

## What's New at the Meridian Technical Center



### Ag Expo 2008

What a turn out! What an event! This annual event held at the Meridian Technical Center next door to Meridian High School is a three day and one night event. It is held the three

days prior to the October State In-Service Days. This year Ag Expo was held on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>. A team of **410 student volunteers** (most members of FFA from the district's high schools) **hosted 3,564 Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade elementary students**. Students learned about agricultural equipment, animals, where food comes from, benefits of plants, animals, and lots more.



Following is an excerpt from a parent letter about the impression it made:

**"I have come away from the Ag Expo with very positive feelings about the young people who make the presentations and work as tour guides. It is encouraging to see teenagers that possess useful knowledge, know how to work, and can communicate and interact with others effectively. It is also fun to see the high school students working with the little children. The character and attitude displayed at the Ag Expo gives me hope for the upcoming generation."**



### Welcome Ms. Smith to the Meridian PT Center!



Jessica Smith was born and raised in Walla Walla, WA. where she earned an Associate in Arts and an Associate in Applied Arts and Sciences in Agri-Business at Walla Walla Community College. Jessica then earned her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Education at the University of Idaho. She is engaged and will be married this next summer. Her hobbies include riding her horse and competing in Team Roping and Team Penning. Jessica is currently teaching six classes of Personal Skills Development, Introduction to Livestock, and an US Economics class. Jessica is a great addition to the center.



### Spring 2008 High School Nationals: Automotive Technology

Automotive students at Meridian High won the Ugly Car Contest at Firebird Raceway on May 4th. The contest is based on creativity and effort, and, of course, **ugliness!**

At the Spring High School Nationals, students competed in many group contests in addition to the "ugly car". These included pyramid stacking, tug-of-war, ice cream eating, water brigade, and an individual stereo competition. Students Devon Hightower, Megan Mihalisko, Casey Dinwiddie, Chris Bidondo, Myra Garza, Tyler Caviness, and Ethan Simpson worked for weeks on this car after school with their instructors: Mr. Randy Mahler and Mr. David Rhoades.

