BIG RIG

Merritt High School, January 2016

Girls All-tournament team

Boys All-tournament team

Aaron Custer defensive player award

High School Basketball

by Dakayta Boyd

January is a busy month for basketball! We hosted the Merritt Classic tournament on January 7-9. The teams invited were Hobart, Hydro-Early, Arnett, Calumet, Hollis, and Mangum. Merritt had a varsity team and a JV team playing, also. The purpose of this tournament is to raise money for the Coaches vs. Cancer (American Cancer Society). This year we raised over $10,000 for cancer research. The boys were the champions and the girls placed fourth.

January 26-29 our teams played in the Bi-County tournament in Elk City. It was a very difficult tournament with some of the top teams in Western Oklahoma participating. The teams competing were Okarche, Seiling, Cheyenne, Mooreland, Erick, Duke, Hammon, and Merritt. Our girls placed 6th and the boys placed 4th.

One of the highlights of the month was our boys' coach, Donnie Husband earning his 500th win. Congratulations, Coach Husband!

New members of Staff

Mandy Jones

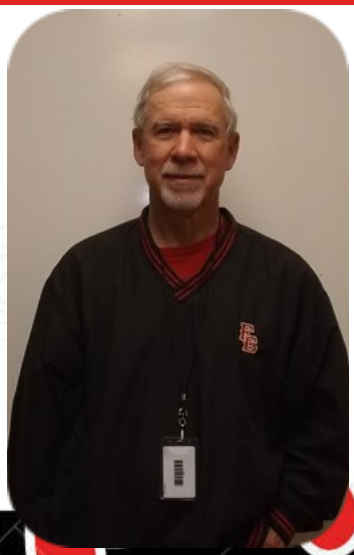
by Kurtis Pittman

Mandy Jones is a new substitute teacher at Merritt School. Before she started working here at Merritt she owned her own hot shot company, but when the oil business went down she closed the doors and started substituting. Her favorite classes to substitute in are the 7th and 8th graders. She has been substituting for Merritt since January 4, 2016 and she enjoys it a lot.

Stephanie Herndon

by Kurtis Pittman

Stephanie Herndon is a new PK Aide at Merritt School. Before she became a PK aide. Stephanie was also a substitute teacher. Her favorite age to substitute is grade school, and when asked if she likes Merritt School she said that she loves it here and loves substituting for the grade school kids. Stephanie's favorite subject to do with the grade school kids is arts & crafts.



Jim Burns

by Kurtis Pittman

Jim Burns is our new Ag teacher. He has been Merritt's official Ag teacher since the end of the December. He's been an Ag teacher for about thirty years now and he really enjoys it. Before he became an Ag teacher at Merritt he was a girls' basketball coach and a principal. When asked what he likes to do for fun he said that he loves to go pigeon hunting and that he's been hunting since he was sixteen.

Elementary News

By: Sally Schoenhals

January 4th through the 8th, Mrs.Poole's Kindergarten class learned multiple new things: how to add two numbers together using dice, bears, and M&M's. They are writing the numbers one through sixty. They talk about the weather and write complete sentences everyday.

Mrs. Porter's fifth and sixth grade classes have been working diligently to successfully get through the state reading objectives. In class they use several means of technology to do this: Kahoot, Study Island, Alpha Plus, Notes (all literary terms definitions are placed in iPad Notes), etc. Per OCCT objective, Mrs. Porter typically conducts her lessons using the following methods of learning: first, she introduces the objective, explaining expectations for what will be taught and what students need to learn. Next, her class watches some type of correlating video, followed by whole-class discussion and a couple of technology lessons - from above mentioned options - to check for student understanding. Mrs. Porter uses Alpha Plus to help guide her teaching. After each objective is taught and she feels that students have mastered the objective, she uses an Alpha Plus formative test as her last means to check the students' understanding. Extensive tutorials follow for those that do not pass the Alpha Plus Formative test(s).

Another constant in Mrs. Porter's class is weekly reading. Each student has to read a self-selected novel (aka library book) based on their individual reading level, which are determined by periodic STAR testing.

The ultimate goal Mrs. Porter has for her classroom this year, like every year, is for students to leave the school year with a greater understanding of and love for reading. She said, "I'd love to see 100% pass rate on state testing!"

Elementary Basketball

by Jacky Olivas

Fourth grade basketball

When given a basketball related survey to some kids on the fourth's grade basketball team they gave these responses: Raydon made the most points on the last basketball game which was at Leedey, and it was also said their score was 15-18, with Merritt winning. They won 6 games during the season. Caleb and Braxton also stated that Leedey was the closing of their basketball season. The teams strategy for the next season is to win all of their games.

Sixth grade basketball

When the sixth grade was asked the same questions, they said that Zack made the most points against BFDC,and the final score was 27 to 20, with Merritt winning. Coy also stated that their next game is January 28 and they play Leedey. He said his strategy for the next game is to keep passing and make a layup almost every time.

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Junior High Basketball

by Jacky Olivas

Junior high Girls Basketball

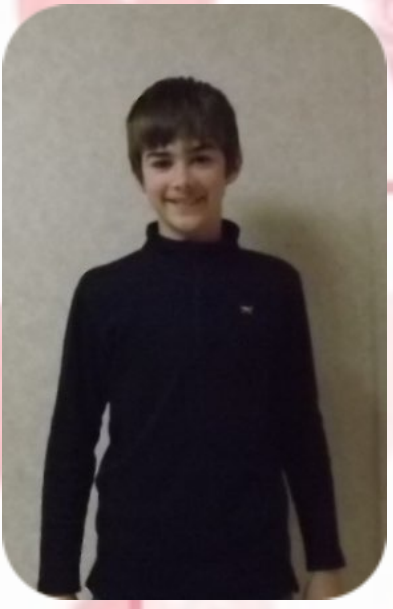
On January 11-16 Merritt hosted the 6th-8th grade BI-County Tournament. The teams that were in the tournament were Cheyenne, Arnett, Sayre, Erick, Cordell, Hobart, Sweetwater, and Merritt. First place was awarded to Merritt. Erick held second place.

JH Girls Bi-County Tournament team

Junior High Boys Basketball

The boys basketball team played the same teams as the girls did on the Bi-County Tournament. First place was once again held by Merritt, Second place was Erick.

JH Boys Bi-County Tournament team



Students of the Month

by Daniel Hernandez

7th grade - Christian Skelton

8th grade - JoceLyn Thomas

9th grade - Brooke Puckett

10th grade - Shayla Morris

11th grade - Tristan Dornon

12th grade - Courtney Reyes

Oilers of the Month

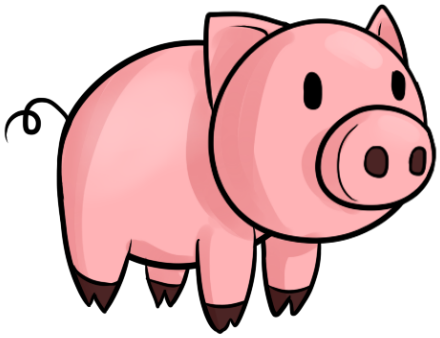
High School - Brett Custer

Junior High - Corbyn Davis

FFA

by Judith Bollinger

This past month has been a busy time for the Merritt FFA Show Team. They have had shows in Cheyenne, Cordell, Mangum and Sayre. Results will be in the February paper. Below are photos of some of the show participants and their pigs



FCCLA News

by Daniel Hernandez

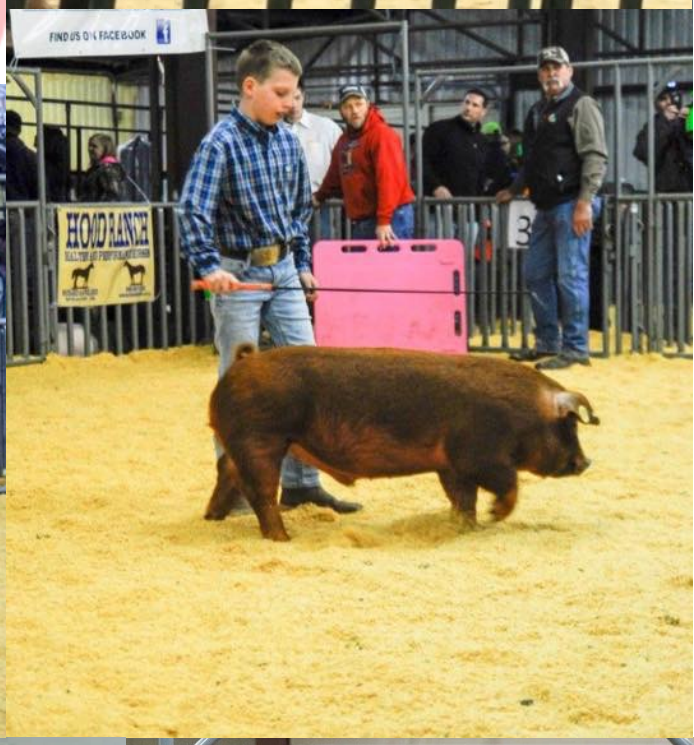
The FCCLA Organization will be taking popcorn heart orders. The forms will be located in Mrs. Yarbrough's class or on the tables in the commons. Each popcorn heart is $5 per order. To place an order by mail, fill out the form and send it to the school by Feb 5th. They will be delivered during school.

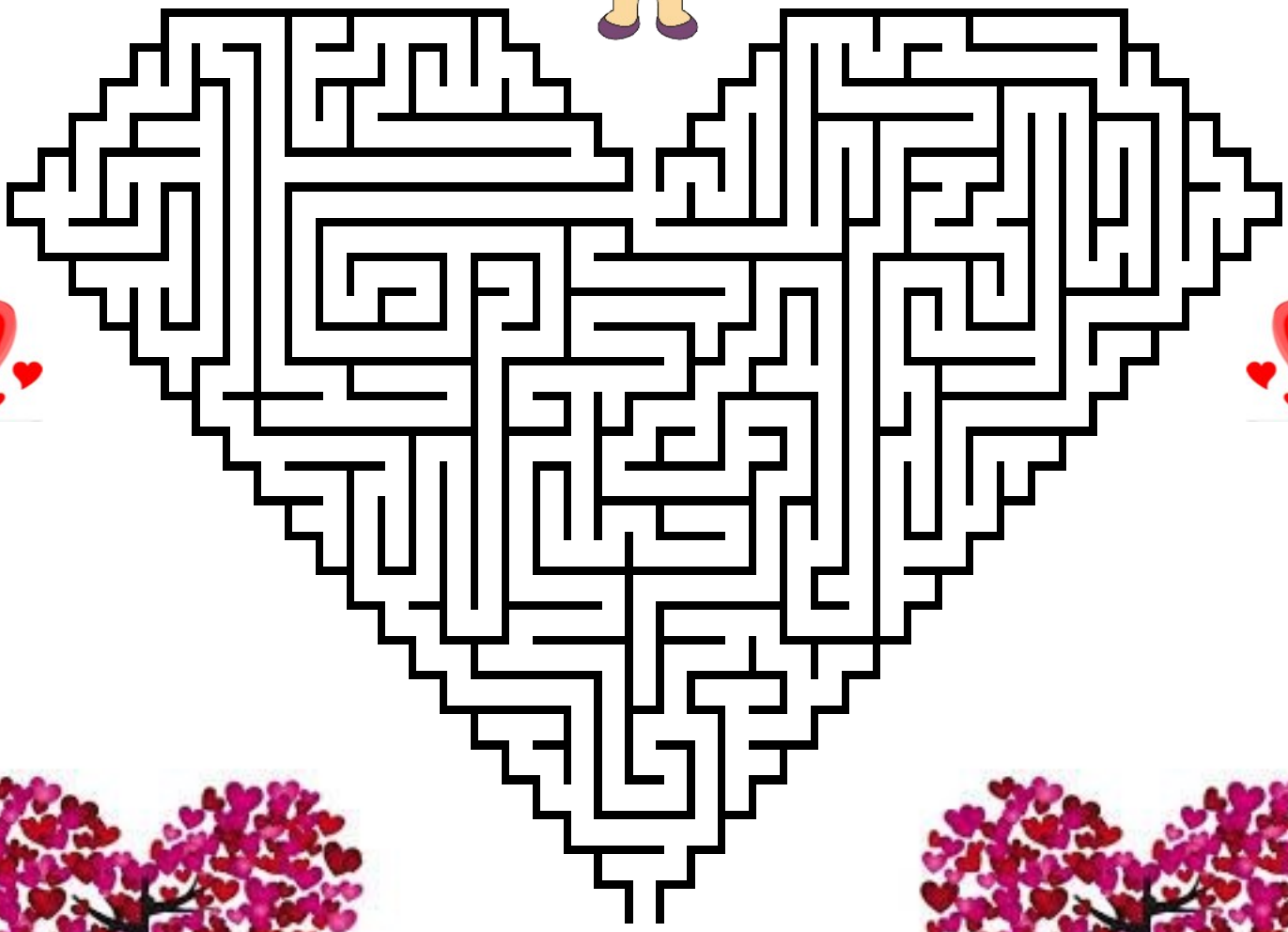
FCA

by Bobii Schreck

The sponsors of the FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) are Mrs.Cantrell and Mrs.Partain. They are planning a movie night for February sixth. They will also planning to buy candy to put it on the school lockers February sixteenth. The FCA meets every Friday at 7:50 in Mrs. Brady's room.

Stock Show pictures



Valentine's Day Maze

These children want to meet up on Valentine's Day, but first they have to find a path through the maze. Can you help?