



The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Winter 2024

**DON'T
FORGET
TO SPRING
FORWARD.**

DAYLIGHT SAVING
TIME BEGINS THIS
SUNDAY,
MARCH 10



No Shortage of Impressive Accomplishments



**By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff**

March is Women's History Month! Yippee! This year, all the Grammy nominations for best pop solo performance were women! They were Taylor Swift, "Anti-Hero," Doja Cat, "Paint the Town Red," Miley Cyrus, "Flowers," Billie Eilish, "What was I Made For?" and Olivia Rodrigo, "Vampire." Today, we will learn about Susan B. Anthony, J.K. Rowling, Kamala Harris, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Susan B. Anthony

Susan B. Anthony was a women's rights activist back in the 1800s. Many of her seven siblings became activists for justice, too. She was born in 1820. She was raised as a Quaker and lived under the belief that everyone was equal under God. "That idea guided her throughout her life."



Inspired by Fredrick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison, Anthony became an abolition activist and spoke against slavery, even though many thought it was improper for women to give speeches in public. The first Women's Rights Convention in the United States was held in Seneca Falls in 1848. Anthony did not go, but her sister and mom did.

Anthony met her good friend, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, in 1851 and they both fought for women's rights for over 50 years. "Anthony gave speeches demanding that women be given the right to vote. At times, she risked being arrested for sharing her ideas in public."

Stanton and Anthony founded the American Equal Rights Association and became the editors of its newspaper, *The Revolution*. Their newspaper spread ideas of equality for women. Anthony also began to raise money for the newspaper.

Anthony was arrested for voting in 1872 and was charged \$100 for her "crime". This made people extremely angry. After many years of challenging work, the 19th amendment gave women the right to vote in 1920. Anthony died 14 years before the amendment passed, in 1906. It is a shame she died before she could see how much her hard work paid off, but she will never be forgotten.

J.K Rowling

J.K Rowling is extremely famous for writing Harry Potter, one of the most popular fantasy series ever. As of December 2023, "The Harry Potter series has earned an estimated \$7.7 billion in book sales revenue," according to gitnux.org. But before then, J.K Rowling was living in a state of poverty.

J.K Rowling had many jobs after graduat-



ing from university, such as working as a secretary and researcher. At that time, writing was much more a hobby than a career. She thought of Harry Potter while a train was delayed, writing her ideas on paper scraps. She taught in Portugal for 18 months (about 1 and a half years), while planning Harry Potter in her free time.

During her time in Portugal, she married television journalist Jorge Arantes in 1992 and they had a daughter, Jessica. The marriage ended quickly in 1993, and they separated. Rowling then settled in Edinburgh, Scotland with her baby daughter. "With no job, a divorce and now living in relative poverty, she felt her life had hit an all-time low."

She took a teacher training course while continuing to work on Harry Potter, and in 1997, Bloomsbury, a publisher, agreed to publish Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. Now, J.K Rowling is a billionaire and donates enormous amounts of money to charity. She is now married to her second husband and has 3 children.

Kamala Harris

Kamala Harris is vice president of the U.S.A. She was the first South Asian American, the first woman, and the first Black American, to receive this position. Harris has fought for the freedom to be safe from gun violence, the freedom to breathe clean air, and the freedom to drink clean water. Kamala Harris and Joe Biden have also passed an important gun safety law, kept unemployment low and repaired bridges.



Even before becoming vice president, Harris has fought for important causes. She was sworn into the United States Senate in 2017, where she provided rent relief, improved maternal health care, fought climate change, and fought hunger. She was also a national leader for LBGTQ+ rights movement in 2004.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg



Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an activist for women's rights, like Susan B. Anthony. She was born in 1933. She went to Harvard Law School, received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Cornell University, and got her Bachelor of Laws degree from Columbia Law School.

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Anticipation for What's Next for Shakira

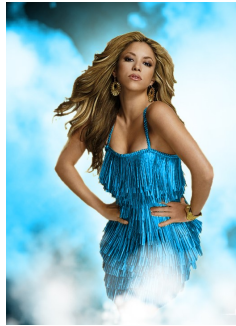


**By Vivian Hernandez
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Shakira is a very well-known famous artist known for her talent, songs, and acting skills but, besides all that do we really know Shakira and how her life was like before she got famous? Well, I will walk you down memory lane of Shakira's life as a child up until present day (2023.)

Shakira was born February 2nd, 1977. Her father's name is William Mebarak Chadid, and her mother's name is Nidia del Carmen Ripoll Torrado. Shakira was born in Barranquilla, Colombia. Her full name is Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoll. She was born as an only child.

At an early age, Shakira took an interest in belly dancing and started taking lessons at age



four. Then at the age of 10, Shakira had an interest in singing and took part in talent competitions. A local theatre producer saw her talent and helped her land an audition with Sony Corporation.

At the age of 13, Shakira released her debut album with Sony Music Colombia in 1990. Shakira originally recorded the song Donde Estas Corazon? as her very first song. Shakira's very first hit was Hips Don't Lie, which made it to the top spot on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. She also sang this song for the 2006 World Cup! After her hit song, Shakira became more popular and well known.

She has collaborated with various artists like Pitbull, Beyonce, Rhianna, and more! She even sang at the 2020 Superbowl halftime show with Jennifer Lopez! Her most recent song is "El Jefe" I can't wait to hear what other songs she releases! Break!

A Legacy That Inspires



**By Vivian Hernandez
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Selena Quintania was a renowned award-winning Latina recording artist. She was born April 16, 1971, and grew up in Lake Jackson, Texas. Her father originally created a family band, which he named "Los Dinos." They often sang at weddings in Lake Jackson and at the family-owned restaurant, Pappagallo.



Selena started singing at the age of eight and later became the lead singer of the family band. Selena started recording her own songs at the age of 12. Her first song was Se Acabo Aquel el Amor. Later, her first big hit Como La Flor, became popular throughout the Latino community.

Out of 22 entries, seven of her songs became No.1 hits and 14 climbed to the top ten of Latino Hits Billboard. Selena won her first Grammy in 1993. Her album, Ven Conmigo was the first Tejano record to achieve Gold Status. It sold more than 500,000 copies!

Over the course of her life, she won a total of 67 awards. One of Selena's many achievements that stuck out was that she won "Female Vocalist of the Year" at Tejano Music awards. She won the title from 1986-1996 starting at the age of 15! Sadly, at age 23, Selena Quintanilla passed away. The president of Selena's fan club, Yolanda Saldivar, shot Selena and she died in Corpus Christi, Texas, on March 31, 1995. Her death shocked many around the globe and she was mourned by millions of people.

Even though Selena's life was cut short, her story and life's work continue to inspire other young Latina artists.

Presented by Somers Middle School

DRAMA CLUB

Disney

Aladdin JR.

Music by Alan Menke
Lyrics by Howard Ashman, Tim Rice and Chad Beguelin

Based on the Disney Film written by Ron Clements, John Musker, Ted Elliott & Terry Rossio
and directed and produced by John Musker & Ron Clements

THURS MAR 21 7pm
FRI MAR 22 7pm
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Incllement weather date
Sun Mar 24 @ 2 PM

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Click below to see the cast of the play!

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Tomorrow is National Barbie Day



By Olivia Pelhank and
Maisie Pelhank
Tusker Tribune
Staff

National Barbie Day is a holiday tomorrow, March 9th. Many people choose to celebrate this holiday. You should come celebrate with us.

"We don't have anything planned. Just a giant blowout party with all the Barbies, planned choreography, and a bespoke song. You should stop by," --Barbie

About 90% of girls play or played with Barbies before. Barbies were created in 1959 by Ruth Handler. Barbie is 65 years old (we know, shocker) despite being born 19 years ago. So, she is 19, but she's 65?



To celebrate Barbie Day, people host huge parties or gatherings, just like Barbie! Or, if you were part of that 90% of people who played with Barbies as a kid, dig up some old Barbie dolls!

Barbie is known for pink! It has been associated with Barbie for a long time! Barbie even has her own Pantone color! However, Barbie didn't wear pink until well after she was created. She started wearing pink in 1970. Barbie's original outfit was a black and white bathing suit with stripes. She also wears her iconic high ponytail. That was declared "Barbie's Iconic Outfit". Sadly, they later changed it. Nowadays, Barbie has many different outfits you can buy. All sold separately! So come join us at a lovely celebration of Barbie Day on March 9th!

From Peach Baskets to Nets: A History of Basketball



By Julia Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff

One of the most popular sports in the U.S. is basketball. It all started back in the late 19th century when a physical education instructor named Dr. James Naismith wanted to create a new game to keep his students active during the winter months. He came up with a game that involved throwing a soccer ball into peach baskets. The game quickly gained popularity among his students and soon spread to other schools and colleges across the country.

As the sport evolved, new rules were introduced, and the peach baskets were eventually re-



placed with nets. Basketball's popularity continued to grow, especially with the establishment of the National Basketball Association (NBA) in 1946. The NBA showcased some of the greatest players in history, like Michael Jordan, and LeBron James, who helped popularize the sport even more.

Today, basketball is played at all levels, from neighborhood courts to professional arenas. Its fast-paced action, skillful plays, and thrilling moments have captured the hearts of millions of Americans. Whether you're shooting hoops with friends or cheering for your favorite team, basketball has become an integral part of American culture.

Accomplishments From Page 1

Being a research associate, co-founding the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, teaching law at Rutgers University and Columbia Law School, and being a judge for the Supreme Court is some of her many accomplishments.

Conclusion

In conclusion, there are countless women who have accomplished so many things, and our world would not be the same without them. It would take more than a lifetime to write about all the famous women who change our world. It is crazy to think that not that long ago, women did not even go to school and could only wear dresses. Look at us now, I am a girl who wears jeans, loves reading and is going to school. This is why it is so important to celebrate women's history even if it

is not Women's History Month.

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Getting Set to Wear Green

Are You Lucky?



**By Megan O'Reilly
Tusker Tribune Staff**

St. Patrick's Day has been around for many years. It is a noticeably big holiday for Irish people but now in 2024, most people celebrate – Irish or not. This article will be all about St. Patrick's Day.



This holiday originated in Ireland from the death of St. Patrick on March 17th in the 5th century. In the ninth and tenth centuries, Christians took the holiday as a feast for their religion. The first parade was in 1762 that took place in St. Augustine, Florida. This parade was not like any parade that we have now. It was much more formal and had to do with religion, not about celebration.

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A Celebration Rooted in Faith



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

With March here, so is the whimsical celebration of St. Patrick's Day, a fun ode to all things Irish! From shamrock shakes to leprechaun shenanigans, this day paints the town green with joy and excitement.

As the streets come alive with parades filled with dancers tapping their way through, and bagpipers serenading the crowd with their melodic tunes, one can't help but feel the infectious energy of the Emerald Isle. It's a day where everyone becomes Irish, donning their finest green attire, accessorized with lucky charms.



Continued on Page 5

Honoring St. Patrick



**By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Lots of fun things happen on Saint Patrick's Day. Leprechauns will come to your house and may mess it up or make some things green. Many people will also eat corned beef and cabbage on this day!



But do you know the truth behind Saint Patrick's Day? We started to celebrate this day in the year 1631. The church had established a big feast in honor of Saint Patrick. He was the Patron Saint of Ireland, and he died around the fifth century, 12 centuries before the modern version had first been observed.

Saint Patrick was born in Roman Britain but sadly, was later kidnapped and had been brought to Ireland at the age of 16 as a slave. Later, he escaped but then returned to Ireland and had been credited with bringing Christianity to the people.

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All About St. Patrick's Day



**By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Saint Patrick's Day is on March 17th this year, as it is every year. And although everyone celebrates by eating corned beef, and wearing green clothing, do you *really* know the significance of this holiday? Well, you are about to find out.

History

Saint Patrick's Day, or the Feast of Saint Patrick, is an official Christian feast day that started in the early 17th century. It commemorates the arrival of St. Patrick and Christianity in Ireland and is a celebration of Irish culture and heritage in general.

St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, as well as in the Canadian provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador, for government employees.

It is widely celebrated in many countries, however, including Australia, the UK, and the US.

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Food, Fun and Parades all Part of this Lucky Celebration



**By Tara Goodwin
Tusker Tribune Staff**

As we all know, St Patrick's Day is coming up. But do we all really know how St Patrick's day actually started? St Patrick's started in 1631. In honor of Saint Patrick, they named a holiday after him. It was originally a holiday for Christians, but then expanded to all over the world and different religions!

How many countries celebrate St Patrick's Day? More than 200 countries! Did you know it's a school holiday in Ireland? Lucky!

Some cool foods to eat on St Patrick's day are Irish stew, boxty, corned beef and cabbage, and fried cabbage. Some fun desserts to eat on St Patrick's day are Grasshopper Pie and Irish coffee cupcakes.

Some fun traditions to do on St Patrick's Day are wearing green, watching some Irish dancers, listening to some Irish music, and going to a St Patrick's Day parade. Some very crazy traditions



that some people do for St Patrick's Day are dying an entire river green! In Chicago they have dyed a whole river green since 1962. This year it will be on March 16th. They have super amazing parades near the river. In a parade there are Irish dancers, and some very cool Irish instruments. Some cool Irish instruments are spoons, and bagpipes.

How did the famous Leprechaun myth start? The Leprechaun myth started in the 8th century. Most of the time the Leprechauns stir up tons of trouble, like throwing toilet paper all over the place. The leprechaun in Ireland cannot see green so everyone in Ireland dresses up in green! Another cool myth of St Patrick's day is the sacred Shamrock. The Shamrock is also a symbol of Ireland, that is why the shamrock appears everywhere in Ireland, which is cool. "Shamrock" is a term that comes from "Seamrog", an Irish Gaelic term that means "little clover". The last fact about St Patrick's Day but the coolest St Patrick's day was originally associated with blue!

Honoring

From Page 4

There are lots more to learn about Saint Patrick's Day and why we celebrate this day, so if you would like to know more go to: <https://www.history.com/topics/st-patricks-day/history-of-st-patricks-day>

Lucky

From Page 4

This holiday has been turned into a fun and exciting holiday many kids look forward to. One change was a festive color that relates to this holiday. It used to be blue; now it is green. Another change was making the shamrock an Irish national plant to represent them.

In America, on March 16th when everyone is sleeping, the leprechaun comes with chocolates and more! Sometimes mine will bring green necklaces and glasses for me.

A tradition many people try is making leprechaun traps. Here are some tips and tricks for how to improve your trap.

Tips

- They love free gold.
- Lots of green – it is every leprechaun's favorite color.
- Four leaf clovers are their lucky charm.
- They love rainbows with gold at the end.
- One of their favorite foods is Lucky Charms cereal

Hopefully, these tips will help. I think they will since leprechauns are attracted to all those things. If I caught a leprechaun there could be so many things I would ask it. I would ask it for gold...but I do not think the leprechaun would give it to me. What would you do if you caught a leprechaun?

Faith

From Page 4

Whether you're sipping on a pint of Guinness or searching for that elusive pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, St. Patrick's Day is a time for laughter, camaraderie, and a spirited celebration of Irish culture.

But beyond the vibrant colors lies a deeper significance. St. Patrick's Day is a commemoration of Ireland's patron saint, St. Patrick, who famously banished snakes from the island and brought Christianity to its shores. Did you know St. Patrick wasn't actually Irish? It's also a celebration of Irish resilience, pride, and the rich tapestry of traditions that have woven themselves into the fabric of global culture.

Did you know 52% of citizens in Westchester are Irish?!

So, as you raise a glass to toast to the luck of the Irish this St. Patrick's Day, remember to cherish the spirit of unity, laughter, and the joy of embracing the playful spirit that defines this enchanting day.

Sláinte!

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<https://www.somersschools.org/Page/11489>

Frederick Douglass' Legacy Lives On



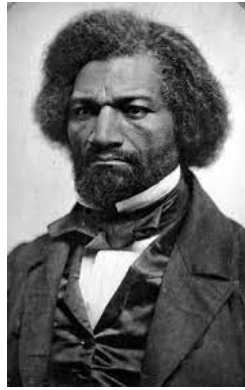
By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

February was Black History Month, and that is the celebration of all the Black people who helped to shape our American history and lifestyle. One of those people was Frederick Douglass, an important abolitionist and social reformer.

About

Frederick Douglass was born as Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, in February of 1817 or 1818. Since he was born into slavery, his exact date of birth is unknown, but he liked to consider it as February 14, 1817. He was born in Talbot County, Maryland, on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay.

When he was six years old, Douglass was separated from his family and sold into slavery. He switched masters multiple times, and finally was sent to serve Hugh and Sophia Auld by Hugh's brother Thomas. There, Douglass was properly fed, clothed, and had a bed with blankets to sleep in. However, because of her husband's influence, Sophia stopped teaching Douglass to read and write. In 1833, Thomas Auld took Douglass – who was 12 years old – back to punish Hugh and gave him to Edward Covey. Covey, a poor farmer whipped Douglass very often – so often that Douglass' wounds had little time to heal. One day, Douglass decided to fight back. At 16 years old, he won a physical confrontation, and Covey never tried to beat Douglass again.



On September 3rd, 1838, Douglass successfully escaped from slavery by means of rail and steamboat to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and then on to New York City.

Career

When Douglass arrived in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and then moved to Lynn in 1841, he changed his last name. As a slave, Douglass used his mother's surname, Bailey, but changed it to Stanley, and then to Johnson. But Johnson was a popular name in New Bedford, so he settled with Douglass at the choice of Nathan Johnson, a man who sheltered Douglass and other fugitive slaves. Douglass became a licensed preacher in 1839 and had many jobs at his African-American church, such as steward and Sunday-school superintendent.

Douglass also regularly attended abolitionist meetings, and was invited to give speeches throughout his life in churches, Underground Railroad stations, in public meeting places, and more. He also traveled to Ireland to give lectures and to speak out against slavery in Great Britain.

So now you know about Frederick Douglass' work to abolish slavery, and how he conquered his fear of public speaking to lecture many people about the importance of the anti-slavery movement. He helped during the Civil War, fighting for the Union, and overall was an important figure in Black history.

All About From Page 4

Saint Patrick

It is believed that St. Patrick was a 5th century Christian missionary and Bishop. It is believed that he was born into a wealthy family in Roman Britain. His father was a deacon, and his grandfather a Christian priest.

According to the *Declaration* – something supposedly written by St. Patrick himself – St. Patrick was kidnapped at the age of 16 by Irish raiders and was taken to Gaelic Ireland. He spent six years as a shepherd, and it was during that time that St. Patrick found God. The *Declaration* says that God told St. Patrick to escape to the coast, where a ship would take him home. When he got home, St. Patrick became a priest. According to tradition, he returned to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity. He spent many years evangelizing in the northern half of Ireland, and during that time he converted thousands. It is believed that St. Patrick died on March 17th, and that he was buried at Downpatrick. Celebrations

St. Patrick's Day celebrations usually include parades, traditional Irish music festivals, and wearing green clothing. Shamrocks are also

important, because it is believed that St. Patrick used a shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity when he was preaching in Ireland. The parades started in North America in the 18th century and spread to Ireland in the 1900's.

Since 2010, famous landmarks such as the Sydney Opera House have been lit up green for St. Patrick's Day. Over 300 sites in 50 countries around the world follow this tradition. It is also customary for people to place a shamrock at the bottom of a cup, and then to fill it with whiskey or ale and drink it.

So now you know about the history of Saint Patrick's Day, who Saint Patrick was, and what he did. Don't forget to wear green and eat corned beef on St. Patty's Day! (And let's hope to find a four-leaf clover).

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The Tusker Tribune
SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Rats are Cooler Than You Think



**By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I know what you're thinking. "No, rats are disgusting." And I can't blame you. According to ncbi.nlm.nih.gov, "During the 14th century, the bubonic plague or Black Death killed more than 1 third of Europe or 25 million people." And the Black Death spread from fleas travelling on rats. And rats are considered disease spreading, disgusting, and get a bad rap. But believe it or not, rats can be helpful in many cases.

Pet Rats, or Fancy Rats

You heard me right, pet rats exist. Brown and black rats both originate in Asia, and they got to Europe, Egypt, and other places on trade boats, most likely. Black rats got to other places as early as around 3000 B.C., while brown rats arrived in Europe around a millennial later, in 1727 A.D.

During the 1840's, rats were such a problem, people had to hire rat catchers, and the rat catchers got a lot of money for doing their job. They also sold rats. Back then, a popular game involved trained dogs killing rats and people placing bets on how many rats a dog could kill.

This was the start of rat domestication. But people didn't keep rats as pets; they were only used for rat baiting, the popular game I mentioned before. We have modern pet rats today because of rat catcher Jack Black (Not the actor), who was famous for his rat poison and ability to catch rats. He was the Royal Rat Catcher for Queen Victoria. Although Black sold rats for rat baiting and poisoned them, he kept some rats and sold them as pets. Because of him, pet rats became



trendy, but the trend died until the 1970's. Now we have pet rats, which are cute.

How Rats Can Help Humanity— Locating Dangerous Bombs

In Mozambique, a south-eastern country in Africa, there are lots of landmines that pose a threat to people. The landmines were placed during Mozambique's Civil War, and although the war ended in 1992, not all landmines have been defused. But bombs are being located and defused every day, thanks to rats and their trainers. Rats are highly intelligent, and can solve puzzles, do mazes, and much more. This allows people to train them to

sniff out bombs.

This is how it works- a rat and some trainers go to an area of land. The rat sniffs around, while the trainers watch its every move. Once the rat detects a bomb, it is dug out very carefully and a trained professional defuses it. These little heroes are perfect for this job because since they are so small, their weight will not set off the bomb.



Magawa, who died recently in 2022 at the age of 8, is one of the most famous hero rats ever. During his career, he sniffed out dozens of landmines. He was the most successful rat at his organization, Apopo. ("Anti-Persoonsmijnen Ontmijnende Product Ontwikkeling," or in English, Anti-Personnel Landmines Detection Product Development") R.I.P., Magawa.

A Rat's Intelligence

You would be surprised to hear that rats are extremely intelligent. Oftentimes, rat owners get their rats to do little puzzles or mazes, and the rats are always able to complete their task and get a food treat as an award! According to dewdneyvet.com, rats can sometimes be as smart as dogs! You can also train rats to do tricks, just like how you can train a dog. According to four-paws.org, "if a fellow rat dies after eating a food, the dish will be avoided by other rats." Rats also enjoy socializing with other rats. Furthermore, rats even clean themselves and others, in terms of cleanliness, rats are close to cats. And as I said earlier, they can be trained to sniff out dangerous explosives.

Conclusion

In conclusion, you may have been surprised at the knowledge in this article but [maybe your](#) opinion on rats has changed. Would you get a pet rat? Do you like rats now, or has your opinion stayed the same?



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End of an Era: Jason Kelce Hangs Up His Cleats



**By Cole Dolan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

After 13 seasons of anchoring the Philadelphia Eagles' offensive line, Jason Kelce has announced his retirement from the NFL.



thought he would be the best center in the NFL 13 years later.

Jason went on to play all of his 13 seasons with the Eagles, and better yet, he has the record for most games started for the Eagles (145 games started).

Jason is one of the 50 players to make six first team all-pro and seven Pro Bowl selections. He won one Super Bowl and he even played against his brother in the Super Bowl that they lost.

Jason has had many accomplishments throughout his career, and I believe that Jason's next accomplishment will be the NFL Hall of Fame.

Jason is arguably the best center to play the game and he did not have an easy time getting to that status. Kelce was a walk-on at the University of Cincinnati as a linebacker. Then he eventually switched to offensive lineman and was drafted in the sixth round by the Philadelphia Eagles. No one

Supporting Homeless Veterans in New York City



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

In 8th grade ELA classes, we are learning about Human Rights issues all around the world. We were put into groups and given an issue to research based on our interests.

My group was originally given Homelessness in NYC as our topic, but after talking to a teacher, we decided we wanted to raise awareness for homeless veterans instead.

Raising awareness for homeless veterans in the United States is extremely important. These are people who served our country in the military but now don't have a place to live. Many of them struggle with things like finding jobs and getting

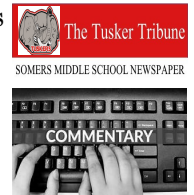


the help they need, as well as being able to afford nutritional meals. By spreading the word about this issue, we can help these veterans get the support they deserve. We can talk to our friends and family about it, share infor-

mation on social media, or even volunteer at organizations that help homeless veterans.

It's important to remember that these veterans made sacrifices for our country, and now it's our turn to support them. With more awareness, we can work together to make sure homeless veterans get the help they need to rebuild their lives.

Did you know that over 1 million veterans in 2022 were considered to be living in poverty?



SMS INTERNATIONAL CLUB IS HAVING ITS 4TH ANNUAL PULSERA PROJECT SALE MARCH 11- MARCH 25

We've raised over \$6,000 for the communities that The Pulsera Project works with in Nicaragua & Guatemala. Join us in making this year's sale another success!



Yes, There is Such Thing As a Quokka



**By Olivia Ball
Tusker Tribune Staff**

You're probably wondering what a quokka is. I didn't know what it was until a few days ago. They look like a mix between a kangaroo, capybara, and a koala.

If you love any of these animals, you'll love quokkas, too. A quokka's life span is about 10 years. If you ever see a quokka in person, **do not** pet it. They can easily get diseases and are already endangered. Only 7,500 to 15,000 quokkas are left in the world due to deforestation.

Quokkas were first discovered by explorers in the late 1600's in Australia. The explorers thought the quokka was a very big rat and didn't take much notice. Quokkas are closer to the size of a cat than a rat.



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Children's Sports Funding Should Be a Priority



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Funding children's sports is an essential aspect of helping physical, mental, and social development among young individuals. Sports programs offer a platform for children to engage in regular physical activity, promoting healthier lifestyles and reducing the prevalence of obesity and related health concerns. Additionally, participation in sports instills invaluable life skills such as teamwork, discipline, resilience, and time management, which are crucial for personal growth and success.

Investing in children's sports contributes significantly to their social well-being by fostering friendships and a sense of belonging. Through interactions with coaches, teammates, and opponents, children learn effective communication,



conflict resolution, and the importance of diversity, laying a strong foundation for building interpersonal relationships later in life. According to a study conducted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, individuals who participated in sports during childhood are more likely to continue being physically active into adulthood. This sustained engagement

in physical activity contributes to better overall health and a reduced risk of chronic diseases later in life.

Beyond individual benefits, investing in children's sports has broader societal impacts. Engaging in positive activities reduces the likelihood of children engaging in risky behaviors and helps in community cohesion, pride, and economic growth through increased tourism and local business support.

Quokkas From Page 8

Quokkas also have some of the same qualities as bats. Like bats, quokkas sleep with their heads upside down, but they don't hang from trees or caves like bats. They tuck their heads between their legs. Another quality they share with bats is that they are nocturnal, which means they sleep during the day. Quokkas feed at night to avoid predators. Most predators feed at dusk and dawn, so they can have a variety of prey to choose from, so being awake at night helps them avoid common predators.



The quokka's main predators are dingoes and birds of prey. Quokkas don't have particularly good defense, so quokkas try to avoid predators as much as possible. Believe it or not, quokkas also share a quality with giraffes. When quokkas and giraffes eat, they chew with their flat molars. When a quokka swallows, the food comes right back up. This is called regurgitation. Giraffes also regurgitate their food before swallowing for the final time.

Quokkas have two stomachs, which helps them absorb nutrients. Since quokkas are herbivores, their main food sources are different types of grass and leaves. Quokkas' babies are called joeys and mother quokkas have pouches to carry them just like kangaroos.

A sad fact about the quokka is that they sacrifice their joeys, so they can escape danger. If you go to Australia, be on the lookout for these adorable fuzzy creatures.

A Guide to Soccer Rules



**By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Soccer is a very interesting and fun sport, but it also comes with many rules. Here are some rules that you should know before you decide to start playing.

One rule is that when you make a throw in when the ball goes out, you have to keep your feet down and they cannot come off the ground. If you make a throw in with your feet up, the other team gets the ball, and it is their throw-in.

Another rule is that when you go behind the other team's defense without the ball, it is called offsides and the other team automatically gets the ball.

Another rule is that you cannot use your hands to push people. If you do, it is called a foul and the other team automatically gets the ball, and it is a free kick.

When you push people, it has to be with your shoulder or elbow or else it would be a foul. Next, a rule is that if you foul someone in the goal box, it would be a penalty kick for the other team, and they get to get a free shot on the goal with just the goalie trying to stop the shot.

A final rule is that when you shoot the ball, and it goes out on the sides of the goal, the defense or goalie has to do a goal kick and try to get it as far as possible.

That's it for now, but I hope I have taught you a little more about soccer and I've encouraged you to play!

Basic Rules of Soccer

- Each game begins with a **kickoff** at the center of the field.
- After a goal is scored, play resumes with a **kickoff** at the center of the field.
- After a ball crosses a sideline or end line, play resumes with either a **throw in**, a **corner kick**, or a **goal kick**.

