



The Tusker Tribune

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Valentine's Day



By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff

Valentine's day is celebrated on February 14th. Valentine's Day started in 270 AD. We celebrate this holiday because a Roman Emperor banned marriage because he thought that unmarried men would be better soldiers. A man named Valentine did not think this was fair and married people anyway. He eventually got caught and was killed on February 14th in the year 270.

Valentine's Day is coming up and it is important to inform people about it. Here are some facts about Valentines Day!

- Did you know that chocolates are the most famous Valentine's Day gifts?
- The usual colors on Valentines Day are pink,



red, and white.

- Valentine's Day can also be named St. Valentine's Day or the Feast of St. Valentine.
- Since the 1300s, Valentine's Day has been linked with love and romance.
- Red roses are usually common during this day because they are known as the "flower of love".

- The most common symbol on Valentines Day is Cupid with his bow and arrow
- Richard Cadbury produced the very first heart-shaped Valentine's Day candy box in 1861.

On Valentines' Day my parents usually give my sister and me a heart-shaped box of chocolates. Hopefully, you take away something from this story and you learned something new about Valentine's Day!

Solving the Valentine's Gift Conundrum



By Sabeeka Mustafa
Tusker Tribune Staff

With Valentines Day coming up, there are the two most popular options to give to your Valentine, but which one would most people prefer?

This has been going on for ages, and people cannot help but wonder about this question. For a more romantic option, flowers are a far better choice, as it shows beauty, and your Valentine may be trying to show you that you are beautiful by comparing you to flowers.

But in a recent study, it shows that 92% of people like to receive gifts or chocolates for Valentines Day. In another study, which is mainly about girls, it shows that 100% of girls want flowers for Valentines Day, but that probably is not true. In another study, it shows that 30% of girls want chocolate or candy, while 27% want cards, 27% want flowers, 17% want jewelry, 15% want a spa day, 12% want something else, and 12% want some-

thing home-made.

In kindergarten, we should not be making our parents those home-made cards! Another study for men reported that 30% want a card, 28% want a nice dinner, 27% want chocolates and candy, 22% want flowers, 20% want a homemade meal or baked goods, and 16% want a piece of jewelry.

Every study has different numbers for what people want. The top choices are flowers and chocolates. But all these numbers do not matter, as long as what you want is right for you; that is all that matters. Valentines Day is supposed to be about you and the people you love, it should not be about what is the latest trending gift or what is the most popular thing. It is about the thought that you put into the gifts that counts. And if people are sincere, they will see the true value of it and will be thankful. I hope this was helpful!



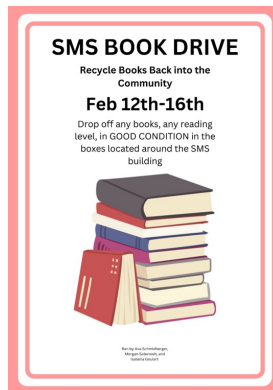
Student-Organized Book Drive Next Week



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Book drives play a vital role in fostering literacy and education, especially in communities with limited access to books.

By collecting and distributing books, these drives provide valuable resources that can ignite a love for reading and learning in individuals of all ages. They also help bridge the gap between those who have access to books and those who don't, promoting equity in education. Additionally, book drives promote sustainability by giving new life to pre-loved books and reducing waste. Ultimately, they empower individuals, enrich communities, and contribute to building a more educated and informed society.



At Somers Middle School, from February 12th to February 16th, some of my friends and I will be running a book drive. Recently after seeing results from other book drives online,

I decided to challenge myself to create one and run it successfully in a total of 2 weeks. This week was my first week. I used this week to plan. I had to talk to administration at SMS and reach out to multiple libraries, shelters, and other places to find a location to drop the books off at. We also made poster and hung them up around SMS. The second week (next week) will be used to collect the books at school. There will be multiple boxes around the building for students to drop off as many books, of any level, they would like to donate.

Maple Sugaring is a Sweet Winter Tradition



By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

It's February, and it's been awhile since we've seen snow. But things other than

winter sports are just starting. Maple sugaring, the process of collecting and boiling down sap from sugar maples, is a process that people have been practicing since the time of the Native Americans.

Sap Flow

It all starts with freezing weather so the sugar maple trees can produce lots of sap. The warmer temperatures push the sap out through tap holes in the maple tree. Then, at night, the temperature must go below freezing for the tree to draw in more water through its roots, replenishing the sap for the next day of collecting. This weather happens most often in February.

Collection

The sap is collected through drilled tap holes in a sugar maple. It flows through a pipe that usually empties into a bucket/bottle, although for



multiple trees, people sometimes have storage tanks for their sap. When there is enough sap, the sap must be boiled.

Boiling

The sap is boiled in large containers, but the Native Americans used to boil their sap with hot stones placed into a hollowed-out log. It can take from 20 to 60 gallons of sap to make just 1 gallon of maple syrup, depending on the sugar content in the sap. The maple sap is boiled until the sap becomes a deep golden-brown color. The sap will start to give a strong, sweet smell, and you will know it's done.

Conclusion

So now you know the process of how maple syrup is made, from the trees to the table. If you have sugar maple trees, maybe you can try to tap them. Or you could go to the annual maple tapping display at Muscoot Farm, in Katonah. But the next time you have maple syrup on your waffles or pancakes, or just as a treat in some yogurt, you'll remember the full process behind it.

'Kisses for Kindness' Puts Kids in Valentine's Day Mood!



By Giuliana DeMartino
Tusker Tribune Staff

On Tuesday at lunchtime, there was a table right by the door to go out to recess. At that table were paper hearts, pens, and Hershey kisses. In order to get a Hershey kiss, you had to get a paper heart and write something kind and encouraging on it. You would hand it in a little box and then get a piece of chocolate.

The Hershey kisses were in a cute heart plate. The hearts will be put up in front of Miss Casey's office. This was set up by Miss Casey's Y2Y Club. I think this was a success because the



hearts ran out twice and the Hershey kisses ran out. The table was crowded with a lot of students, so the youth-to-youth club needed another table to do the activity.

There were 20-something hearts made on Tuesday during all the lock periods. In the next few weeks, make sure to stop by Miss Casey's room to find your heart. Many students had fun doing this activity and I think they would

like to do something like this again. I hope all of you have a happy Valentine's Day.

**Check out
more photos
on Page 3!!!**

'Kisses for Kindness' in the Café!



*Photos by
Giuliana
DiMartino*

'longnian 龍年' (The Year of the Dragon) Starts Tomorrow



**By Sofia Mendoza
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Chinese New Year or as it is also known as, the Spring festival, or Lunar New Year, is quickly coming upon us this year.

The Celebration will begin tomorrow. Although the biggest celebrations happen in China, Chinese New Year is celebrated in many different Asian Countries, not just in China. Some of these countries include, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, and the Philippines. It is also important to note that it is also celebrated here in the United States in many Asian communities.

Chinese New Years is based on the 12 Zodiac signs, which are all represented by animals. The twelve animals are the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. Every 12 years, they rotate, and each has significant characteristics.

This year will be the year of the Dragon. Being born in the year of the Dragon is considered highly regarded as dragons were seen to represent auspiciousness and imperial power. In Chinese culture the dragon is a symbol of power, nobility, honor, luck, and success. If you were born in 2012 like me, it is likely that you were born in the year of the dragon.

The Zodiac signs are used in China to figure out personality traits, fortune telling and compatibility to find potentially good marriage matches. There are even lucky numbers, colors, flowers, and directions assigned to each zodiac sign. Evidence of the use of Zodiac signs in China can be traced back to 221 B.C. during the Qin Dynasty, but it may even be older than that.

Chinese New Year is a two-week celebration where there is a big parade with music, dancers, and beautiful artwork to celebrate. The Lion Dance and the Dragon Dance are popular among the audience watching the parade. People also use this time to thoroughly clean their homes, like a spring cleaning, so that they can start the new year with a fresh start.

Similar to Thanksgiving or Christmas, families gather together and celebrate with delicious food such as dumplings, fish, spring rolls, noodles and niangao (New Year sweet rice). Similar to a Passover Seder, where each food eaten has a special reminder or significance, many foods eaten on Chinese also have special meanings. For example, fish is eaten to bring prosperity, dumplings are eaten to bring wealth, noodles are eaten to bring about happiness and longevity, and Tangyuan (which are

sweet rice balls) are eaten to bring about family togetherness.

And similar to how some kids get presents for Hannukah or Christmas, children during Chinese New Year receive red envelopes with money and/or a meaningful letter from the giver wishing them good luck and prosperity for the new year. It's similar to the New Years that we celebrate here in the United States on January 1st or even our Independence Day on the 4th of July, because there are many fireworks, firecrackers, and sparklers, which are believed to warn off any evil spirits.

If you are interested in experiencing a bit of this fun holiday, here are five places you can go to in New York City.

• From January 22 to February 12th, visit the Hudson Yards on the West side of mid-Manhattan to experience their lunar new year celebration which they have orchestrated with their partners from the New York Chinese Cultural Center.

- Attend an annual Lunar New year's Parade in the various Chinatowns in NYC. A popular one is the one in Manhattan's Chinatown that goes down Canal Street, which will take place this year on February 25th at 1pm.
- See the Lunar New year's celebration at Queens Botanical Garden February 18th and then stop by Flushing's Main Street to eat authentically delicious Chinese food and snacks.
- Visit the Brooklyn Museum on February 28th where you can work on a special craft and enjoy a Lion Dance performance.
- Take a drive to Long Island City for the LIC Lunar New Year Celebration throughout the month of February.

For more information on these events and more visit secretnyc.com



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Origins of Our Lunar New Year



**By Alice Orzechowski
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The Lunar New Year is a very special time for many countries in Asia, and people all over the world. The Lunar New Year originated in China, and it can be traced back to 4,000 years ago.

There is a myth that originally, they celebrated the lunar new year to scare away a monster called Nian, who would attack villagers in the beginning of the year. They scared it away by wearing red, lighting up bright lights, and making loud noises. This scared the Nian away for good, but the traditions of lighting up lanterns, wearing red, and lighting firecrackers went on!

Nowadays, tons of more traditions have formed! Many people eat long noodles as a sign of a long life, and wearing red is a sign of good luck. People also eat oranges and tangerines, as many believe it brings good luck and wealth because the word in Chinese "tangerine" is similar to the Chinese word "luck." The lunar new year is especially fun for children and young people, because in most cultures, the elderly give out red envelopes. These red envelopes hold money, and it is a quite common fun gift to either give or receive.

The lunar new year is measured in cycles of



the moon, and each year represents a different animal. There are twelve different animals, and they all come in a specific order. There is a myth that long ago, the emperor of China decided to hold a swimming race, to determine what order each animal would come in. The race was the width of a giant and mighty river. As the race started, the ox was in the lead, and the mouse cunningly

jumped on its back! As the race went on, the mouse jumped off the ox's head, and was the first one to cross, followed by the ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, horse, snake, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and finally the pig. The Jade Emperor was confused, and asked the dragon how he didn't win the race, as the dragon was able to swim very

quickly and even fly! The dragon told him that he had to stop and bring rain because many people and animals needed to drink. What a selfless act! The year that you were born in represents the animal that you are, and it can show some of the traits that you have.

Many cultures and people celebrate the lunar new year. There are twelve animals to represent each year, and each year is very special and widely celebrated. There are many signs of good luck, and many things you can do, wear, or eat to symbolize good things for the years to come. How do you celebrate the new year?

Magic Kingdom Memories



**By Cecilia Morrissey
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I remember about one year ago I went to Disney World with my family, my grandparents, and our nanny Catrina who watches us all day when my parents are at work. We only go to Disney every three years, so it was a very special trip.

When we got there, my brothers and I were extremely excited to be there, especially my two littlest brothers, Frankie and Caleb, who had never been there before since they were too young. We got to our hotel and settled in. I was constantly asking if we could go on rides yet, but my mom kept saying, "Let's get settled first and spend our first day looking around for what rides to go on".

I was really annoyed because I had been waiting for this trip forever and we couldn't even go on rides the first day. We finally got out of our hotel room and went down to the pool. There were water slides and lazy rivers, even an area with people doing Disney trivia! I was so excited to jump in. As I swam around, I saw many different



things. There was a sand area in the pool, a water fall and a hot tub. I swam for hours until it was time to get out and look around. We walked and walked and walked and walked until our feet couldn't anymore, so we walked back to our room. We all went to bed.

In the morning, we all were quick to get dressed. When we finally got out of our hotel, we went straight to the rides. We all went on many different ones. Rides for little people, rides for everybody, rides that went slow, and rides that went fast. We went on all these different rides the whole time we were at Disney until it was the last day. We spent our last day going on as many rides as we could but before we knew it, the day was over. We packed our stuff and went to the airport. When we got to the airport, I was so sad I didn't want to leave this warm fun place, but I had to. Everyone was waiting for me, my cat, my friends, and my home.

As I boarded the airplane, I remembered all the fun times I had in the last five days, and I couldn't wait to do it again in three years.

Celebrate Friendship, Too, on Valentine's Day



**By Max Weinfeld
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Valentine's Day is a special day celebrated on February 14th every year. It is a day dedicated to love and affection. People around the world use this day to express their feelings and appreciation for their loved ones.

On Valentine's Day, it's common to exchange cards, give flowers, eat chocolate and other gifts with your significant other, your friends, and your family. It is a time to show



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your gratitude and love to your special family members.

Many people also plan out romantic dates or such and give presents with their partners. Although Valentine's Day is mainly about love, it isn't just about the romance of it. There is also celebrating friendship and showing appreciation to anyone you love.

Just because Valentine's Day is the day for love and affection, people say it is important to show that love and affection every day to others who you appreciate.

The Reigning Champs Are Back Again



**By Olivia Ball
Tusker Tribune Staff**

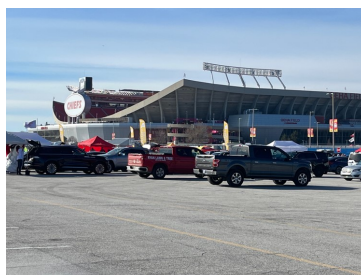
Last year on February 12th, the Chiefs beat the Eagles in the Super Bowl LVII. The final score was 38 Chiefs and 35 Eagles. This year, the Chiefs will be playing the 49ers on February 11th in Las Vegas. The Chiefs have a 49.4% chance of winning the Super Bowl for the second time in a row, which means the 49ers have a 50.6% chance of winning.

Although the 49ers have a better record with 12 wins and 5 losses, don't count the Chiefs out. They are a dedicated team, have a lot of heart and only had one more loss than their competitors.

The last team that won the Super Bowl two times in a row was the Patriots led by Tom Brady. In 2004, they beat the Panthers in Super Bowl XXXVIII and then, the following year, they beat the Eagles in Super Bowl XXXIX. If the Chiefs win again this year, they would be the 9th team to win two times in a row. Some teams have never been to or won the Super Bowl and the Chiefs will be shooting to win it for the fourth time, which would be no small achievement.

The top players on the Chiefs are Patrick Mahomes, Travis Kelce, Rashee Rice, Isaih Pacheco, and Chris Jones. Patrick Mahomes joined the Chiefs in 2017. You probably think the Kansas City Chiefs are from Kansas, except Kansas City is in Missouri.

I recently visited Arrowhead Stadium to watch my first live football game. The Bills narrowly beat the Chiefs in the December 10th game due to an offensive offside mistake by Kadarius Toney. I'm sure he won't forget to check that his feet won't ever go over the scrimmage line again. The Chiefs lost to the Bills that day, but the fans were



full of energy, wild and very friendly. Although the Bills got lucky that day, the Chiefs showed them who's boss in the playoffs. The Chief's defense has been on point throughout the season. That is not always the case.

Many people assume I am a fan of the Chiefs, because they are good and have a winning record. Lots of people jump on the bandwagon when teams have a winning record.

However, when I started to watch football in 2019, the Chiefs played my least favorite team, the Patriots, in the AFC championship. At that time, I really disliked the Patriots, so I would cheer for whoever was playing against them. Sadly, the Patriots won that day, but the Chiefs and their young quarterback, Patrick Mahomes played hard, and I knew one day they'd get their shot. Their victories have been well-earned. Not only have they gone to the Super Bowl three times since then, but they also won two out of three of them. Let's hope this year makes 4. Go Chiefs!

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Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at:

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Millions to Tune into Super Bowl

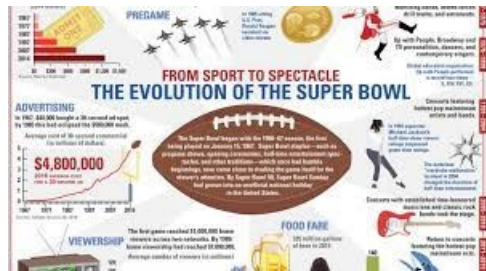


**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Every year, the Super Bowl captures the attention of millions worldwide, not just for the epic showdown on the gridiron, but also quirky traditions. Here's a whirlwind tour of some fun facts that make the Super Bowl more than just a game...

The halftime show is often as eagerly anticipated as the game itself. Did you know that the halftime performance actually began as a way to fill time and entertain viewers during Super Bowl I in 1967? Nowadays, it's a star-studded spectacle that draws massive audiences and features top-tier musical acts.

Super Bowl commercials have become legendary. Advertisers shell out exorbitant amounts of money for a few seconds of airtime during the game, with prices soaring into the millions. But it's not just about the money; it's also about creativity, as companies compete to produce the most memora-



ble and talked-about ads of the year.

Named after legendary coach Vince Lombardi, the trophy awarded to the Super Bowl champion is made entirely of sterling silver and takes about four months to craft. It's one of the most coveted prizes in professional sports and has a rich history dating back to its inception in 1967.

Super Bowl Sunday is one of the biggest food consumption days in the United States. It's estimated that Americans devour millions of pounds of snacks like chips, chicken wings, and pizza during the game. In fact, it's said that the day ranks just behind Thanksgiving for food consumption in the US!

The Super Bowl is a stage where records are made and broken. From longest field goals to most touchdown passes, the game has seen its fair share of historic moments that etch players' names into the annals of football greatness.

Whether you're a die-hard fan or just in it for the snacks and show, the Super Bowl is an overall great event!

Usher Takes Center Stage at Super Bowl



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Usher, the talented singer, dancer, and entertainer, is set to dazzle audiences at the Super Bowl halftime show this year. If you're wondering what to expect from his performance, here's a sneak peek!

Known for his smooth vocals and dance moves, Usher promises to bring high-energy excitement to the stage. With hit songs like "Yeah!", "U Remind Me", and "DJ Got Us Fallin' in Love", he'll have everyone up and dancing!



But Usher isn't just about the music; he's also an amazing performer! Expect choreography like no other, eye-catching visuals, and maybe even a surprise guest or two. His Super Bowl performance is sure to be a memorable event that will have the whole stadium on their feet.

So, whether you're a longtime fan or just tuning in for the halftime show, get ready to be entertained by the one and only Usher. With his endless energy and undeniable talent, he's guaranteed to make this Super Bowl halftime show one for the books!

Should the Day After the Super Bowl be a Holiday?



**By Cole Dolan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

With the Super Bowl coming up very this weekend, I am going to make my argument on why we should get off the day after the Super bowl.

The Super Bowl is the biggest event in America when it comes to sports. Last year alone, it pulled in 115.1 million online viewers. Now the reason we should get off school the day after the Super Bowl is because of how many



kids watch—both boys and girls.

With the Chiefs in it, all the Swifties will watch it. The point is that hundreds of millions of people watch it. At times it goes to at least 10:00 PM, which means you are going to have lots of tired, unfocused kids come Monday.

Now obviously, you do not have to watch the entire thing, but the Super Bowl only happens once a year and is watched across the country. All that has to happen is one day off from our long school year. Do you think we should get off school?



The Kadarius Curse



**By Cole Dolan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Kadarius Toney is a wide receiver for the Kansas City Chiefs. He has played with the team for two seasons with a stunning season in 2022-2023 but in the 2023-2024, he has caused nothing but inconveniences for the Chiefs.



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Let's go all the way back to the first game of the season where the Chiefs and Lions faced off in a heated game. Deep into the 4th quarter, the ball was passed to Toney, which was tipped off his hands into an interception which pretty much sealed the win for the Lions. If Toney would have caught the ball, they could have scored and maybe have won the game for the Chiefs.

Toney continued his lows throughout the season. Then, in week 14, what may have been the most controversial game in a while occurred. With



under two minutes left, Mahomes throws the ball to Kelce. He is running around trying to find space. Then he sees Toney and Kelce throws a spiral flee flicker and Toney runs in for what would have been the best touchdown of the season—if Kadarius Toney hadn't been off-sides. The Chiefs would end up turning the ball over and losing the game.

This penalty was talked about for weeks by ESPN and many others but in the end, Toney was lined up in the neutral zone. Kadarius has been sitting out for all of the Chiefs playoff games with a hip injury and personal reasons (the Chiefs have one every game with no problems at all without him). A few hours before the AFC championship game, he went on Instagram live saying the Chiefs lied about his injury and just sat him which was false. This did not make him look good.

Now the Chiefs have to decide how his hip is. If that is good, they have to see his attitude. What do you think the Chiefs will do?

2024 Super Bowl Matchup



**By Tara Goodwin
Tusker Tribune Staff**

In the 49ers. NFC championship game, it came out with a score of 31-34 49ers.

The favored team to win the AFC championship was the Ravens. In the AFC championship game, it came out with a score of 17-10 Kansas City Chiefs.

The Chiefs and the 49ers will be playing the 57th Super Bowl this Sunday in Las Vegas! As of now, USA Today states that the 49ers have a 59% to win the Super Bowl. But it's not the first time these NFL teams played against each other in the Super Bowl. In 2020 the 49ers and the Chiefs played each other for the Super Bowl title. The score came out as 31 Chiefs and 20 49ers.

The 49ers have won five Super Bowls. They have appeared in the Super Bowl eight times.

The Chiefs have won three Super Bowls. They have appeared in six Super Bowls.

According to Vision Monday, here are some fun facts about the Super Bowl.

1. There has never been a shutout in a Super Bowl.
2. Apple Music has replaced Pepsi as the half-time show's sponsor.
3. In 1970, Carol Channing became the first singer



to perform at a Super Bowl Halftime Show.

4. The Minnesota Vikings are the only team to play in four Super Bowls, but never held a lead.

5. For the first time in 57 Super Bowls, both teams started a Black quarterback—Patrick Mahomes for the Chiefs and Jalen Hurts for the Eagles.

6. The Pittsburgh Steelers and New England Patriots have won the most Super Bowls, with each team taking home six Lombardi Trophies. By the way, the Lombardi Trophy is made by famed jeweler Tiffany.

7. On Super Bowl Sunday, Americans will spend \$1.3 billion, on beer.

8. The very first Super Bowl ticket in 1967 cost \$12.

My sources

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Who's Going to the Super Bowl?



By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff

On February 11th, 2024, The Kansas City Chiefs are playing the San Francisco 49ers. Who do you want to win? I would prefer the 49ers because I am not a big Taylor Swift fan or Kansas City Chiefs fan!

These two teams will face off in the NFL championship game! The Super Bowl is one of the biggest sports events of the year.

Football is one of the most disciplined sports in the world, but teamwork is the most important aspect. Famous Jets Quarterback Joe Namath once said, "Football is an honest game. It is true to life. It is a game about sharing. Football is a team game. So is life." This quote explains how football is not just football, it is a lifestyle and a team effort.

A lot of people will have food and snacks to eat during the Super Bowl game.

My family usually gets together with others, and we will spend time together for the night and eat burgers, hot dogs, chips, etc. It is usually hosted

at my house. This Super Bowl, go ahead and make some fun memories spending time with your family or friends!



All About Presidents' Day



By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

You might have heard that Presidents' Day is celebrated on Monday, February 19th this year. But do you know the history behind this holiday? And how has it changed over the years?

History

Presidents' Day was implemented in 1879, to honor George Washington's Birthday for government offices in Washington D.C. and was expanded to all federal offices in 1885. It was celebrated every year on his birthday, February 22nd. Then, in 1971, the holiday was shifted to the third Monday in February under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. This meant that the holiday could only occur between the 15th and 21st of February, and never on

Did You Know?

President's Day never falls on the actual birthday of any American president. Four chief executives—George Washington, William Henry Harrison, Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan were born in February, but their birthdays all come either too early or late to coincide with Presidents' Day, which is always celebrated on the third Monday of the month.

Washington's actual birthday.

The Modern-Day Name

Because of the act changing major federal holidays to

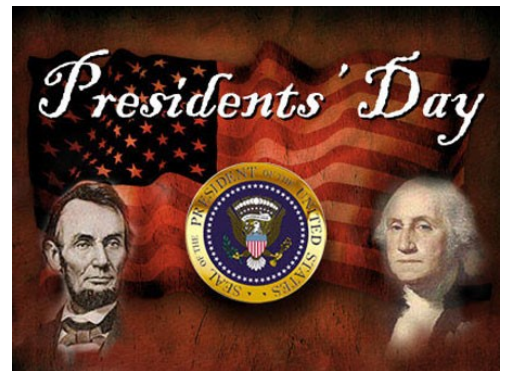
Mondays, Abraham Lincoln's birthday was also celebrated near Washington's. Despite this, the holiday never changed from "Washington's Birthday."

The first appearance of the term, "Presidents' Day," was in 1951 for the date March 4th, but Congress never approved it. However, the new name for the holiday was popularized in the 1980's, and it stuck.

Traditions

There are few traditions for Presidents' Day that people around the country follow. One is to eat cherry pie, because of the legend of George Washington chopping down a cherry tree. Many towns and cities hold parades to honor our first president. Washington's hometown of Alexandria, Virginia, holds a month-long tribute, and so does Laredo, Texas.

So, I hope you learned something new about President's Day. Don't forget to eat cherry pie!



Honoring the Proud Legacy of Black History Month



By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

February is Black History Month, also known as African American History Month. But why do we celebrate this – and why for a full month? How did Black History Month come about?

Negro History Week

The celebration of the history of African Americans started in 1926, with the creation of Negro History Week. This was celebrated in the second week of February, because it coincided with Abraham

Lincoln's birthday on the 12th, as well as the birthday of Frederick Douglass on the 14th. Lincoln, the 16th president of the U.S, was the one who abolished slavery in all parts of the country. Douglass was an important Black civil rights leader in the 1900's, an abolitionist, and a writer/orator.

Month-Long Extension

The celebration was then extended to a month with the proposal of Black History Month by Kent State University, in 1969. The first celebration took place at KSU the following year, from January 2nd to February 28th, 1970. By the time,



six years had passed, Black History Month was being celebrated across the country in community centers, educational institutions, and Black culture centers, both big and small. President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month in 1976 during the U.S. Bicentennial.

Around the World

Many countries around the world celebrate Black History Month. In 1995, Canada's House of Commons recognized February as Black History Month. In 2005, the Senate officially celebrated February as Black History Month. Black History Month was first celebrated in France in Bordeaux in 2018, and since then France, Guadeloupe, and a few other cities have followed suit. In 2010, Black History Month was started in Cork, Ireland. In 2020, seven African Countries celebrated the month, including Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire. In October 1987, Black History Month was first celebrated in London, United Kingdom.

So now you know the full history behind Black History Month. I hope you learned something new about this celebration. And when next February comes around, maybe you can take some time to remember all the ways that Black people play a crucial role in American history and culture.

The Story Behind Valentine's Day Colors



By Sofia Mendoza
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever wondered what Valentine's Day colors are? Well, I am here to answer that question.

Valentine's Day is a day of love, kindness, and especially hearts. It is also known as the Feast of Saint Valentine, who was a clergyman. His body was buried on February 14th which is Valentine's Day.



The color red represents passion, and lots of love. It also represents romance. Red is an eye-catching color because it is so bold and strong. It is also connected to prosperity. Pink represents love and innocence, and it looks great alongside red. It shows gratitude, compassion, and playfulness. Then white represents purity and innocence. It is good and soft, provides hope and purifies the mind. It is also an open-minded color. Yellow is the color of friendship. It could also mean a new beginning. Purple is another Valentine's Day color that represents being enchanted. Purple is also a royal color which means to treat your partner like royalty. If the colors were something else, what do you think that they

Skiing or Snowboarding?



By Max Weinfeld
Tusker Tribune Staff

Skiing is a popular sport that involves going down snowy slopes using pieces of wood attached to your feet. It has been going on for a long, long time and it is enjoyed by people of many ages.

Did you know that skiing dates back thousands of years with evidence of its existence in ancient paintings? It has more or less evolved over time and now consists of many types of skiing sports. For example, there is Alpine skiing, cross country skiing and freestyle skiing.

Then there is snowboarding. This sport is relatively newer and has gained popularity in the recent late 20th century. It involves the same things as skiing, like descending down slopes, but this time on a single board instead of two pieces of wood attached to your feet.



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The Stanley Quencher Craze: Is This Trendy Water Bottle Really Worth It?



By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff

It is impossible to not have heard of the Stanley Quencher by now. On TikTok, it has been extremely popularized by influencers and content creators. I personally see Stanley Quenchers all the time. But why is this water bottle so trendy? What makes it different from other water bottles? Is it overpriced?

The History of the Stanley Quencher

The Stanley Quencher has been around for over a century, the first Stanley being created by William Stanley in 1913. Before its rise to fame, the Stanley Quencher was marketed to workers and people who enjoyed outdoor activities. You're probably wondering how a cup designed for work and outdoor activities became something many people collect as accessories. Well, it started with three women: Taylor Cannon, Linley Hutchinson, and Ashlee LeSueur. These women are the founders of The Buy Guide, a shopping blog on Instagram.

One of the Buy Guide's first posts, back in November 2017, featured a picture of a Stanley Quencher. The caption of this post read "Of all the insulated cups... this is the one. Just trust." This post also highlighted all the good qualities of the Stanley, such as the fact that it's dishwasher safe, the handle, the ability to keep drinks cold for a long time, and the straw.

Once Hutchinson, Cannon, and LeSueur fell in love with the cups, their followers did, too. And that's when the Stanley Quencher trend started.

Why is this quencher so popular, and what makes it different from other quenchers?

Well, as I said before, the Stanley is dishwasher friendly, it's able to keep drinks cold for a long time, it has a handle, and a straw. A review from womenshealthmag.com said that it had very eco-friendly packaging. This review also said that "The Quencher is helping me stay super hydrated." But this review had something critical to say as well. The article said that "I am quite disappointed that the quencher isn't leak proof" and that "my bag had turned into a bit of a portable pond after carrying the cup in there, as I ran errands, which was annoying and will limit the amount I can take it out and about with me." But another benefit mentioned in this review is the Stanley Quencher's ability to keep drinks cold.

Stanley Quencher Health Concern- Does the Cup Contain Lead?

The answer is yes, according to homesandgardens.com, "the lead is in pellet form, used to seal the vacuum insulation at the bottom of the cup."



but "as long as your cup isn't damaged, the liquid inside your tumbler should not come into contact with lead."

People are Stampeding Target for a Stanley- is this Worth it for a Water Bottle?

Recently, Target and Starbucks collaborated. They made a new limited-edition Stanley Quencher, which lately has been so trendy, people

are stampeding Targets to get their hands on it. Literally *stampeding*. You would've thought this was preparation for an apocalypse, the way these people are acting!

There are many videos on social media about these stampedes of people rushing to get their hands on the quencher. In one case, the cups "sold out in less than four minutes" said TikTok user victoria_robino_26, who posted a video about it.

According to Deseret.com, "One TikTok video by whoslulugirl_2 shows the user waiting before 5 a.m. to grab a pink Stanley cup."

"In the TikTok, the user claimed that these specialty cups were 'literally gone in 20 seconds'" And these cups are selling and reselling for big bucks. After just a couple seconds on Google Shopping, I see a Stanley selling for \$109.95, and that's when it's on sale! And then one that's \$180! \$350!

So, what are your opinions on Stanley? Would you buy it, or do you think it's overpriced?

Sources:

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Skiing or Snowboarding?

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Snowboarding came from the sports of skateboarding and surfing. But it has its own unique style and tricks. For these sports require a lot of concentration, balance, coordination, and the love for adventure. They offer a great way to spend your winter breaks and give you time to spend with your family and others. Whether you choose to ski or to snowboard. Make sure you are wearing your proper safe gear and also remember to show off your cool skills and have fun.