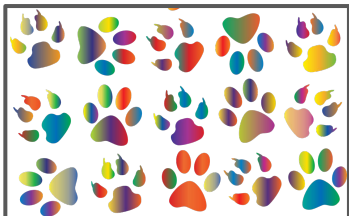


# ♥ The Liberty Times ♥

## Included in this issue



Mardi Paw Parade

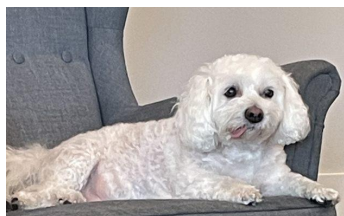


Black History Month at LMS



Testing Tips

Mardi Gras is coming quickly, and so is our Mardi Paws parade (**read more on page 2!**) Some students at Liberty sent in pictures of their rescued furry friends (read full quotes in newsletter)!



Milo, 10 y/o, rejected as a puppy, had his front teeth removed, so his tongue sticks out.  
- Abby W., 8th grade

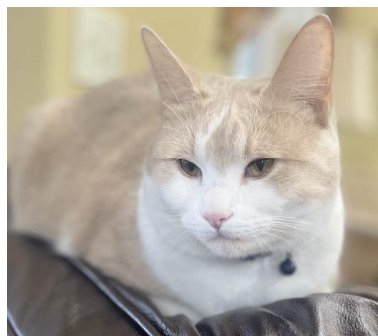


Toby, 15 y/o, rescued from mill, blind, deaf, and not potty trained (hence the pants).  
- Avery M., 7th grade



Winston [bottom] and Willa [top], 4 y/o, rescued from a cat colony, and both had lifesaving procedures.  
- Avery M., 7th grade

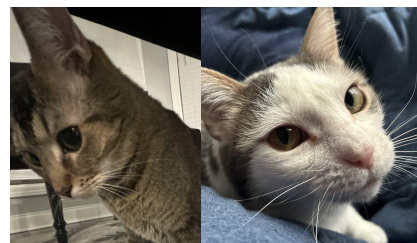
Adopting an animal is such a good thing to do! Rescue one today at your nearest pet shelter! (photos collected by Avery Morman)



Merlin, 2 y/o, rescued from a kill shelter.  
- Nathan O., 8th grade



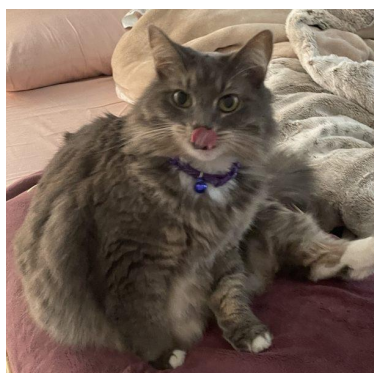
In loving memory of (2/12/25):  
Annie, 19 y/o, rescued from fire when born.  
- Lucy B., 7th grade



Indie [left] and Pepper [right], 4 y/o, rescued from box on side of road.  
- Alex W., 8th grade



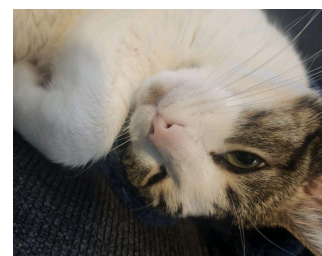
Imp [left] and Roo [right], 12/20 y/o (respectively), rescued from Dauphin Island and chewing wires in North Carolina (respectively)  
- Lydia H., 8th grade



Sushi, 2 y/o, rescued from a hotel.  
- Val M., 7th grade



Peppa, 8 y/o, rescued from a kill shelter, then survived the deadly dog disease of parvo.  
- Greta W., 8th grade



Casper, 7 m/o, rescued from the streets.  
- Myles H., 7th grade



# SCHOOL LIFE



## Mardi paw parade helps local animal shelters

**By Tanvi Gaikwad**  
**Staff Writer**

On March 4th, 2025, Liberty Middle School's S2S will be hosting their 2nd annual Mardi Paw Parade.

The parade benefits local animal shelters in need. We have interviewed Mrs. Mingus, one of the S2S sponsors, for more information about the parade.

**Q: What is required to get a wagon at the parade?**

**A: All classes, clubs, and teams that would like to participate must donate one 20-25 pound bag of dog or cat food.**

**Q: What materials can people donate?**



*Cart from the 2024 Mardi Paw Parade.*

**A: We will gladly accept additional donations of pet supplies and cleaning supplies for the pet shelter.**

**Q: Who can you give donations to?**

**A: Drop all donations off in Nurse Tunstill's office.**

**Q: Can parents/family members attend?**

**A: Yes, parents can attend the parade and donate animal supplies as well as cleaning**

**supplies for the shelter.**

**Spectators are welcome, but we ask that they bring a donation of pet supplies.**

**Q: What are some changes you have made this year?**

**A: We recognize that there are always ways to improve and we appreciate any suggestions!**

Last year we used shopping carts. This year we are using wagons. Last year we charged an entry fee and this year we are asking for dog and cat food donations instead.

For more information or questions, contact Nurse Tunstill in the office, or Mrs. Mingus Green Pod room 119.

## Bryce Eason Memorial raises money for scholarship

**By Jessica Syrratt**  
**Staff Writer**

The Bryce Eason Memorial art auction was on February 13th.

This event was an auction in memory of Bryce Anthony Eason, featuring student and professional artwork.

The auction featured various different types of artwork, including artwork from students here at liberty. This

auction is meant to raise money for a scholarship in art for a student at James Clemens.

Art teacher Makenna Smith organized the event this year.

She said this is a very meaningful event, not just to raise money for a scholarship, but to honor Bryce Eason.

This is also a great time to

enjoy creativity and great artwork of all people, but especially around Liberty.





# SCHOOL LIFE



## Welcoming new students to LMS

**By Brooklyn Steinert**  
Staff Writer

Welcome to the Den is an annual event for rising 6th graders. For this event, we have interviewed one of the assistant principals here at liberty, Dr. Hamilton.

**Q: What is Welcome to the Den?**

**A:** Welcome to the Den is a field trip designed for our rising 6th graders at our four elementary schools, who all come up to one middle school. We have a field trip for them in the morning, and they come and do a lot of different stuff.

**Q: What information do students get at Welcome to the Den?**

**A:** They get a tour of the school, and get to see what a middle school classroom looks like. They get to meet teachers, counselors, and staff members.

They'll also get to meet some students in the cafeteria, where they walk around and get information about extracurricular activities here at Liberty.

**Q: Who gives the tours to the students?**

**A:** Our student ambassadors and our S2S group are the ones giving the tours.

**Q: How does it feel to have a new group of students ready to come to Liberty?**

**A:** It's very exciting! It's always a good opportunity to have them come in the spring, before they start middle school, so they can ask questions and make them feel more comfortable.

## Students reflect on imperfections

**By Abina Rijal**  
Staff Writer

Imagine winning 1st place for a contest in which you can make a submission for a wide range of categories, from photography to a dance choreography.

Liberty students had this opportunity with the 2024-2025 PTA Reflections.

These students have the opportunity for their

submissions to compete at the state and national levels.

The theme for the contest changes

each year. This year's theme was Accepting Imperfection. Several students submitted their work, most with teacher support.



PTA Reflections winners pose with their certificates. Students participated in different categories like literature, photography, and film.



# SPECIAL SECTION



## Black History Month around LMS

By Chloe Kim and Anne Dickson  
Copy Editor and Staff Writer

Each year in February, people around the United States celebrate Black History Month in different ways.

At LMS, students and teachers have worked together all month to create a Black History program for the school.

Despite the weather delay, on February 20, students had the opportunity to learn about Black history through different ways.

### **Black History Month Mural:**

Students from Introduction to Art, Intermediate Art, and Advanced Art made a mural for Black History month.

Art teacher, Makenna Smith, explained her inspiration for this mural.

Smith said, “(Alma Woodsey Thomas is) known for her bold, mosaic-like paintings. Her work embodies resilience, joy, and the power of creativity—values we hope to inspire in our students through this project.”

### **Living History:**

In the living history segment, students read facts about different historical figures and audience members could guess who they were.

Counselor Jonathan Barnett said students were selected because they showed great character, demonstrated good public speaking skills, and have a lot of pride for Black History month.

Student London Redmond explained the importance of this event.

“To me it shows others that might not be well educated in black culture, what is, because of this program. And it could also show what people started the legacy of black history and lives.”

### **Musical Performance**

Jazz Band performed “Superstition” by Stevie Wonder.

One of the band instructors, Evan Curtis, explained their selection of the song.

“‘Superstition’ showcases the creativity and influence of Black musicians in shaping popular music genres like R&B, funk, and soul, genres that were pioneered and developed by Black artists,” he said.

### **Final Thoughts**

From the Black national anthem to the LMS Step Team’s first performance, the Black culture was on display during this year’s program.

Students walked away with guest speaker Candice Storey Lee’s impactful words, “Be a voice for the voiceless.”



Students participated in the Black History Month program by dressing as historical figures. (From left to right) MJ Gray as Barack Obama, London Redmon as Mae Jemison, Evan Barnes as Garrett Morgan, and Alaina Lamar as Serena & Venus Williams.



# ENTERTAINMENT



## Risk of Rain 2 creates a fun time for all



By Gavin Lovett  
Staff Writer

Risk of Rain 2 is one of my favorite multiplayer games currently, and I recommend it to all.

Risk of rain 2 is a great 3D, multiplayer, wave shooter, and roguelike game. In Risk of Rain 2 you play as a selectable survivor such as the commando, the

artificer, the engineer and several others.

It is a fast pace game because the longer you take to finish a level the harder the difficulty gets.

In the game, you can find chests, canisters, shrines of chance, and terminals. Common, Uncommon and Legendary items are found in item chests, terminals and Shrines of Chance.

Defeating a teleporter boss causes the teleporter to drop Uncommon gear, with the exception of three that can drop unique Boss items. Lunar items can be purchased with Lunar Coins from Lunar Pods or at the Bazaar Between Time.

As of now risk of rain 2 has 2 DLC's. They both add a lot of content to the base game with the addition of new characters, new maps, and new items.

The developers have continued to work and fix problems that have come up.

The game is great overall and heavily moddable.

I run Goku from Dragon Ball, Sonic the Hedgehog, and Bowser from Mario. The game is rated 10 and up so this is the perfect game for middle school students and beyond.

## Fun activities to do over spring break

By Jessica Syrratt  
Staff Writer

Have you ever been bored at home during spring break? It is a common problem. Thankfully, there are some things you can do to keep entertained.

### Crafts

#### Flower pressing

Needed supplies:

Paper, newspaper, cardstock or paper towels

Glue (optional)

Scissors (optional)

Markers (optional)

A heavy object

Flowers of your choice

### Places to go

#### The Botanical gardens, Huntsville

The Botanical gardens have many fun things to do, especially during the Spring!

Explore the butterfly garden, relax in the hammocks, and generally enjoy the blooming flowers! They also host events there, so look for those!

### Other activities

### Hiking/walks

Spring is the best time to get out and enjoy the weather. Why not go on a hike?

You can go to places like Rainbow Mountain, Monte Sano State park, and other local parks. These places are free, and you can go any day of the week!



**To read more about spring activities, visit the online newsletter.**



# LIBERTY SPORTS



## Tie-breaker shot wins for faculty

**By Tanvi Gaikwad  
Staff Writer**

Each year, one of the most anticipated basketball games at LMS is the one with students versus faculty members.

Select players from the 7th and 8th grade boys and girls basketball teams played against staff members and teachers on January 31st.

Some of the student players included Caden Frost, Anshita Agarwal, Trey Redmond III, Jayden Richie, Ryleigh Winters, and Greycen Majors.

On the faculty team, some players were Coach Brewton, Coach Swearingen, Mrs. Norris, Mr. Roberts, Coach Edwards, Mr Russel and Mrs. Blair.

Faculty won the game 53 to 51, with Coach Swearingen making the winning shot.

Mr. Roberts was named MVP of the match.

Spectators were also treated to a halftime relay race between teachers. Teachers raced to see which team could get their mattress across the gym floor the fastest.



*Teachers and students pose together after the 2025 Student vs Faculty basketball game.*



# SPOTLIGHT



## ACAP testing and beyond

### Liberty News Staff Report

No matter if it's the big math test, a simple quiz, or ACAP state testing, everyone feels some type of nervous energy when it comes to preparing.

Here are some tips to help.

#### **Tip # 1: Relax and don't stress out**

Whether it's the day before the test or the day of, find some way to relax your body and mind before the test starts. This could be drawing or doodling on a blank piece of paper or listening to music.

#### **Tip #2: Get a good night's sleep**

Rather than playing that last round of a video game or staying up late to study, fall asleep at a reasonable time to make sure you're not tired in the morning.

#### **Tip #3 & #4: Create a study plan**

Before taking a test, it's important to read over the material and create a study plan.

Creating flash cards can help students study for a short period of time on the car ride or bus ride home, or taking breaks between other activities.

#### **Tip #5: Eat before the test**

When you get hungry, you're get distracted and can't focus. By eating before your test, you remove one of the many possible distractions to you succeeding.

## What You Need To Know To Ace Any Test



Relax and don't stress out

Get a good night's sleep before the test



Figure out a study plan that fits your schedule

Read through the material beforehand



Make sure you eat something before the test



reallygreatsite.com



# OPINIONS



## Random acts of kindness has many benefits



**By Rachel Zhang**  
**Editor-in-Chief**

February is National Random Acts of Kindness Month.

Life is hard and everyone is dealing with different struggles and scenarios. However, a smile or a compliment can really light up someone's day.

While February 17th was Random Acts of Kindness day, other days also allow the opportunity to bring some kindness into the world.

Being kind to someone can boost feelings, can help you live longer, and can help your mental health.

Being kind to someone can cause you to have positive feelings.

According to SSM Health, "Being kind boosts serotonin and dopamine, which are neurotransmitters in the brain that give you feelings of satisfaction and well-being and cause the pleasure/reward centers in your brain to light up. Endorphins, which are your body's natural pain killer, also can be released."

Physiologically, kindness can positively change your brain by boosting levels of serotonin and dopamine. This will have a positive health effect on your body because endorphins will help you

relieve pain.

Doing acts of kindness can help you to live longer.

According to science.org, "Large study finds association between positive attitude and extended life span. Here's a good reason to turn that frown upside down: Optimistic people live as much as 15% longer than pessimists, according to a new study spanning thousands of people and 3 decades."

Being kind doesn't take much, but it gives you a big reward - a longer life.

***To read the rest of the editorial, read the online newsletter.***

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**Abby Schoenholz**  
**Student Writer**

**Mackenzie West**  
**Student Writer**



# COMICS



## The Real Meaning of Valentine's Day

By Abby Courtney Staff Writer



**S2S Mardi Paw Parade**

Join us to collect donations for local pet shelters!  
Tuesday, March 4 at 8:30 am

**TO PARTICIPATE ON MARCH 4:**

- Each club, class, or organization must donate a 20-25 pound bag of dog or cat food **no later than March 3.**
- Groups may decorate an umbrella to carry in the parade.
- Participating groups must decorate a wagon to pull in the parade.

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS OF PET AND CLEANING SUPPLIES ARE WELCOME AND WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH FRIDAY, MARCH 7. HAVE QUESTIONS? SEE MRS. MINGUS OR NURSE TUNSTILL

LMS COMPETITION

**DANCE**

INTEREST MEETING

**MARCH 3RD**  
6:30PM  
**LMS CAFETERIA**

**TRYOUTS MARCH 18-21**




# EVENTS




## March-May


### March

**March 4 (Tuesday)**   
Mardi Paw Parade

**March 6 (Thursday)**  
Baseball vs Discovery  
Softball vs Discovery  
Soccer vs Discovery

**March 10-14**  
Spring Break (No School)

**March 17-31**   
ACAP Testing at LMS

**March 28-29**  
Soccer Madison City Cup @  
Journey 

### April

**April 1-4**   
ACAP Testing at LMS

**April 8 (Tuesday)**  
Fine Arts Night

**April 11 (Friday)**  
PTA Spring Dance (**Theme:** A Night  
Under the Sea)

**April 20-25**  
Space Camp (6th Grade)

**April 22 (Tuesday)**  
Anime and Manga Club's Cosplay  
Contest (Media Center)



### May

**May 5 (Monday)**  
Band Spring Concert at JCHS

**May 6 (Tuesday)**  
Choir Spring Concert at JCHS

**May 19 (Monday)**  
E-Learning Day (High School  
Graduation)

**May 20 (Tuesday)**  
Half-Day (Final Exams)

**May 21 (Wednesday)-Last Day of  
School**  
Half-Day (Final Exams)



## Club Meetings

### Monday(s)

- HOSA (Dew, Orange 129)
- Robotics Club (Peterson, Blue 238)
- Scholar's Bowl (Veizer, Yellow 219)
- Debate Club (Hay, Pink 204)

### Tuesday(s)

- FCA Meeting (Simpson, Media Center)

- Science Olympiad (Price, Green 125)
- Anime & Manga Club (Sanderson, Red 250)

### Wednesday(s)

- First Priority (Hay, Pink 204)
- Chess Club (Pahman, Gray 102)
- Running Club (Gwaltney)

- Art Club (M. Smith, Orange 132)

### Thursday(s)

- TSA (Hearrington, Purple 112)
- Newspaper Club (Sanderson, Red 250)

### Friday(s)

- RPG Club (C. Smith, Media Center)

# ♥ STUDENT CORNER ♥

## An ode to books, worlds they create

By Avery Morman  
Chief Photographer

Every page an experience,  
Every word an emotion,  
Your spine encasing a new  
world,  
Oh, you are as calming as the  
ocean.

Your front cover crisp as snow,  
Your pages worn from years  
Of turning, reading, and  
looking too,  
Oh book, you take away all my  
fears.

The feel of your cover,  
Enclosing the tales you  
behold,  
Get to know the characters,  
Watch them grow old.

The soft crinkle of your pages,  
The crunch of your cover,  
The murmuring of your  
hometown,  
full of friends and things to  
discover.

Oh book, my book,  
You make life slow motion,  
Every page an experience,  
Every word an emotion.

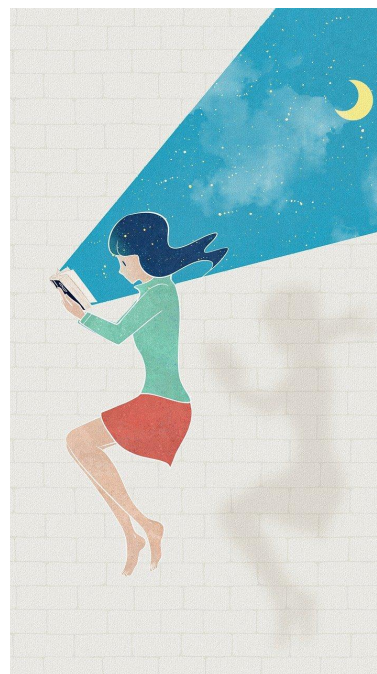


Photo courtesy of Pixabay

**THE LIBERTY TIMES**

# STUDENT CORNER

Do you want your artwork  
or creative writing featured  
in the newspaper? Let us  
know!




## LMS COMPETITION CHEER TRYOUTS



**When:** Friday, March 7  
4:00pm

**Where:** Liberty Middle School

**Team Tryout Clinic:**  
What: Students will learn the  
cheer, chant, and dance, as well as  
the tryout format!  
When: Monday, March 3rd  
4:00pm- 5:30pm  
Where: ACE Cheer Company of  
Huntsville

For any questions, contact Coach Marr:  
[mrmarr@madisoncity.k12.al.us](mailto:mrmarr@madisoncity.k12.al.us)

*Students unable to attend tryouts will still have an opportunity to audition. Arrangements need to be discussed with Coach Marr.*



# EXTRAS



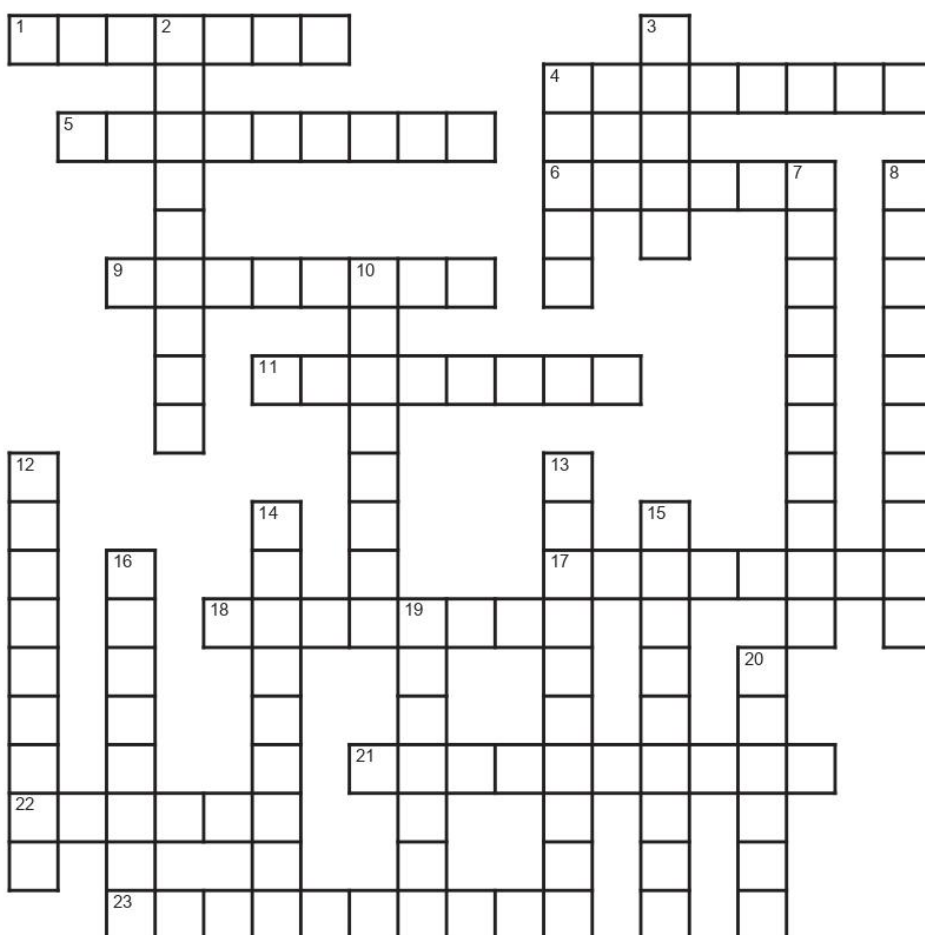
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ACROSS

1. Famous president born in February
4. Festive celebration before Lent
5. Weather-predicting animal on February 2nd
6. Zodiac sign for late February birthdays
9. Winter sports event often held in February
11. February's purple birthstone
17. Special February with 29 days
18. Early-blooming February flower
21. President honored on Presidents' Day
22. Chilly season in February
23. Leaders celebrated in mid-February

## DOWN

2. Sweet treat often given on Valentine's Day
3. Icy coating on February windows
4. Love-spreading cherub with bow and arrow
7. Delicate ice crystals falling in February
8. Affectionate term for a Valentine
10. Freezing February weather event
12. Major football game in early February
13. Love-filled holiday on February 14th
14. Colorful celebration before Ash Wednesday
15. Sweet message delivered on Valentine's Day
16. Sudden drop in February temperatures
19. Love in the air during Valentine's season
20. Purple flower associated with February



AMETHYST	ICE STORM	ROMANCE
CANDYGRAM	LEAP YEAR	SNOWFLAKES
CARNIVAL	LINCOLN	SUPER BOWL
CHOCOLATE	MARDI GRAS	SWEETHEART
COLD SNAP	OLYMPICS	VALENTINE'S
CUPID	PISCES	VIOLET
FROST	PRESIDENTS	WASHINGTON
GROUNDHOG	PRIMROSE	WINTER