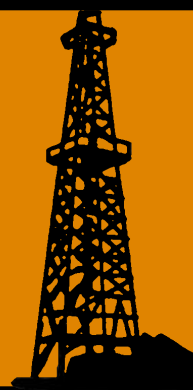


BIG RIG



Merritt High School, April 2015

Students of the Month

by: Zachary Beals

We would like to congratulate all the students that have worked hard and have been named Student of the Month and those who went to greater lengths to become Oilers of the Month.

Students of the Month-

Sept.-	Jocelyn Thomas Carson Rutherford	Ashlee Carr Courtney Reyes	McKenzie Berg Javehn Roberts
Oct.-	Brock Floyd Montana Paige	Madison Rutherford Karli Droke	Nate Carr Yaleigh Yarbrough
Nov.-	Mackenzie Dyer Ben Mills	Gabby Carter Haley Olivier	Destry Pollard Mikiah Carnes
Dec.-	Miranda Brady Kenzie Mong	Tanner Mong Ryan Mills	Abigayle Willis Shayla Morris
Jan.-	Avery Simon Dalen Smith	Emily Miller Logan Therford	Tahner Loyd Noah Ligon
Feb.-	Lexus Criswell Haley Poole	Hagan Simon McKayla Doty	Morgan Jones Jada Galley
March-	Loren Ballard Brooke Puckett	Jada Galley Zachary Beals	Madison Nagle Hagen Simon
April-	Aaron Ligon Mercedes Rangel	Adam Gibbins Lauren Cummings	Cadlyn Smith Carley Carnes
May-	Allison Justus Rylan Jones	Scott Carr Taylor Barnett	Hunter Newton James Pruitt

Oilers of the Month

Sept.- McKenzie Berg
Ashlee Carr

Dec.- Mikiah Carnes
Destry Pollard

March- Jocelyn Thomas
Abigayle Willis

Oct.- Yaleigh Yarbrough
Javehn Roberts

Jan.- Carson Rutherford
Karli Droke

April- Hagen Simon
Morgan Jones

Nov.- Ben Mills
Nate Carr

Feb.- Shayla Morris
Madison Rutherford

(May Oilers of the Month will be posted at a later date)

Sydney (Peffer) Tew Takes State!

by Levi Finley

On April 20, 2015 Sydney Tew, along with many others who are enrolled in cosmetology throughout Oklahoma, attended a conference in Tulsa. Sydney placed first in cosmetology for Oklahoma. Sydney did three haircuts and styles and one hair design, winning several prizes including cosmetology supplies and gift cards. Sydney's instructor is Kathy Whitson from WTC Burns Flat. Sydney will compete for nationals on June 22 at Louisville, Kentucky. She will be required to do four haircolors, a perm, and a hair design. The competition is sponsored by Skills USA.



Pettitt Septic Service

by Coalton Paxton

The Pettitt Septic Services was founded in 1965. The owner of the business is Millard Pettitt Sr. Millard's uncles started the business when they were in the need of some money, and Millard started working for them. He bought it off of one of his uncles when he was younger and continued to expand the business from pumping septic tanks to renting porta-potties. They have over thirty porta-potties. They also have a backhoe and a pump truck that is used to clean the septic tanks. They provide this service for area restaurants, houses, and other businesses. They will go all over Oklahoma and even the Texas Panhandle to make for sure you have a restroom when you need it. Whether you are at an auction or building a house, they will make sure you are covered. They are located west of Elk City, Oklahoma. Their number is 580-799-4803.

Tristan Noyes

by: Timothy Jones

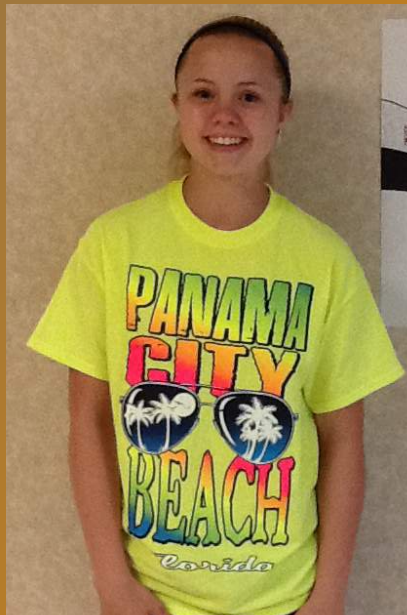
Tristan Noyes, 17, is a new senior student at Merritt. She moved here from Burns Flat, and loves the people of Merritt for their kindness. She also loves sports and plays basketball and softball. The goals she has after school is to go into college at Oklahoma State or SWOSU for psychology. She has six sisters (Destiny, Hallie, Kiley, Jennie, Hope, and DeLeon) and two pets: Pheobe, a bull mastiff, and Harley, a miniature schnauzer. Tristan enjoys country music and hanging out with friends and family.



Klaudia Porter

by McKenna Archer

New student
Klaudia Porter has recently come from Elk City Schools after being there for 1 1/2 years. She is currently in 8th grade and so far she says she likes Merritt and the students here. She enjoys English/Reading with Mrs. Skelton and playing sports such as basketball and softball. We are happy to know that she is liking our school so far!



Logan Cossey

by McKenna Archer

Logan Cossey is another new student at Merritt. He came here from Denora, Pennsylvania. He is 16 years old and in the 9th grade. He likes hanging out with friends and listening to rap music. His favorite subject is math and his favorite thing about Merritt is the people.



Cooper Taylor

by: Timothy Jones

Cooper Taylor is a new student this year at Merritt. He is in the ninth grade and likes to participate in basketball, football, and baseball. He came to Merritt for the sports, but he also came to get a good education and eventually to get into college. The only thing he misses from Sayre is the longer lunches and open campus. He plans on passing the school year with good grades. We hope he has a good year here at Merritt with many more to come.



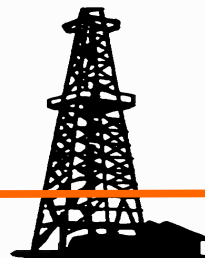
Francisco Munoz

by Aaron Posey

Francisco Munoz is 13 years old and is currently in the 7th grade. He moved here from Mexico to learn how to speak English. His favorite subject is art, because "I can express myself through it." Francisco has been enjoying Merritt so far and likes everything about it.



Merritt Public Schools



Merritt Public Schools is proud to announce our 2015 Teacher of the Year recipients. Our Elementary Teacher of the Year is Mrs. Lyndsay Broadbent, and our Junior High/High School Teacher of the Year is Mrs. Jaime Partain. We appreciate the very supportive individuals and businesses who contributed to our Teacher of the Year baskets. A HUGE thank-you to those who donated: DK Interiors, Carroll's Shoe Corner, Attic Door, The Vogue, Paul Jones Drug, The Gift Shoppe, Mostly Mail, Elk City RV, Country Dove, Simon's Catch, Pedro's, Bells Insurance, Smith Insurance, Great Plains National Bank, Bank of Western Oklahoma, 1st National Bank, Sugar Shack, The Dugout, Damron Jewelers, Page Jewelers, Hunter & Gibbins CPA firm, L&R Tires, Hylton's Flowers, Trendy Trailer, R&R Quick Stop, Ann Reeves Insurance, Wes Graham-3 G Distributors, InterBank, Elk City Chamber of Commerce, Carter Cafe, Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Sanders, Jennifer Sanders/Scentsy.



2015 Elementary and High School Teachers of the Year

Lyndsay Broadbent is a 1st grade teacher at Merritt Public Schools. After graduating from SWOSU with her Early Childhood Education degree, she began teaching at Merritt. She has taught for three years in the 1st grade classroom, taught Summer Reading Academy for two years, and drove a bus route for two years. She is very involved in learning and teaching others about how to use technology in the classroom. She has taught Inservices on how to use the Smartboard and also taught at other schools on how to use the iPads in the classroom. Lyndsay was also a member of the team that put together the application to Apple for the Apple Distinguished School Award.

Lyndsay's favorite thing to do is spend time with her family and enjoy the outdoors. She is married to Hayes Broadbent and they have two children and one on the way. Peytyn is ten years old, Luke is five years old and their baby sister will be here on June 29th.

Lyndsay states, "To see a child's eyes light up when they understand something is the most rewarding part of my day! To see each child grow and develop in their own way is what drives me to be the best teacher I can be. Merritt Schools provide so much to me that I can teach in so many different directions to meet the needs of every child in my room. Our great administration backs me and supports me and has guided me to where I am today!"

Jaime Partain is the PK-12 Guidance Counselor at Merritt Public Schools. After graduating from Oklahoma State University, she began teaching in Elk City, where she taught 3rd and 4th grade for nine years. She moved to Merritt Schools to teach 7th Reading and Science, 8th Math, and a few high school intermediate math classes. Then she graduated with her Master's degree in School Counseling. This is her third year at Merritt and second year as counselor.

Jaime's favorite thing to do is spend time with her family. She is married to Andy Partain, a Merritt graduate, and has two children: Ainsley is eight years old, and Aaron is six. She states, "I love my job and the people I work with, and I enjoy being a part of the Oiler family."



Mrs. Orgain's Kindergarten Class

We can't believe there are only 30 days of school as of 4-7-15. How the time has flown! We had so much fun at our Easter Party. We want to thank all the mom's that helped.

Over Easter Break these are the things we enjoyed the most:

Gosslin Large- "Being with family."

Tyson Rosser- "Hunting Easter eggs."

Emma Miller- "Throwing a confetti egg at my mom."

Jazmyn Williamson- "Running for Easter eggs."

Brock Hefley- "Going to Granny's house."

Anden Walker- "Hunting eggs."

Harley Scheidemantel- "Swimming with my cousins."

Jadin Carroll- "Hunting Easter eggs."

Amonie Mireles- "Going to the park and going to my Nana's and seeing my cousins."

Gracie Winston- "Getting a new baby brother and sister and hunting Easter eggs with my family."

Hania Sanchez- "Inviting friends to go swimming."

Evelin Bustas- "Hunting eggs."

Nolan- "Hunting eggs."

Olen- "Coloring eggs and going to my Meme's house."

Tarin- "Running to get eggs."

Hope everyone has a happy Spring!

Mrs. Choice's Class

What a joyous time of year it is for our third graders! It is party time, morning recess is back, and we are nearing the time when we get to "SHOW OUR STUFF!" By that, we mean that we will soon take our state reading and math tests. Our group has studied well and are ready to show everyone how much we learned this year so far.

Our boys and girls love playing sports: basketball, soccer, baseball, softball, football, and any other sport you can imagine. Also, many of our boys and girls show animals through 4-H activities. They show pigs and sheep.

This year we have studied the life of George Washington Carver. What an amazing and inspiring man! The children learned of his extremely difficult beginnings, his continual perseverance, and his great accomplishments! We have all been encouraged to meet our challenges with courage and strength!

Thank you to all of our supportive parents! Folks like ours are blessings to each of us—whether child or teacher!

Mrs. Porter's Class

OCCT, OCCT, OCCT! Students in Mrs. Porter's reading classes have diligently been working on state test preparation. We have been using Alpha Plus as our "main" resource/method to guide our preparation. Alpha Plus consist of five-question formative tests that are given following each individual objective that's taught. Fifth graders have 46 possible testable objectives, while sixth graders have 40. Although that may seem like a lot, only a few objectives are NEW skills. Most objectives have been previously introduced in prior grades (some as far back as pre-k) and are "reteachable" skills that students have been building on for years.

Our plans for the near future, after the OCCT, are to read one of Mrs. Porter's all-time favorite youth novels, *Walk Two Moons*, by Sharon Creech. This book is about an emotionally lost thirteen year old girl, Salamanca Tree Hiddle, trying to understand the disappearance of her mother. Readers will travel across the Central United States and visit several scenic destinations, but beyond the sight seeing they explore, they will encounter an array of lovable (and not-so-lovable) characters. In the end, heart strings are pulled and readers are left with the overwhelming feeling of "Ah, what a great book!"



Mrs. Copeland's Class

TESTING, TESTING, TESTING!! During my class, students are preparing for their reading and math test.

Currently, I am going over math objectives that the students didn't do well on for their summative Alpha Plus test. We are working on fractions, decimals, and angles. I am also reviewing reading standards the students need help on and working towards getting all students with passing scores on their Alpha Plus formatives. The kids are working extremely hard to finish strong and get ready for their tests next week.

Mr. Rippetoe's Class

Things have remained busy in the fifth and sixth grade hall with tests around the corner and after school sports in full swing. With all the pressure rising my students have remained calm and positive about the state test. In class we are reviewing the information that we have learned throughout the year to help us to succeed on our test. I am very proud of my students for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Although it has been awhile, I can remember when I was in the 5th and 6th grades, and how burnt out students can get. As we are reviewing, we are trying to add some fun activities to stimulate the students learning. A couple things that we have done to boost energy is play math based trash ball and speed races on the board. Activities such as these are fun for the students and block out some of the pressure that they are facing. As we finish out the year, we have set a goal to stay positive and end the school year with a bang.

FFA Labor Auction

by McKenna Archer

The FFA Labor Auction was held on Tuesday April 7, 2015. Mr McCune said, "It went great!" The sophomores sold a fire pit for \$350, and the seniors sold a smoker for \$2,250. On average a person was sold for \$338, and 54 people total were sold. All together the FFA raised a total of \$23,580. Thank you to our community for their support of our Merritt FFA chapter!



Carter Cafe

by Lauren Cummings

If you're looking for some of the best homestyle cooking around, look no further than the Carter Cafe. The cafe can be found on Main Street in Carter, OK (located at the intersection of State Highway 34 and State Highway 55). Owner Nelson Brazuel, who purchased the cafe almost five years ago, says of the restaurant, "We cook it like Mama cooks it." Mr. Brazuel believes that the cafe is best known for its homestyle cooking and fried chicken. If you're planning on stopping by, the cafe is open Monday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Tuesday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. The busiest time of the day is said to be lunchtime, but any time is perfect for some of the cafe's famous home cooking.

Merritt State Powerlifting

by Randy Hayward

Devin Stephens, sophomore, and Cody Pruitt, senior, made it to the state competition in McCloud, Oklahoma. These guys have worked hard since football season ended to try and make it this year. They both did very well in the state meet- Cody Pruitt placed second in the 220 pound division, while Devin Stephens placed twentieth in the 181 pound division. They both did an outstanding job with all of the hard work and dedication that it takes to stay with powerlifting. We are super proud of these two for what they have done for the history of Merritt powerlifting.



A decorative border surrounds the text area, featuring various sports balls including baseballs, soccer balls, footballs, and basketballs.

High School Track

by RJ Bustamante

Merritt High School recently went to Fairview for a meet. Nate Carr ran a 2:26 for his 800 M run. Then for his 1600 M run he ran a 5:38. Ashlee Carr ran her 800 M in 2:37 and placed 5th. For her 3200 M run she ran 13:59, placing 3rd.

Madison Rutherford, for her 800 M run, ran a 2:38 and placed 6th. For her 1600 M run she placed 3rd. Javehn Roberts ran her 3200 M run at a 14:06 and placed 5th place.

Ashlee Carr, Javehn Roberts, Nikki Martin, and Madison Rutherford all placed 5th in the 3200 M relay. Good job!

Softball

by Nathan Finley

Our new softball coach, Coach Owen, has drastically changed our softball program. Our senior girls are very proud of the team they have become this year. Their win-loss record was 7 and 15, which is not where they want to be, but beat their record of last year. In district playoffs they fought a hard fight against the Mooreland Bearcats, but unfortunately, the Bearcats got the upper hand. They also lost to the Thomas Terriers, but all in all, the girls said they had a good season.

Merritt High School Baseball

by Randy Hayward

Merritt Oilers baseball has had a very trying season. At the first of the year it looked like they were not going to be able to have enough players to have a team. The team ended up with a few experienced players and several that had never played before. The Oilers did get to play a few games, even though they were late getting started. The season may have not been a winning season, but it turned out to be a really fun and life changing experience for all of the athletes that played on the Merritt baseball team. We really appreciate all the support of the students who came out to play so that the ones who love the game had a chance to play.

State Music Contest

by: Emilio Deloera

Nick Simons competed at Shawnee on the OBU campus and scored a 1 in vocal music. Nick has been singing ever since he was in the fifth grade. He says that he likes to sing because you can express more with music than just talking. One of Nick's favorite instruments to play is the piano. Artists that have inspired him are: Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles, Billy Joel, Tim Curry, Nathan Lane, Freddie Mercury, Luciano Pavarotti, and Brentalfloss. When I asked Nick what advice would you give to a beginner, he replied "At first you are surrounded by all these people that are better than you, that's just normal, but if you let that stop you, you won't get far."

"You need to keep going, learn different things, and become better with practice and have a desire to be better than you were yesterday." Some of Nick's favorite things to do are, play games, sketch, and write short stories. He also volunteers to help broadcast Sunday church services and helps play the piano at a few local nursing homes. When I asked Nick, besides singing, what other activities are you into? He said "Work is also important to keep up with so I can do the things I like to do, like driving out to the farm to spend time with my family."

Congratulations Nick on a job well done!

Music Department News

by Derek Capps

There was music in the air at Merritt on Thursday, April 30. This year Mrs. Hancock tried something new. She had all the music programs the same day. The 9:00 a.m. performance was for 1st and 2nd Grade; 10:30 for Pre-K and Kindergarten; 12:30 for 3rd and 4th; 2:00 for 5th and 6th, and 7:00 for the 5th and 6th grade honor choir and the JH and HS choir. On May 2nd the Honor Choir and the Merritt Choir will be going to Frontier City. We have many talented kids at Merritt!



Middle School Valedictorians and Salutatorian



Benjamin Mills

Benjamin Andrew Mills has been named Co-Valedictorian of the Merritt eighth grade class. Benjamin is the fourteen-year-old son of Julie and Duane Mills. He attends Saint Matthew's Catholic Church in Elk City. He participates in live theatre productions at the Red Carpet Community Theater in Elk City, and he also participates in JAG (Junior Actors Guild).

Carson Rutherford

Carson Ray Rutherford has been named Co-Valedictorian of the eighth grade class. Carson is the fourteen-year-old son of Heather and David Rutherford. He has an older sister, Madison Rutherford. He is active in basketball and baseball.



Dalen Smith

Dalen Ray Smith has been named Salutatorian of the eighth grade class. Dalen is the fourteen-year-old son of Darcey and Will Smith. He has an older sister, Cadlyn Smith. He attends Trinity Fellowship in Sayre. He is also active in rodeo, football, and basketball.

High School Valedictorians and Salutatorian

Morgan Jones

Morgan Jones has been named Co-Valedictorian of Merritt High School. Morgan is the eighteen-year-old daughter of David and Sheila Jones. She has an older brother, Aaron Jones; younger brother, Rylan Jones; older sister, Lauren Jones. She has attended Merritt for 14 years. Her hobbies include working and enjoying life with friends and family. After graduating she plans to attend Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Sayre and pursue a Physical Therapy Assistant degree.



Javehn Roberts

Javehn Khandri Roberts has been named Co-Valedictorian of Merritt High School. Javehn is the eighteen-year-old daughter of Clark Roberts and Shyla Kourt. She has three sisters, Jordyn, Jasher, and Jerneigh Roberts. She is the granddaughter of Charles and Connie Roberts from Oakwood and Dan and Sherryl Howe of Weatherford. She has attended Merritt for ten years and is active in basketball, fast-pitch softball, track, Academic team, FCA, FCCLA, and Oilers of Tomorrow. Javehn attends Grandview Assembly of God in Elk City. After graduating, Javehn plans to attend SWOSU in Weatherford where she hopes to pursue a career in health and nutrition.



Destry Pollard

Destry K'Lynn Pollard has been named Salutatorian of Merritt High School. Destry is the eighteen-year-old daughter of Christy and Charlie Pollard. She has one older brother, Dylan, and two younger sisters, Devyn and Dayli. She is the granddaughter of Janette and Dale Cornelius of Willow. She has attended Merritt for twelve years and is active in basketball, softball, and the academic team. Destry attends Spring Creek Baptist Church. After graduating, Destry plans to attend OSU and major in journalism and international relations.



Good For You

By: Allison Shepherd

We are admiring the students and the faculty that go above and beyond. If you know of anyone that you have seen doing nice things for others email their name and a brief explanation of what they did at merrittbigrig@aol.com.

Nate Carr is doing good on all his work and making sure to have everything done while also helping out all that he can while running track.

Kurtis Pittman helped Morgan Horton get her poems printed.

Ryan Florea for finding Dakayta Boyd's missing backpack.

All the high school students and teachers that gave blood for the blood drive.

The cafeteria ladies and gentleman for all their hard work.

The janitors, Francisco and Alfredo for all their hard work and doing things at the drop of a hat.

Photo credits to McKenna Archer, Timothy Jones, Aaron Posey, Amy Edler, Season Carnes, Judith Bollinger, and also the photos provided by the yearbook staff

MPTO meeting on May 12 at 5:30 in the cafeteria

Don't forget to order your edukit. For more information contact any MPTO member