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Winter 2024

'Hair's' an Electrifying Story!



By Aleah Joy Gosselin
Tusker Tribune Staff

Introduction

You've probably been shocked before. You know, the tingling feeling when you touch a metal doorknob or simply poke your friend after walking on carpet. But have you ever wondered why this happens?

The Science of Atoms

Everything is made up of atoms. Atoms are so small that you can't even see them with a microscope!!! Atoms have three "ingredients": protons, neutrons, and electrons. Protons are positively charged, electrons are negative, and neutrons are neutral.

Protons and neutrons are in the nucleus of an atom, so they cannot get out of the atom. Electrons, on the other hand, are outside of the nucleus of an atom, so they can move in and out of other atoms. An atom is neutral when there is the same number of protons and electrons. Everything in the world is neutral unless you make it charged. For example, if you walk on a carpet, the electrons in the carpet move into your body, so you become negatively charged.

Since your body is not used to being negatively charged, all it wants to do is get rid of the

extra electrons. Because of this, when you touch a metal doorknob after walking on a carpet, the electrons go into the doorknob and out of your body, resulting in a zap!

Van de Graaff Generator

In my science class, kids got shocks

(and messy hair) because of a Van de Graaff Generator

On top of the generator, there is a metal ball. Inside the ball there are electrons and protons. In the body of the generator there is a belt.

When the machine is plugged in, the belt starts rotating. As the belt rotates, it takes all the electrons from the top of the machine and brings them to the bottom, leaving the top with only protons. When something has more protons than electrons, it is positively charged.

The machine, like everything else, wants to be neutral, and since it's positively charged, it needs electrons to become neutral. When you get close to it, it takes the electrons from you, which is what causes the shock, or static electricity. When you touch it, the protons go into you and your electrons go into the machine, so you get positively charged. All your strands of hair get positively charged, causing them to repel and stick straight up!!!

Conclusion

Whether it be a Van De Graaff generator in science class, going down a slide, or a comb sticking to your hair, static electricity is a phenomenon we experience in our everyday lives.



Winter Break's Coming Up—Things to do IF You Get Bored!



By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff

A common thing for middle schoolers is becoming bored. This is a paragraph about how you can waste your time doing other things instead of being bored. By the way, watching TV and going on your phone are NOT good reasons.

There are various things you can do instead of staying on your phone or doing nothing. You can go outside and go on a walk, or you can go to the park. You can get a board game and



play it. There are various board games that you can play so you have options. They are called board games for a reason.

Another activity you can do is get the ingredients to make slime and you can make slime because it is incredibly fun and relaxing. You can spend time together with friends or Facetime them. You can play Roblox with your friends as well. You can do many things with your friends. There are so many things to do when you are bored!

The NBA All Star Weekend is Here!



By Sabeeka Mustafa
Tusker Tribune
Staff

This upcoming weekend is the electrifying NBA All-Star Weekend! But what is this infamous event of basketball?

Well, this is where the NBA gathers all the best players from different teams and separates them into two conferences, the Western Conference and Eastern Conference. Then the two conferences battle it out on the court.



There are also different competitions besides the match, like the skills competition, the dunk competition, and the three-point shooting competition.



So, who is going to be attending this thrilling event? The 51 basketball players who are going to be there are:

- LeBron James (i.e., King James)
- Stephen Curry (i.e., Chef Curry)
- Victor Wembanyama
- Luka Dončić
- Giannis Antetokounmpo
- Nikola Jokić (i.e., Joker)
- Kevin Durant
- James



Harden

- Joel Embiid (i.e., The Process)
- Tyrese Haliburton
- Shai Gilgeous-Alexander
- Kyrie Irving
- Jordan Poole
- Draymond Green
- Klay Thompson
- Anthony Edwards



- Damian Lillard (i.e., Dame Time)
- Kawhi Leonard
- Jayson Tatum
- Ja Morant
- Josh Giddey
- Zion Williamson
- Anthony Davis (i.e., The Brow)
- Pascal Siakam
- Cam Thomas
- Trae Young (i.e., Ice Trae)
- Devin Booker



- Paul George
- LaMelo Ball
- Russel Westbrook (i.e., Beast Brook)
- Chet Holmgren
- D'Angelo Russell
- Donovan Mitchell
- Alperen Şengün
- Rui Hachimura
- Jalen Brunson
- Brandin Podziemski
- Ben Simmons
- Jaime Jaquez Jr.
- De'Aaron Fox
- Jimmy Butler (i.e., The Butler)
- Chris Paul (i.e., CP3)
- Scoot Henderson



- Karl-Anthony Towns
- Zach LaVine
- Johnathan Kuminga
- Cade Cunningham
- Tyrese Maxey
- Miles Bridges
- RJ Barret
- Jalen Williams

Where is this happening, you ask? Well, it will be in Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis in the Lucas Oil Stadium. Point is, it's going to be spectacular, and everyone is

looking forward to it. In addition, it's actually three days long! Can you believe it? Only for a couple competitions and a game! I guess the players need time to recharge their system. I hope you found this helpful. Everyone enjoy the game!



THE Super Bowl QB



By Logan Ticker
Tusker Tribune Staff

Patrick Mahomes, the Kanas City all pro quarterback who has now won three Super Bowls, two of them in a row after he beat the San Francisco 49ers 25-22 in Superbowl 58.

Patrick Mahomes was drafted with the 10th overall pick in the 2017 NFL draft by his current team, the Chiefs. Mahomes had a successful col-



lege career playing at Texas A and M. His success also has carried over to the pro league and he has made four Super Bowl appearances in his young career. In the recent years, Patrick Mahomes signed a record-breaking contract that was worth around \$450 million for 10 years to extend his stay with the Kanas City Chiefs. The phenom quarterback was also a great baseball player in high school but decided to continue to play football at a higher level.

This QB has a bright future ahead of him.



The Underground Railroad



By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever heard of the Underground Railroad? And if you *do* know about it, do you know exactly how this was run, and how it's extremely important to the way we live today?

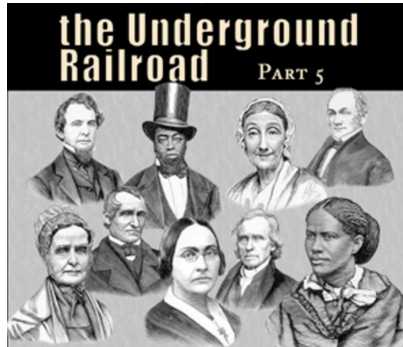
History

The Underground Railroad was "a network of secret routes and safe houses." ("Underground Railroad," February 9, 2024, Wikipedia) The goal of this "railroad" was to free enslaved people in the South by bringing them to the free North states or to Canada. The network was most active from about 1850 to 1860, bringing anywhere from 30,000-40,000 people. People involved in this important and sometimes dangerous mission were abolitionists, free slaves, and people who sympathized with the escapees' cause. The operation involved meeting points, safe houses, transportation, and secret routes.

Terminology

The Underground Railroad was not truly a railroad; it was a network of safe hiding places for fugitive slaves, as well as secret transportation routes. Nonetheless, the network was still referred to as a "railroad" what with trains being the main method of transport, and with journalists/newspapers popularizing the name.

The whole operation was in code, with news of it being spread only by word of mouth. People that guided slaves to freedom were called "conductors." Anyone who helped the fugitives find the Underground Railroad was known as an "agent." Safe houses and hiding places were "stations," or "depots." "Station masters" were the people who hid runaway slaves in their homes. The slaves themselves were referred to as "passengers," or "cargo."



People who were financial benefactors were called "stockholders." Because of safety reasons, people only knew their own role in the effort.

Conclusion

Without the Underground Railroad, our society would not be like the way it is today. First, many of the Black people we see today would probably not exist because their ancestors would have died in enslavement, instead of having a free family. Second, our country would not be the same, as the Confederates would most likely have stayed as their own country if we had just sat back and watched them do it. And third, well, who knows? If it weren't for Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, and the countless other people who had helped abolish slavery, we might still have it today.

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Special Thanks to Mrs. Astrologo for the fantastic dance photos!

Scenes from the 7th/8th Grade Dance



*Photos by
Cheryl
Astrologo*

Tuesday is Love Your Pet Day!



**By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Do you have any pets? If you do, on February 20th it's Love Your Pet Day! This holiday focuses on giving your pet a little bit of extra attention, pampering your pets, but also just spending time with them.

People like to give their pets treats, go on walks, practice their favorite commands, and play their pets' favorite games. If you don't have a pet, there is no need to fret! There are still many things you can do, like helping with a friend's



pet or visiting a shelter. Some people even like to celebrate this holiday with a stuffed animal by having a tea party or playing dress up with them!

This holiday is so you can appreciate your pet (or stuffed animal) for the things they do without you even realizing! According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) the bonds people have with their pets can increase fitness, lower stress, and bring happiness to their owner. So go to a pet store and buy your pets some yummy treats and spend some time with them, or hug your teddy bear, because on February 20th, it's Love Your Pet Day!

Skiing at Jiminy Peak



**By Cecilia Morrissey
Tusker Tribune Staff**

One Friday in February, I got picked up early and went home to pack for Jiminy Peak. I was going with some family friends, and I was so excited. Once we were done packing, we got in the car and were on our way for a two-hour drive. When we got there, we went in our room and looked around. My brothers headed straight to the bedroom and fought for the top bunk while I looked around the rest of the place. It was huge, with a big living room and a kitchen. Our friends were

not there yet so we kept looking around, fighting for beds, eating food, and waiting for our friends to come. When they got there, we all went crazy showing them around, telling them our plans, and telling them where they were sleeping. When they were done unpacking, we all played games with them until it was bedtime. We all went to bed. My brothers slept in the bunk beds, my parents slept on the bottom bunk and our friends' parents slept in the master bedroom while their two daughters and I slept on the couch.

In the morning, we all got ready super-fast so we could go skiing and when our parents were ready, we all went out to ski. My mom and my dad dropped my little brothers off at ski school because it was their first-time skiing. My family and I had never been to this mountain before, so we were overly excited to go skiing.

When we got to the top our friends kept on asking to go on Black Diamonds (expert) slopes, but my older brother and I had never been on Black Diamonds, so we were hesitant to go on one. But on our third or fourth run, we went on one. My brother went on a slope called Cutter and I went on one called Wild Turkey. It wasn't as hard as I thought. I was having fun going down the moun-



tain but then I fell hard and hurt my thumb. I couldn't put any pressure on it, but I kept skiing.

On the last day we all went skiing together. As we were going down a part, there was a Blue Square (intermediate difficulty) slope that was in the middle of two Green Circle (easy difficulty)

slopes in a wooded area. One of our friends went on it and I followed. It was a hard trail that you could barely see so I was following my friend but then she made a sharp turn and when I went to make the turn, I went sliding into a tree and banged my head and hurt my shoulder. There were no broken bones but it really hurt. I told my friends and I went back to

the room to lay down. I didn't ski the rest of the day, but before we left, we went on this roller coaster called the mountain coaster that went up the mountain and then down and the best part was that you controlled the speed. We walked over to the ride and got on. They told us the rules and then off we went. I went as fast as I could and then it ended. I was very sad. I didn't want to leave this amazing mountain that I could have all the fun I wanted to on, but I had to go back to school.

As we got in the car, we all talked about what we didn't do. We all agreed to come back next year. As we pulled out of the parking lot, I looked behind me, excited to come back to everything I missed.

The Tusker Tribune is the online Somers Middle School Student Newspaper. It is published weekly (except during school vacations) on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from:

**Somers Middle School
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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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<https://www.somersschools.org/Page/11489>

Snowy Thoughts



**By Laurel Knapp
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On February 13th, 12 inches of fluffy, white snow fell from the clouds. As I was looking at the winter wonderland of white outside my window, a few questions popped into my head. What was the biggest snowstorm in the United States? What is the largest amount of snowfall in an hour in the U.S.? What place in the U.S. gets the most snow? Why is snow white? So, I searched the internet, and what I found was quite interesting.

The Blizzard of 1888 was the biggest blizzard in the U.S. ever in history! The Blizzard of 1888 is the biggest, worst, and snowiest blizzard on record in the U.S. With unspeakably low temperatures, intense snowfall, and powerful winds many perished buried in snow.

In Copenhagen, New York, on December 2nd, 1966, 12 inches fell in a single hour. This makes sense because Copenhagen is near a lake, so they get a lot of lake-effect-snow. Lake-effect-snow is when cold air passes over a warmer body of water so clouds form, then the clouds grow, and finally heavy snow falls! Places like Buffalo, NY get a lot of snow because of lake-effect-snow.

Mount Washington, NH is the snowiest

place in the U.S.! A weather station on the mountain's summit reports 283.5 inches of snow per year. The enormous mountain reaches a height of 6,288 feet (about twice the height of the Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world), and the weather conditions are very extreme up there.

Snow is white because snow reflects all colors and does not absorb any. If an object reflects all colors, then it appears white; and if an object reflects no colors and absorbs all colors, then it appears black. But snow can appear distinct colors as well. Depending on if it is in the shadows and how the light hits it, snow can appear pink, purple, or blue.

Sites:

- <https://www.wunderground.com/cat6/the-blizzard-of-1888-americas-greatest-snow-disaster>
- <https://weather.com/science/weather-explainers/news/monthly-seasonal-daily-snowfall-records-united-states>
- <https://www.almanac.com/what-are-snowiest-cities-us>
- <https://scied.ucar.edu/learning-zone/how-weather-works/snow-white-maybe-or-maybe-not#:~:text=There's%20a%20scientific%20reason%20that,which%2C%20together%2C%20look%20white.>



Recess Should Be Outside!



**By Logan Ticker
Tusker Tribune Staff**

For almost all kids at the Somers Middle School, they look forward to their lunch and recess. It is a way to burn off energy and to clear your mind.

Recess is also a time to socialize with friends and enjoy some time outside. Scientific evidence proves that students are less fidgety and more attentive in class. Dr. Kenneth Ginsberg described that activity is essential for healthy brain development. Now that you know all the benefits, listen to this. Recently, at Somers Middle School, kids have been denied accessi-



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bility to go outside during recess. This could be because it might be easier to evade problems by simply forcing the kids into the auditorium. Many kids are upset with this decision.

We are appealing for the privilege of being able to play outside while we are at "Recess."

What is your opinion?

***Have a
Wonderful
Winter
Break!***

***—The staff
of the
Tusker
Tribune***



There's a lot to Like about FuboTV



**By Xavi Dosil
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I tried FuboTV out for six days and the service was incredibly amazing. I got Fubo just in time for the Super Bowl in case YouTube TV did not show it in 4k. It had lots of channels and features that other services that are overpriced do not have (DIRECTV, Stream).

The first massive feature it had was Multiview on Apple TV. I do have an HDMI Multiviewer but Multiview on Apple TV was outstanding. For example, it really has so much value when there are four sports games on at the same time. So say if there is an NFL Game on Fox and CBS while there is a Mets game on SNY and a WNBA game on ABC. You can watch all four of them at the same time.

Fubo also has Fanview. Just so everyone understands, Fanview is a feature for select sports that displays the game and player stats on the right while it has scores from all leagues on that day on the bottom. It only works for most big soccer games, some women's basketball games, men's college basketball games and all NBA, MLB, NHL and NFL games. In my opinion, Fanview can be ahead of the game action sometimes, but it is helpful to use when you know stats.

It also has lots of channels that some services do not have, such as MLB Network, NHL Net-



work, BEIN Sports, NBA TV and TUDN Xtra (note TUDN Xtra has all UEFA league games from ViX). Also, if you are a regional sports fan who prefers to watch Non-National games, then listen to them.

Fubo has Regional Networks like Altitude, Bally Sports, Marquee Sports, MSG, NBC Sports, Monumental Sports, NESN, Root sports, Space city home Network, SNY and Sportsnet Pittsburgh.

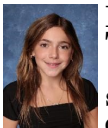
I know that there are some limited regional networks available in some places. But my recommendation from using Fubo a lot is to change the home zip code. It will show a thing saying it will change the RSN Fee, but when you are about to get billed, change the zip code to your local zip code.

There are three plans to Fubo. There is the pro plan for \$94 (80 without the rsn fee) that provides access to the RSNs listed, but it only has 4k from FOX. The elite plan costs \$10 more, but it has more 4k content on there from NBC and RSNs. And finally, the Premier plan for another \$10 more than the elite plan just has Showtime on there.

So, you may want to get it now but just understand this—if you watch anything (MLB, NHL, NBA, March Madness, USA Soccer) on Turner Sports, get Max for \$15. Soon, you will need to pay \$25 for the BR Sports add on which has Turner Sports on there. Also, Fubo does not have YES Network on there so you need the YES network directly to watch the Yankees.

That is what Fubo offers to customers. I would recommend subscribing to it if you are a big sports fan that needs the features Fubo has.

The Dwarves Who Stood Up to the Giant



**By Ila Schoenberg
Tusker Tribune Staff**

One bright and sunny day in a small cottage, a family of four lived. They were not an ordinary family. In fact, they were quite odd. They were dwarves. Which meant they were oddly small. That's why they lived in such a small cottage.

One day, the mother of the family went outside to pick her fresh vegetables from her garden. And suddenly, a HUGE giant appeared. The mother tried to dash away but with little legs like hers, she failed. The giant scooped her up.

The next day the father wakes up concerned, noticing his wife is gone. So, he goes on a mission to find her. He climbs, jumps, and swings desperately, trying to find her. He comes across a



dark alley. He slowly creeps in. And there he sees it. He looks up to see a HUGE castle triple the size of his small cottage. He walks and sees his wife trapped in a tiny box. He bangs on the box, knowing it could only be his wife. He then turns around to see the giant staring at him angrily.

The husband uses all his might to break the box open. He does it! He frees the wife and they run faster than ever. They somehow managed to get to

the door but it was locked. They run to the window and JUMP down. And they . . . land safely in a bush. The giant gives up and they make it home to their cottage. They meet with their children in a warm embrace. And they lived happily ever after.

A New York City Adventure



**By Olivia Ball
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Over the Superbowl weekend, I went to New York City with my mom. We had tickets to see Hamilton on Broadway



King Kong

from Christmas. I wanted to share my recommendations for your next trip to NYC, which is an easy trip from Somers.

To get there, we took the Metro north train. It was after school on Friday and the train was practically empty, which was surprising. It took about an hour to get to our destination, Grand Central Station, which is huge and has a lot of history, shops and places to eat.

We stayed at the Motto Hotel for the night. The Motto Hotel is in the Chelsea art district, which is on the west side of Manhattan. There are also a ton of flower shops in the neighborhood. The room we stayed in was comfy and modern, with a navy blue, gray and white design. We were on the 6th floor, so didn't have a great view, but could see some of the tops of the buildings. The hotel had a nice atmosphere and staff, with a restaurant and music in the lobby. They have lots of different rooms that are good for families, including a bunk room, so I would recommend it to others staying overnight in the city. It was also close to the subway.

For dinner, we went to a fancy



*Oscar Wilde –
Valentine
Bears 2*

steak place called Del Frisco's. The food was delicious! My favorite dishes were the wedge salad and meatballs. Once we finished, we decided to walk around Times Square. At night, it is beautifully lit up and the shops stay open late. There are lots of people dressed up in costumes taking pictures with tourists. We stopped at a few stores, including the M&M store and Line Friends, which has cool toys and products for kids.



*Oscar Wilde – Valentine
bears*



Outside view



Stage view

Oscar Wilde

The next day we went to a brunch place called Oscar Wilde. It was incredible! Since the Chinese New Year is in February, the restaurant was decorated with hundreds of red lanterns, dragons, and lucky waving cats throughout the place. Chinese New Year wasn't the only holiday coming up though, so Oscar Wilde was also decorated for Valentine's Day!

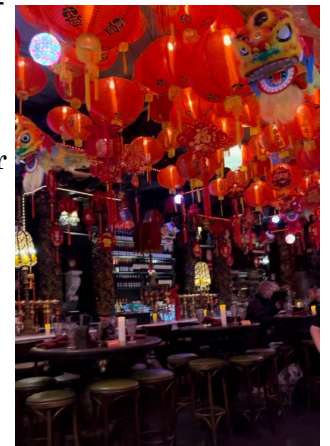
We sat in the teddy bear room. Teddy bears were hanging from the ceiling and walls with LED hearts or on swings hanging from the ceiling. The decorations were spectacular and so was the food. They have a special Valentine's Day tea menu, with macarons, sweets and tasty little sandwiches. If you take a trip to New York City, Oscar Wilde is the place to go.

Hamilton

After Oscar Wilde, it was time for the main event. Hamilton! I've watched the musical on Disney+ before, but never saw it in person. The theater was big and crowded. The show started and everyone went silent. Every song was incredible, but my favorite was "You'll Be Back". All the actors were enthusiastic and had great voices. Even though the king of England was despicable in real life, he was hilarious in the show. The actors even had rap battles. I'm not sure how they remember all the words, but the show was phenomenal! It was a fun way to tell the story of what happened during the revolutionary war. It was probably one of the best Broadway shows I've ever seen.

If you have already seen Hamilton and want to see another great Broadway show, I also recommend Wicked.

There are always lots of exciting adventures to experience in New York City for all ages. From museums and shows to restaurants and shopping or exploring a new neighborhood, there's a lot to learn and see. I hope this helps with ideas for your next visit.



*Oscar Wilde –
Chinese New Year*

Sports to the Max: The 2023 Commanders' NFL Season



By Max Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff

Going into the 2023 season, the Commanders had just come off an 8-8-1 record in 2022 under 3rd year head coach Ron Rivera and 2nd year general manager Martin Mayhew. In 2022, the Commanders started three different quarterbacks—Carson Wentz, Taylor Heinicke, and rookie Sam Howell. The Commanders got Wentz in trade with the Indianapolis Colts. Some of you might remember Wentz for his time in Philadelphia, where he won a Super Bowl and was the full-time starter for five seasons. After 2020, Wentz was traded to the Colts and then traded to the Commanders one year later.

In the 2023 offseason, the Commanders released Wentz, allowed Heinicke to walk in free agency and signed Browns quarterback Jacoby Brissett to compete with Sam Howell.

In the 2023 NFL draft, the Commanders most notably drafted Mississippi State Cornerback Emmanuel Forbes. They also hired former Chiefs offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy to replace Scott Turner.

Sam Howell beat Jacoby Brissett for the starting QB job. With guys like Terry McLaurin, Curtis Samuel, Jahan Dotson, Logan Thomas, and the running back duo of Antonio Gibson and Brian Robinson Jr, Howell had a solid supporting cast around him. Not to mention, he had the 7th ranked scoring defense from 2022 backing him up. Fox Sports had them finish 6-11 on the season.

Week 1 was at home against the Cardinals who were going into this game with a new head coach in Johnathan Gannon and a different starting quarterback in Josh Dobbs. The game was low scoring, but Washington ended up winning 20-16 to improve to 1-0.

Week 2 was on the road against the 0-1 Broncos. Washington was down 3-21 midway through the second quarter but put up 11 points before the 2nd half ended to make the score 14-21. They opened the 2nd half with a touchdown, making the score 21-21. Brian Robinson ran in two touchdowns, but the Broncos scored two field goals to make the score 35-27 Washington with 1:50 left on the clock. Denver forced a punt and on the last play of the game, the Broncos scored on a 50-yard Hail Mary touchdown to make the score 35-33. They were forced to go for the two-point conversion but failed to convert, winning the game for Washington. The Commanders improved to 2-0.

Week 3 was at home against the 1-1 Bills, and they were destroyed. The Commanders lost 37-3. Sam Howell got sacked nine times, threw four interceptions, and threw a pick six.

Week 4 was on the road against the undefeated 3-0 Eagles. The Commanders scored a touch-

down on the last play of the game and forced overtime at 31-31. Unfortunately for Washington, Eagles Kicker Jake Elliot booted the game winning field goal with four minutes left in overtime to put Washington at 2-2.

Week 5 was on Thursday Night Football at home against the winless 0-4 Bears. The Bears were on a 14 game losing streak dating back to the 2022 season. The Bears jumped out to a 17-0 lead and never looked back. Bears QB Justin Fields threw for 280 yards and four touchdowns while 230 of those yards and three of those touchdowns went to wide receiver DJ Moore. The Bears would end up winning 40-20, dropping Washington to 2-3.

Week 6 was on the road against the 3-3 Falcons. The defense shined in the 24-16 win, intercepting three passes, and recording three sacks on

Falcons QB Desmond Ridder. Washington improved to 3-3 with the win. Week 7 was on the road against the 1-5 Giants. It was a low scoring game for both teams, but my Giants pulled away with a 14-7 win. Howell was sacked six times in the game and had been sacked 40 times through seven games. With 10 more games to go, he was on pace to break the single season record held by Texans QB David Carr back in 2002 with 76 sacks. Washington dropped to 3-4 with the loss.

Week 8 was at home against the 6-1 Eagles. Washington lost 38-31 despite a 400-yard, four touchdown game from Sam Howell. The Commanders defense gave up four passing touchdowns to QB Jalen Hurts. The loss dropped Washington to 3-5.

Week 9 was on the road against the 2-6 Patriots. Washington would end up winning 20-17 thanks to a game winning interception by rookie Quan Martin. Washington improved to 4-5. Despite this, it would be the last win the Commanders had this season and the last for Ron Rivera as head coach.

Week 10 was on the road against the 5-3 Seahawks. Washington would end up losing the game by a last second winning a field goal by the Seahawks 29-26. The loss dropped Washington to 4-6.

Week 11 was at home against the 2-8 Giants. Washington would end up losing 31-19. The Giants forced six turnovers and the game winning pick six by LB Isaiah Simmons. They lost despite sacking Giants QB Tommy Devito nine times. The loss dropped Washington to 4-7.

Week 12 was on the road against the 7-3 Dallas Cowboys for the Thanksgiving game. The Commanders got blown out 45-10 in a game that would end up costing Defensive Coordinator Jack Del Rio and Defensive Backs Coach Brent Vieselmeyer their jobs. The loss dropped Washington to 4-8. Ron Rivera would then assume the role of Defensive Coordinator.

Continued on Page 4



Commanders

From Page 3

Week 13 was at home against the 8-3 Dolphins. The Commanders yet again were blown out, 45-15. The loss dropped Washington to 4-9, meaning that they failed to improve upon their 8-8-1 record from 2022 going into their bye week.

Week 15 was on the road against the 6-7 Rams. Washington would end up losing 28-20. Sam Howell got benched for Jacoby Brissett midway through the game after throwing for 100 yards, a touchdown, and an interception. Brissett would lead the team to two scoring drives, but they still lost. The loss dropped Washington to 4-10.

Week 16 was on the road against the 5-9 Jets. Sam Howell started the game but was benched for the 2nd game in a row. Washington led 28-27 with 5 minutes left in the game, but Jets kicker Greg Zuerlein kicked the game-winning field goal to make the score 30-28 Jets. The last second loss dropped Washington to 4-11.

Jacoby Brissett was named the starter for the team's Week 17 home game against the 11-4 49ers, but suffered a hamstring injury, thus Sam Howell was put back into the lineup. The Commanders got blown out 27-10. The loss dropped Washington to 4-12.

Week 18 was at home against the 11-5 Cowboys. The Commanders got blown out yet again, 38-10.

Overall, the Commanders finished 4-13. Head Coach Ron Rivera was fired on 1/8/24. General Manager Martin Mayhew became a team executive and the Commanders hired 49ers Assistant General Manager Adam Peters to be their new general manager. The team also hired Cowboys Defensive Coordinator Dan Quinn to be their new head coach. Quinn was the Falcons' head coach from 2015-2020. He helped lead them to one division title, two playoff berths, and an appearance in Super Bowl 51. He became the Cowboys defensive coordinator in 2021 and helped lead them to two division titles and three playoff berths with 7th, 5th, and 5th ranked scoring defenses from 2021-2023.

The team fired Eric Bieniemy and hired UCLA Quarterbacks Coach Kliff Kingsbury. Kingsbury was the Head Coach of the Cardinals from 2019-2022, leading them to a 28-37-1 record with one playoff berth. Cowboys Secondary Coach Joe Whitt Jr was hired to be the team's new Defensive Coordinator.

This Commanders team has a lot of holes on both sides of the ball. Let us start with the offense. Sam Howell had a very rocky season despite throwing for almost 4000 yards and 21 touchdowns. He threw a league leading 21 interceptions and was sacked a ridiculous 65 times. Although, in his first seven starts, he was sacked 40 times. In his last 10, he was only sacked 25.

The Commanders offense was very unbal-

anced though. They led the league in pass attempts but were dead last in rush attempts. This can be due to them always playing behind and being forced to pass but still, not good. They were 18th and 16th in passing yards and passing touchdowns respectively, but they were 30th in interceptions. The rushing offense was also 27th in yards and 15th in touchdowns, although Sam Howell accounted for 5 of the 14 rushing touchdowns on the season.

There were still some productive players on offense. RB1 Brian Robinson Jr had 1100 scrimmage yards and 9 total touchdowns. RB2 Antonio Gibson had 700 scrimmage yards and three total touchdowns as he took a backup role to Robinson. Tight End Logan Thomas had 55 catches for 500 yards and 4 touchdowns. WR1 Terry McLaurin finished with 79 catches for 1002 yards and four touchdowns. WR 2 Curtis Samuel finished with 62 catches for 613 yards and four touchdowns. WR3 and 2nd year man Jahan Dotson finished with 49 catches for 518 yards and 4 touchdowns as well. Now the defense.

The Commanders went from a 7th scoring defense to a 32nd in one year. This is with the same regime, coaches, and players. The biggest issue was the pass defense. Washington allowed the most yards, touchdowns, and intercepted the 5th fewest passes. The run defense was also bad as they allowed the 5th most rushing yards and the 6th most yards per carry. They also only recorded 8 interceptions and 39 sacks. The biggest reason for the Commanders regression on defense was trading former first round selections Montez Sweat and Chase Young to the Bears and 49ers, respectively. The two combined for 11.5 sacks through the first 8 games of the season, a stretch where the Commanders went an okay 3-5. Washington would go 1-8 and end their season on an eight-game losing streak after trading

those two guys. With their new clubs, Montez Sweat made the Pro Bowl for the Bears and Chase Young will play in the Super Bowl against the Chiefs.

The Commanders have the 2nd overall pick in the draft, and given Howell's terrible season, would be very inclined to draft a quarterback. The Bears have the first overall pick due to a trade with the Panthers last season and the Panthers' league worst 2-15 finish. The Bears have Justin Fields who they spent a 1st round pick on in 2021. It would be interesting to see what the Bears do. The Bears more than doubled their win count in 2023 so with that improvement, I do not believe the Bears will pick a QB.

The Commanders can have their pick of the QB litter if that is the case. The top five prospects going into this year's draft are Caleb Williams, Drake Maye, Jayden Daniels, Michael Penix Jr, and Bo Nix. We will see what the Commanders do in April.



Grammys Recap



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The 2024 Grammy Awards marked another milestone in the history of music recognition and celebration. The ceremony reflected the diversity and innovation widespread in contemporary music.

One of the defining features of the 2024 Grammys was the recognition of new, growing artists and genres, showcasing the eclectic nature of modern musical expression. From breakthrough performances in hip-hop and R&B to boundary-pushing experimentation in electronic and alternative music, the nominees represented a spectrum of voices pushing artistic boundaries.

The ceremony highlighted the music industry's ongoing commitment to inclusivity and social awareness. Several artists used their platform to

address pressing issues such as racial injustice, climate change, and mental health, emphasizing the power of music to provoke thought and inspire change.



In addition to honoring established artists for their contributions, the 2024 Grammys also served as a platform for newcomers to make their mark on the industry. Emerging talents received recognition for their innovation and creativity, signaling a promising future for the evolution of music.

Overall, the 2024 Grammy Awards encapsulated the vibrancy and diversity of the contemporary music landscape while reaffirming the industry's commitment to artistic excellence and social responsibility. As music continues to evolve and adapt to changing times, the Grammys remain a beacon of celebration and recognition for the enduring power of creative expression.

A World-Changing Invention: The Electric Car



**By Laurel Knapp
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Did you know that electric cars have existed as long as gasoline-powered cars? So, why haven't we been using them until recently? Electric cars do not need gas, so you can save more money in the long term. They also require fewer repairs, and they are more environmentally friendly. Or at least that is what they are now.

In the 1920s, electric cars could only reach speeds up to 20mph. Electric cars were rickety, did not have a good range, and were more expensive. But, when John Goodenough, Rachid Yazami, and Akira Yoshino invented the lithium-ion battery in the 1980's, the electric car became better, faster, and developed a greater range. If not for that, electric cars would still be what they were when they just started out.

Electric cars are not only awesome because they are fast and reliable, but they are extremely environmentally friendly. Electric Cars have lower emissions. Emissions are fumes that are one of the causes of climate change. To reverse the effects of climate change, more people need to switch over to electric vehicles. According to greencars.com,

"Simulations have shown that widespread EV adoption would aid in limiting global warming by at least two degrees Celsius, which would meet a target of

the 2016 Paris Agreement." The 2016 Paris Agreement is a document that states that some countries are going to try their best to stop and reverse the effects of climate change.

California

has seen the dangers of emissions and set in place the law that starting in 2035 all new cars sold must be zero-emission vehicles. Even though people could still drive their older gasoline cars, it is still a big step to reverse the effects of climate change. In California, hundreds of billions of dollars are being invested in zero-emission vehicles, and hopefully someday in the future there will be zero emissions.

The most successful electric car company is Tesla – named after the inventor Nikola Tesla. The first electric vehicle Tesla built was a Roadster. The Roadster is a shiny, all-electric sports car that costs a lot. The base model of a 2023 Tesla Roadster costs around \$200,000. When Tesla first started selling the Roadster to the wealthy, the customers started to post selfies with their fancy and expensive all-electric car, and suddenly everybody wanted one. Then, Tesla started to make less expensive electric cars, and people started to buy them. In fact, over 800,000 Model 3's were sold since it was built in 2017, making it the best-selling car in the world – each one helping us fight climate change.

