

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR TALLAHASSEE

66° 46° Scattered Showers	68° 44° Partly Cloudy	70° 49° Partly Cloudy	72° 54° Partly Cloudy	74° 59° Mostly Cloudy
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"Melted Mishap"

By: Harper McLaughlin



Spelling Bee Flies to the News!

By: Aaron Schwartz

The Montford Middle School Spelling Bee had students abuzz with energy on Wednesday, December 11th, as students and their parents gathered in the

Montford library for the annual competition. Students eagerly looked for a place at the podium. All the students spelled as best as they could, going through multiple rounds of challenging words. Eventually, the contest narrowed down to just Joel Saez and Jude Carson. Both boys fought hard to out-spell each other, but in the end,

Joel Saez won first place with *effectual*, Jude Carson securing himself second place, getting eliminated on *consensus*. I spoke to Joel about his take on the experience. Saez said, "it was a great feeling to win, but I felt bad for the other competitors." All in all, the spelling bee was a very close competition, and everyone had fun in the end.



SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR SNOW!

By: Francesca Torrado & Sarah Benson

On the night of January 21st, it snowed in Tallahassee! By Wednesday morning, snow blanketed much of the town. Many of the roads were closed because of ice and sleet, causing Leon County Schools to close from Wednesday through Friday. Northern Tallahassee saw 4-5 inches, while Southern parts of

town saw more sleet instead. At home, Mustangs made snowmen and went "sledding," some for the first time! Most kids had to improvise with their sleds because Florida never gets snow. Emma Wells said, "this was my first time in snow! It was well worth the wait." The last time it snowed in Tallahassee was in 2018; there were flurries but not like this. What an amazing, unbelievable experience!



Glistening white snow blankets the campus the morning of January 22nd

Costa Rica Q & A

By: Emma Wells

In 2024, students had the opportunity to go to Costa Rica. I interviewed Mikaelyn S. about her experience.

Q: What kind of food did you eat?

A: "We ate LOTS of rice and beans. We also got to try homemade plantain chips and arroz con pollo."

Q: What was your favorite part?

A: "My favorite part was white water rafting and snorkeling."

Q: Would you recommend this trip?

A: "I would recommend this trip to anyone who loves trying new things and loves to experience new cultures and activities!"

Upcoming Trips: Costa Rica- July 2025 & Spain- May 2026

Students Represent M.M.S. at Allstate

By: Cameron Broder

This year five Montford students were accepted into the Florida Allstate chorus. Cameron Broder, Jude Carson, Kaylee Vickers, and Halley Pearce were all accepted into the mixed choir, which consists of both high and low voice parts. Anna Caigle was accepted into the Treble choir, which has the higher range of vocalists. To get into this group, students went through a series of tests and auditions. In the first Musicianship test, students



Students pose in front of the Tampa Convention Center

answered music theory questions. In the Sightreading test, they were given sheet music to read and sing with only a few seconds to practice. In their last audition, they learned six pieces of music, two of which were performed for the judges to determine if they would be invited to Tampa to perform; they made it!

Mustangs Reduce, Re-use, and Recycle

By: Leighton Elliot

The green team staff spreads awareness about recycling by going in groups of 3-4 people every day to collect materials from the recycling bins around campus in buildings and classrooms. On the last Friday of every month, the Green Team

Staff meets in Mrs. Barret's classroom where she provides breakfast for the team. They hang out and have fun while celebrating recycling awareness! Recycling is key to keeping our campus clean. We should recycle everywhere we go, not just at school. When we recycle, we are helping keep our

whole planet clean from trash and saving many animals. For example, the plastic can and bottle holders from sodas can end up in the ocean, trapping and endangering animals' lives. It is important to make sure students and staff recycle the proper items into the bins. For a list of approved items, reach out to Mrs. Barrett. Go green!

B2 REGION

Students Get Creative with Creature Contest

By: Farren Bell & Ila Ledford



"Rabevit," created by Jack Anderson

This year Mrs. Godwin's and Mr. Velez's science classes participated in a creature contest. The student submissions were a hit! The voting was based on clever use of materials, humor, and imagination used to create the animal as well as the special features used to adapt the animal to its ecosystem. The 1st place winner was Jack Anderson, who

created "Rabevit." Second place went to Eva Sorensen, who created, "Lavendar Spirit," while the third-place creature was designed by Andrew Byrd, and was named, "Alorus." All these winners showed great imagination and creativity; they really impressed the judges with their creations. We look forward to seeing what new creatures are made next year!

Student Spotlight

By: Addison Shriver & Aniston Ledford

For the winter article, we have chosen to spotlight eighth grader, Charlotte Ely. Charlotte takes both biology and geometry, two high school credit classes. She has been in the yearbook elective for the past three years and serves as the head editor this year. Last year she was on the softball team representing Montford. She continues to work hard balancing the demands of her current softball team, The "Big



8th grader, Charlotte Ely

Bend Lightning," while keeping up with her full course load and homework. Not only is Charlotte a great student-athlete, she is a very generous and kindhearted person too. Way to exemplify a great Mustang, Charlotte!

Our Mustangs are Mighty

By: Brynn Jacobsen

When a student gets a lot of points for being positive, hardworking, persevering, and helping others, they get awarded and become a Mighty Mustang! Some of our Mighty Mustangs meet in Mrs. Emerson's room one Friday each month at 8:45. They discuss ways to make our school community better and participate in team building activities. Some of the projects our Mighty Mustangs are working on are ways to promote safety and calmness in the hallways. Also, on the second Friday of each month. Some Mighty

Mustangs are chosen to have a lunch meeting with the P.T.S.O. to help represent the student body while they discuss plans for school activities.



Mighty Mustang winners show their certificates of achievement

Getting to know Mr. Campbell

By: Makennah Nerland

Mr. Campbell, our new technology teacher, joined us this year. In addition to teaching his tech classes, he sponsors the coding club. I asked him a few questions.

Q: Why did you start teaching?

A: *I started teaching to inspire the next generation to love technology as much as I do and learn more about it.*

Q: What is your favorite video game?

A: *I like both Witcher 3 in addition to God of War.*

Q: What is a fun fact about you that nobody would guess?

A: *Nobody would guess I went to college to do sports! More specifically, to play baseball and football.*

Q: What are your hobbies or things you like to do?

A: *I like to work out and play video games.*

Q: What was your favorite subject when you were in school?

A: *My two favorite subjects when I was in school were history and science.*

Interested in computers and coding? Stop by building 6 and meet Mr. Campbell. He'd love to chat!

C3 REGION

Boys' soccer team- district champs!

By: Tatum Draa

Congratulations to the 2024-25 Montford Middle School Boys Soccer team for winning the District Championship on December 16th against their biggest rivals, Deerlake. Montford fought extremely hard and won the game 2-1. Fisher Pearson scored the first point with a header, and Allan Juarez scored the winning point. The boys had an awesome season, with a 9-0 record, their best

game playing versus Cobb and taking home a 6-0 win. The coach of the soccer team was John Veloza. The team captains this season were eighth graders Fisher Pearson and goalkeeper, Will Vedder. I spoke to Fisher Pearson, and he said "I have been on the soccer team for all 3 years, and I play attacking midfield. My favorite memory from being on the team was winning the championship. One thing I learned while being on the team was to play as a team and not as an individual."



2025 District Boys Soccer Championship Team

Montford represents in Winterfest Parade

By: Ella Cooksey

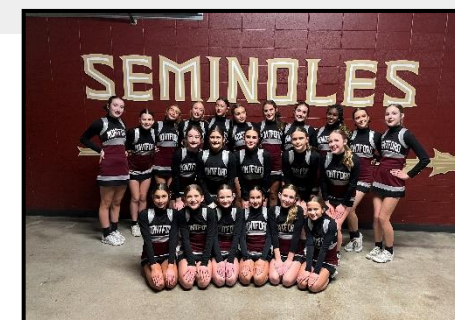
On Saturday, December 7th, our Montford football team and cheerleaders were in the Winterfest Parade in Tallahassee. They had a blast! The girls danced to holiday songs, and the boys were happy to show off the rings they received for being the 2024 Leon County Schools Middle

School Football Champions! It was great to see how much fun the students were having and to hear all the cheers of support from friends and family in the audience. 6th grader, Caroline Emerson, said, "it was fun to dress up in Santa hats and light up necklaces and get to enjoy being a part of the parade with our teammates." What a great way to represent Montford in the Tallahassee community. We are looking forward to next year!

Cheering for the Seminoles

By: Caroline Emerson

The Football cheer team had the privilege of performing at an F.S.U. basketball game at the Civic Center on December 17th. The team performed during halftime of the game, showcasing the dance they have been practicing since September. The team cheered on the 'Noles from the stands, counting down until halftime. When they arrived on the court the stands were surprised to see a middle school cheer team but were quickly impressed. The team was very advanced and wowed the



Cheerleaders perform at halftime of F.S.U. basketball game

crowd with jumps, tumbling, stunts, and challenging dance moves. The cheerleaders were grateful for this opportunity, and had an amazing time showcasing their performance.

S.G.A. Learns from Leon Students

By: Robyn Pearce

On December 3rd, eighth graders in student government took a trip to Leon High School to oversee what S.G.A. looks like at the high school level. Will Vedder, student body president, said, "it was a good example of what a student government should look like." The purpose of the field trip was to engage students in hands-on, interactive learning experiences related to high school-level student government. Peyton Elliot said the high school students, "were very welcoming, interactive and positive" while she was there. At Leon, students had the opportunity to engage in leadership class activities that promoted teamwork, problem solving, and critical thinking. Will and Peyton said it was obvious that Leon has various traditions that they honor every year. Will said that the experience was very "intuitive and inspirational!" We are excited to bring back some new ideas to implement here at Montford.