

# BIG RIG

Merritt High School, May 2016



## A Roaring Good Time

by Kurtis Pittman

This year's prom was on April 25, 2016. The prom theme was the Roaring Twenties. The prom featured a photo booth and an old car as photo props. The sponsors served food and drinks to the guests. There were about 143 guests there, without counting the sponsors. When I asked Tristan Dornan what he liked about prom, he stated, "I really liked the photo booth, the lights over the food table, and all the refreshments."

As I asked Sarah what she enjoyed the most about prom, she said, "The way the people set the mood to have fun, and the decorations, too."

Logan Thetford and Caleb Damron were crowned Mr. and Miss MHS during the festivities.

# State Track Meet

by Tristan Dornon

On May 6th two students from Merritt competed in the State Track Meet at Carl Albert High School in Midwest City. The two students who competed at the track meet for Merritt were Ashlee Carr, who ran the mile and two mile, and Madison Rutherford, who ran the 800 meter and the mile. In the 800 meter race, Madison placed 5th; in the two mile race, Ashlee placed 12th, and in the mile, Ashlee placed 5th and Madison placed 11th. "I did much better than I thought I would, seeing as how I had just injured myself," said Madison. "I did about as well as I thought I would," said Ashlee.

We are proud of Ashlee and Madison and all the hard work they have put into their track careers. This is the third year these young ladies have qualified for state. Good job!



# Softball

by Dakayta Boyd

Coach Owen would like to applaud the team for all the time and hard work they put in this year. He believes the team started off kind of slow, but they were able to turn it around, ending the season with a 19-15 win/loss record. The team brought back the tradition of Merritt softball, and it's up to the future players to build up to those expectations.

Senior, Karli Droke, was chosen to play at the All-State game on June 18th at the OCU Softball Complex. Karli's high school softball career started out at Elk City her freshman year, and then, she played the last three years here at Merritt. She has played first base all throughout high school. She says that she has learned a lot these past two years with the help of Coach Owen and Coach Roberts. They have helped her grow as an athlete and as an individual, and she knows she wouldn't have made All-State without their help. Karli is extremely sad that softball is over. She shared her best memories of high school out of the field and with the team. She is going to miss playing the sport she loves with her best friends. She has confidence in the softball program at Merritt and she knows that they will be extremely successful in the future. Playing in the All-State game has always been Karli's dream, and she feels extremely humbled to know all her hard work has paid off.



# Baseball Camp

by Kurtis Pittman

Merritt Baseball will be having a fundamental baseball camp on May 31st-June 2nd from 9:00-11:00 A.M. The ages for the camp are next year's grades 3-9. This camp is to teach the kids how to focus on fundamentals and team work. Hard work, discipline, respect, and the team concept will be emphasized.

The equipment the players will need to bring to the camp: a glove, baseball pants, cleats, and a bat. The coaches are Tanner Wear, and the high school baseball players. The fundamentals will include catching, fielding ground balls, fielding fly balls, base running, throwing, hitting, bunting and sliding. For more information, contact the school and ask for Coach Wear.



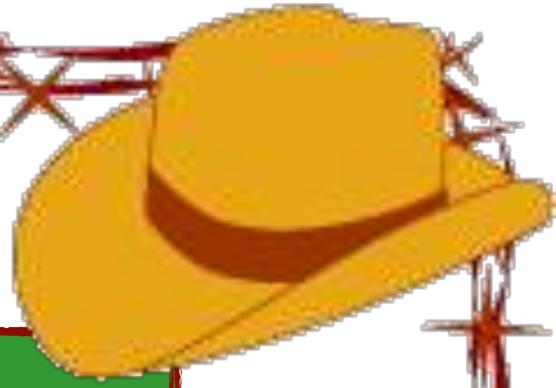
# Basketball Camp

by Daniel Hernandez

Merritt School will be hosting a basketball camp for kindergarten through second grade. The young athletes will learn the basics in basketball : dribbling, passing and catching. They will learn different techniques in the sport. Coach Husband said that he hopes they will have fun and come back next year with more experience than what they had learned.

The following week, third grade through ninth grade will be starting their camp session. They will practice on passing and shooting the ball. They will play games to have more experience and skills to use during competitive games.





# Tri-State High School Rodeo Association

by Judith Bollinger

Brett Custer competes in the Tri-State High School Rodeo Association. Brett recently won a saddle and a buckle for winning the Year end Tri-State Champ in bull riding. Congrats, Brett!



# CHEER

# GO TEAM



# Cheerleading

by Jacky Olivas

This is the Merritt High School and Jr. High cheer team for this upcoming 2016-17 school year. We are very excited to see the girls cheer for our Oilers and Oilerettes next year.



## 2016-2017 High School Cheerleaders:

Emily Miller  
Brystal VanBuren  
McKenzie Berg  
Shelby Thomas  
Lexus Criswell  
Hagen Simon  
Tiffany Price  
Avery Simon



## 2016-2017 Jr. High Cheerleaders:

Blakely Barnett  
Amber Williams  
Dayli Pollard  
Emilee Dornon  
Lexie Frazier  
Caitlyn Harris  
Allison Justus  
Odalys Monsivals



## Mrs. Kiener's class

by Jacky Olivas

Mrs. Keiner says that they've been having so much fun. Last week, they visited the Altus Air Force Base for their annual field trip. They learned so much about what they do there. They also were able to tour the airplanes, visit their fire department and meet Sparky. They also checked out the service dogs doing all the cool tricks they have been training them to do, and they all had a blast. This week they are learning about Oklahoma history and completing a weather unit. They made butter and a tornado in a bottle for science this week. Mrs. Kiener says this has been such a great year and has gone by in a blink.

## Mrs. Wilson's class

by Jacky Olivas

This has been a very busy week for Mrs. Wilson's class! She said they were really excited for the trip to the park and for the track meet. On Tuesday they did many activities, such as: riding the train and the carousel. To finish their day, they played with the new playground equipment; this included balancing toys and an obstacle course. On Thursday they participated in the track meet. They did the fifty yard dash, 75 yard dash and the softball throw. All of the kids and Mrs. Wilson were proud of their ribbons.



# FCCLA Convention

by Bobii Schreck

The FCCLA convention was April 8. There was a motivational speaker, Kevin Laue, a one-armed basketball player. He left his home state of California to take a scholarship to join the Manhattan College Jaspers. After the convention, they went to Bricktown to eat. They also went to Frontier City and had a little fun.



# Oilers of Tomorrow

by Bobii Schreck

The Merritt High School Oilers of Tomorrow is a group of kids that come together to help out the community through community service projects. By doing these, they are working to develop leadership skills. The Oilers of Tomorrow met Monday, May 2 through Thursday, May 5, to finish their presentations on their service projects. They were required to do their own service project outside of the group. They also talked about where they would like to go for their summer trip.



# Invest Ed Winner

Congratulations to Ryan Mills, here with Ervin Faught, Oklahoma Securities Commissioner, for being the SW Regional essay winner in the Invest Ed program.

# FFA Banquet

by Sally Schoenhals

The Merritt FFA Banquet was held on Tuesday, May 3rd. The banquet had a great turnout with many Merritt supporters, friends, and family. Logan Thetford presented her chapter president retirement address. Afterwards, she introduced our new FFA chapter president, Sydni Sanders. Other new chapter officers include: Cadlyn Smith, vice president; Shayla Morris, secretary; Daylen Smith, treasure; Mikah Carnes, reporter, and Timothy Jones, sentinel.

The main award that was given was our "Honorary Chapter Farmer." It was presented to Mike Damron, Greg Forrester, and Gary Thetford, for their help and support throughout the year. Everyone enjoyed cake and refereshments after the banquet.

We would like to thank Mr. McCune for everything he did for us, and a huge thank you to Mr. Burns for helping us finish out this year strong, whether we were in the classroom, showing livestock, getting through national FFA week, state convention, or preparing for summer camps. We look forward to the new year and our new ag teacher.



# 2015/2016 Students/ Oilers of the Month

by Sally Schoenhals

## JH Students of the Month

September - Corbyn Davis, Lexus Criswell, Dalen Smith  
October - Blakely Barnett, Loren Ballard, Carson Rutherford  
November - Austin Pruitt, Avery Simon, Tori Page  
December - Rylan Givens, Miranda Brady, Ben Mills  
January - Christian Skelton, JoceLyn Thomas, Brooke Puckett  
February - Joshlyn Sanders Tomlin, Allison Justus, Makenzie Mong  
March - Ainsley Brewer, Lindsey Wells, Adam Gibbins  
April - Jordyn Garrett, Mackenzie Dyer, Hayle Poole  
May - Amber Williams, Brock Floyd, Devyn Pollard

## High School Students of the Month

September - Cadlyn Smith, Ashlee Carr, Logan Thetford  
October - McKenzie Berg, Madison Rutherford, Karli Droke  
November - Noah Ligon, Tanner Mong, Ryan Mills  
December - Hagen Simon, Brett Custer, Caleb Damron  
January - Shayla Morris, Tristan Dornon, Courtney Reyes  
February - Mikiah Carnes, Sydni Sanders, McKayla Doty  
March - Kurtis Pittman, Rylan Jones, Riley Forrester  
April - Brooke Fox, Emily Miller, Justus Garrett  
May - Brystal VanBuren, Mercedes Rangel, Lynzee Adkerson

## JH Oilers of the Month

September - Dalen Smith  
October - Carson Rutherford  
November - Avery Simon  
December - Lexus Criswell  
January - Corbyn Davis  
February - Ben Mills  
March - Ainsley Brewer  
April - Rylan Givens  
May - Miranda Brady

## HS Oilers of the Month

September - Ashlee Carr  
October - Madison Rutherford  
November - Noah Ligon  
December - Ryan Mills  
January - Brett Custer  
February - Cadlyn Smith  
March - Logan Thetford  
April - McKenzie Berg  
May - Courtney Reyes

## Oilers of the Year:

**Junior High- Dalen Smith**

**High School- Ryan Mills**





# High School Graduation

by Daniel Hernandez

On Friday, May 13, 2016, Merritt High School seniors ended their last Friday, walking down the aisle to graduate. This year's class Valedictorian is Karli Droke and Salutatorian is McKayla Doty. Their class motto was "Our lives are before us, our pasts are behind us, but our memories are forever with us". Class colors are Royal Blue and Silver.

We wish them the best of luck!

## 2016 Senior Class

Ashlee Rachelle Abbott	Trae Christopher Jenkins
Lynzee Jade Adkerson	Oran Mavrick Miller
McKenna Paige Archer	Ryan Douglas Mills
Taylor Jordan Barnett	Haley Danielle Olivier
Zachary Tyler Beals	Steven Michael Parr
Carley Jo Carnes	Aaron James Posey
Caleb Michael Damron	Courtney Shae Reyes
McKayla Leann Doty	Breanna Rae Reynolds
Karli Marie Droke	Alan Alexis Sanchez
Lori Dawn Fields	Allison Nacole Shepherd
Levi Weston Finley	John Daniel Edward Slife
Nathan David Finley	Kailen LeAnn Tahsequah
Jonathan Cayde Fletcher	Sydney Jade Tew
Riley Cole Forrester	Logan Danielle Thetford
Dallas Corey Garcia	Yessica Elizabeth Tovar
Justus Allen Garrett	Drake Dillon Vaught

# 8th Grade Graduation

by Tristan Dornon

On Monday, May 16, 2016, the Merritt 8th Grade walked down the aisle to the sound of "Pomp and Circumstance," a very famous graduation song, played by Mrs. Renea Hancock. After the processional, the Merritt High School principal, Mr. Don Bradshaw, introduced the Salutatorian, Loren Ballard, and the Co-Valedictorians, Avery Simon and Jocelyn Thomas, all of which gave an address to their families, friends, and fellow graduating students. After which, Mr. Bradshaw conferred the honor of male and female Student of the Year to Aaron Ligon and Lexus Criswell. Next, the students arose and each walked to receive a rose in which to give to their family; this was all done to the song "Roots Before Branches". Finally, Mr. Bradshaw again arose and called out names for students to come up and receive their diplomas. After each student had received their diploma, the Merritt superintendent, Mr. Daugherty, gave a short address and then pronounced "By the power vested in me by the Board of Education and the state of Oklahoma, I hereby declare you graduates from the 8th grade," after which the students again walked down the aisle to Mrs. Hancock's playing of "Pomp and Circumstance" as official graduates from the 8th grade.

Afterwards, the graduates changed from their robes back into their normal clothes and went down to the rock gym, where the 8th Grade dance had been set up. The dance was elaborately decorated with the same decorations used at prom. A good time was had by all the seventh and eighth graders.



