan Jones, Destry Pollard

Merritt Student Council Scholarship

Merritt Coach's Choice Scholarship \$500.00 Javehn Roberts

Aaron Custer Memorial Athlete Scholarship \$ 500.00 Kenny Price, Madison Nagle

Kent Jackson Athlete Scholarship Javehn Roberts

Mason's Lodge Scholarship \$1,000.00 Madison Nagle

Elk City Masonic Lodge Scholarship \$1,000.00

1st National Bank Scholarship \$200.00 Madison Nagle, Morgan Jones, Kolton Zimms, Destry Pollard

Interbank Scholarship \$100.00 Madison Nagle, Katey Patterson, Tryston Fox

Western Technology Center 13th year Tryston Fox
NWOSU Scholarship \$900.00 Madison Nagle
Oilers of Tomorrow Scholarship \$500.00 Madison Nagle, Abigayle Willis
National Guard GI Bill \$66,368.00 RJ Bustamante
Oklahoma Army National Guard Educational Cerf. \$66,000.00 Michal Hust
GPRMC Health Career \$500.00 Morgan Jones
Elk City Rotary Club \$500.00 Morgan Jones, Lauren Cummings
Northfork Electric Co-op \$500.00 Morgan Jones, Lauren Cummings
SWOSU Freshman Scholarship \$1,000.00 McKenzie Smith
SWOSU Sayre Career Day Scholarship \$400.00 Nate Carr
Lioness Lions Club Scholarship \$500.00 Nate Carr
Enbridge Scholarship McKenzie Smith
St Matthews Catholic Church \$1,500.00 Lauren Cummings
SWOSU Southwestern Scholar Tuition Waiver Lauren Cummings
SWOSU Art, communication & Theatre Tuition Waiver \$ 250.00 Lauren Cummings
Lake Forest Academic \$15,000.00 James Pruitt
Lake Forest Athletic \$ 22,000.00 James Pruitt
Cherokee Nation \$ 8,000.00 James Pruitt
Elk City United Methodist Church \$500.00 Nick Simons
Elk City United Methodist Church \$250.00 per semester Nick Simons
NWOSU Ranger Preview \$ 400.00 Nick Simons
NWOSU Choir Scholarship \$ 400.00 Nick Simons
NWOSU Academic Scholarship Award \$ 1,000.00 Nick Simons
NWOSU Academic Scholarship \$ 700.00 Abigayle Willis
NWOSU Ranger Preview \$600.00 Abigayle Willis
SWOSU Scholarship Award Abigayle Willis
OSU Regents Distinguished Scholarship Destry Pollard
SWOSU Scholar Destry Pollard
OSU Alumni Association \$2,000.00 Destry Pollard
Conoco Dependent Scholarship \$12,000.00 Destry Pollard
Distinguished Freshman Scholarship SWOSU Javehn Roberts
Northfork Electric Cooperative Scholarship Recipient Javehn Roberts

Top World History Students Ashlee Carr, Triston Dornon
Outstanding Art Jaquelin Olivas, Hunter McGinnis, Morgan Jones, Zach Beals, Devan Carnes
Outstanding Speech and Drama Kara Echart, Abigayle Willis, Mercedes Rangel, Triston Dornon
FCCLA Top Cookie Sales Morgan Horton
Outstanding FCCLA member Julie Luthy
FCCLA Outstanding Member Madison Nagle
Outstanding Physical Science McKenzie Berg, Hagen Simon
Outstanding Biology II Ryan Mills
Outstanding Chemistry Tristan Dornon
Outstanding Algebra I McKenzie Berg, Hagen Simon
Invest Ed Morgan Jones, Regional Semi-finalist, Abigayle Willis-SW Region winner
Timed Warp Karli Droke, Aaron Posey, Haley Olivier, McKenna Archer, Courtney Reyes
Outstanding Spanish I students Ashlee Carr, Madison Rutherford
Outstanding English I students McKenzie Berg, Cadlyn Smith
Outstanding English III students Ryan Mills, McKayla Doty
Outstanding Newspaper students Tristan Dornan, Randy Hayward, Lauren Cummings, McKayla Doty
Computer Applications 1 Jada Galley, Arik Mullican
Computer Applications 2 Emily Miller, Gabby Carter
Outstanding English IV Students Lauren Cummings, McKenzie Smith, Tryston Fox

Outstanding English II Student s Tristan Dornon, Emily Miller, Mercedes Rangel, Ashlee Carr, Madison Rutherford

Outstanding Spanish II Student Yessica Tovar

Digital Media highest Average Morgan Jones, Ryan Mills, Morgan Jones

Digital Media Creativity Award Derek Capps,

Video Edit Creativity Award Victoria Gilreath,

American History highest Average Ryan Mills, Destry Pollard

Pre-Algebra Award Morgan Horton

Algebra II Award Madison Rutherford, Ashlee Carr

Geometry Award McKayla Doty

Algebra III Award Sydney Hanks

Trigonometry Award Morgan Jones



Merritt 7th & 8th grade

Awards Day

The Merritt 7th & 8th grade awards assembly was held on Friday, May 15, 2015 in the gymnasium.

Co- Valedictorian Benjamin Mills, Carson Rutherford

Salutatorian Dalen Smith

Student of Today Mackenzie Mong, Carson Rutherford

Teacher of Today elementary Lyndsay Broadbent

Perfect Attendance Austin Courtney, Mackenzie Mong

Merritt Honor Roll Ben Mills, Brooke Puckett, Carson Rutherford, Avery Simon, Dalen Smith,

Jocelyn Thomas, 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

7/8 grade Student of the Month Jocelyn Thomas, Carson Rutherford, Brock Floyd, Montana Paige,

Mackenzie Dyer, Ben Mills, Miranda Brady, Kenzie Mong,, Avery Simon, Dalen Smith, , Lexus

Criswell, Haley Poole, Loren Ballard, Aaron Ligon, Adam Gibbins, Allison Justus, Scott Carr,

Oiler of the Month Ben Mills, Carson Rutherford, Jocelyn Thomas, Hagen Simon,

Merritt Junior High Oiler of the Year Shayla Morris

Outstanding Art Students Jeffrey Frazier, Montana Paige, Alana Davenport

Outstanding Algebra I Benjamin Mills

Outstanding 8th grade Math Brooke Puckett

Outstanding 7th grade English Student Avery Simon

Outstanding 8th grade English Student Carson Rutherford

Outstanding 7th grade Reading Students 1st Miranda Brady, 2nd Mackenzie Dyer, 3rd Jocelyn Thomas

Outstanding 8th grade Reading Students 1st Adam Gibbins, 2nd Allysa Donaldson, 3rd Brooke Puckett

Highest Average in Science, Jocelyn Thomas, Avery Simon, Brianna Spady

Digital Media Highest Average Lindsey Wells,

Highest Average in Reading Brianna Spady

Digital Media Creativity Award Jaci Garrett

Top Reading Students 1st Ethan Howard, 2nd Brianna Spady, 3rd Lindsey Wells

Summer Has Arrived

by Zachary Beals

Have you given any thought to what your plans will be this summer? School is almost out and the time we've all been waiting for has finally arrived. We finally get a break from the early wake ups, long school days, and stressful classes. Now its our time to do what we want and to have fun. What is it that you plan on doing during this summer vacation.

We've asked several students and teachers what they plan on doing over the break and we've had many different responses. Nearly every person that was asked what they were going to do said they were going to watch some of the summer league sports or were just working. Some people told us they would be going on vacation, which is always a fun experience to have.

There are many things you could do over the summer. Summer is the time where you want to make the moments you have memorable. Do things that you can't do on a normal occasion. Plan a trip, do something creative, make memories that you can share with your friends and family for years to come. This year has come and gone and the time we have all been waiting for is here. From all of us at Merritt Public School we hope you have a great summer and we can not wait to see our students return next fall. Have fun and be safe!