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Spring 2023

Arbor Day: 'Tree-t' Trees Nicely!



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

What is Arbor Day? Arbor Day is a day of observance in which people and large groups are encouraged to plant trees. Arbor Day (Friday, April 28th, 2023) is celebrated as a holiday in many countries. The holiday is normally observed in the spring, but the

date can sometimes vary depending on climate and suitable planting conditions.



Arbor Day originated in Nebraska City, Nebraska. The idea came from the pioneers. As the

pioneers began moving into Nebraska Territory, the lack of trees impacted them deeply. They were left without the trees needed for windbreaking (to keep soil in place) and for fuel and materials. The first celebration date was set for April 10th, 1872. Prizes were offered to families who had the largest number of trees on their property. It's estimated that more than 1 million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

Arbor Day is often celebrated by planting new trees and/or flowers and caring for them. It is also celebrated in classrooms by learning about the importance of trees and our ecosystems.

Computer-Based State Exams Come to SMS



By Amber Sinagra
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever taken the State Tests electronically? Well, this year we must take the tests electronically.

As a student who has taken the state test multiple times, I have always taken them on paper. I feel that taking the state tests on paper is a lot easier than taking them electronically because you can erase and go back to question.

Yes, the electronic test allows you to go back, but it doesn't allow you to write neatly because you must use your figure instead of a pencil or stylus. I think that doing the tests electronically will be such a different experience for many people due to the fact that this is the first year that we are doing it online.

Most of the time when I write things, I like to do it on paper because it helps improve my handwriting and it's just easier. Each year we always have math and ELA tests to take. Luckily these tests are optional. Sometimes, I like taking the test but other times, I do not.

So, have you ever taken the State tests electronically?



Weekly Book Recommendation: The Honest Truth by Dan Gemeinhart

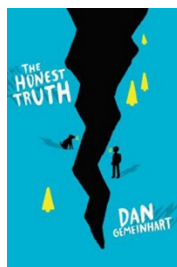


By Anna Huber
Tusker Tribune Staff

Now that we are back from spring break, it's time to get into the habit of reading again! So, to get you out of a reading slump, read The Honest Truth by Dan Gemeinhart!

The Honest Truth tells the story of Mark, a 12-year-old child. Mark has grown up among hospitals and treatments. Thus, when his cancer returns, Mark just has one thing on his mind: hiking Mount Rainier with his loyal dog Beau.

Throughout his journey, he looks for a way to grant his last wish. When he learns that everything worth living for has been abandoned at home, 200 miles away, it is too late to turn back.



This book has some great themes such as friendship, death, ambitions, loyalty, and so much more. One of the things I love the most about this book was how descriptive it is, with many sensory details that allow you to envision everything that is happening.

A few quotes from the book:
"Here's what I don't get: why giving up always sounds good until you do it."

"I loved the watch until I started hating time. And how it ran out."
"I didn't say anything. Sometimes even the right answers sound wrong if you don't like the question. That's the truth."

So, what are you waiting for? Get to reading The Honest Truth by Dan Gemeinhart!

Zoo Trip Was a Blast (Despite the Blasting Heat)



By Victoria McGee
Tusker Tribune Staff

As you may already know, the 7th graders went on a field trip last Friday April 14th to the Bronx Zoo. Everyone had such a fun time.



Here are a few opinions from my friends on how they think this trip was. First is me: I think this trip was so much fun. The weather was hot, but it was still an enjoyable experience. I loved that we got to see many animals and I got to hang out with my friends, which was really fun.

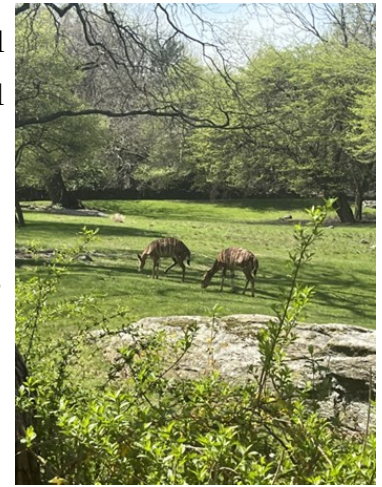
My chaperone was so kind. Thank you Mrs. Bergin for being an amazing chaperone. My friends and I

had a great time together.

Now, let's get Isabella Miele's perspective on how the trip was: "I loved hanging out with all

my friends. Even though the weather was burning hot, I still had an amazing time. I loved spending it with all my friends and I made so many great memories." I agree with Isabella so much.

Let's see how Giuliana Valenza enjoyed it: "This trip was so fun! I loved seeing the animals and hanging out with my friends. Despite the hot weather it was such a fun time, and I can't wait for the next trip."



As you can see, we all enjoyed it so much. It was so fun making memories with my friends. We are all excited for the next trip. That's it for now! Bye!

7th Grade Bronx Zoo Trip Was So Awesome!



By Alexa Ernst
Tusker Tribune Staff

The Bronx Zoo is a huge chain of zoos in the five boroughs of NY City. There's the Bronx Zoo and the Central Park Zoo and the Queens Zoo and the Prospect Park Zoo.

We went to the Bronx Zoo. The exhibits were so cool! I loved seeing all the animals in the exhibits so they were shown on displays



with others. Some exhibits were closed but that didn't stop all the others. I can't wait to go back.

I saw all different kinds of animals with my friends. The drinks were a little over-priced but if you pay for a reusable cup, I think you will be set for the rest of the day.

The animals were so cool! My friends and I were so excited for this

trip and I can't wait for the next one!

The Butterfly Gardens were so beautiful, and the African Vibes were amazing. This trip



overall was a nine (out of 10)!

I wonder what the next trip will be? I will so be going. This would be a fun experience to go with friends and family!

I wonder how the animals are doing. Maybe I should stop and say hey! (Lol just kidding!) but it's a wonderful experience and the workers

take their time to explain the animals to you and the staff in the restaurant are sweet and helpful. They are amazing for all the hard work they do.

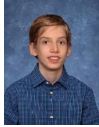
If you want to learn more about the Bronx zoo, the website link is <https://www.wcs.org/parks> and there is a show called "The Zoo" about all of the zoos in the chain.

Signing off!

—Alexa



The Sketchy Company Responsible for the East Palestine Derailment



By Lenny Novichenko
Tusker Tribune Staff

On February 3rd, 2023, a cargo train carrying five tanker cars of hazardous vinyl chloride derailed in East Palestine, Ohio. This incident brought transportation safety into the spotlight and prompted questions about rail company safety policies and government regulation.

The company responsible for the derailment is Norfolk Southern, which, surprisingly, isn't even the most dangerous railroad company in the U.S. That title goes to Union Pacific, but they're a topic for another article.

Norfolk Southern has quite a record of chemical spills. According to the National Transportation Safety Board, on average, the company experiences 2.9 hazardous materials releases per year, and about 163.6 derailments per year. The company's hazardous materials releases include a train departing an unloading area while still connected to a hose pumping a dangerous chemical, or when one of their trains derailed and spilled 30,000 gallons of petroleum.

One incident in 2005 involved two Norfolk Southern trains crashing into each other and derailling, which released toxic chlorine gas, also used as a chemical weapon in World War I. This horrific accident killed 10 people and injured more than 250. Since the year 2000, the company has paid \$21,926,849 in fines for environment related offenses, \$14,336,214 for safety related offenses, and \$31,908,521 for employment discrimination.

nation.

In addition to all this, five lawsuits have been filed against the company since the East Palestine derailment. These lawsuits allege that Norfolk Southern was negligent and careless while transporting the hazardous vinyl chloride, and that it withheld information about the crash from residents of East Palestine.

Workers rights organizations have also been very outspoken about the company. The Ohio Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way states that the company did not provide proper PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to workers and laid off workers in the name of cutting costs while disregarding safety. The company also has very bad employee reviews on Indeed, with people calling the company a "Clown house" and a "terrible place to work."

Railroad unions say that risky practices such as unsafe numbers of train cars, too many layoffs of essential personnel, and insufficient on-the-job training, contributed to the derailment.

Luckily, after the massive backlash caused by the East Palestine Derailment, the CEO of the company apologized several times, and the company has paid \$21 million to help with relief efforts in Ohio.

There is new legislation being proposed in Congress that will tighten safety protocols. It is supported by unions and worker's rights groups, since it will mean that employee safety and well being will be more protected. There is still a long way to go, though. Norfolk Southern and other railroad companies have lobbied extensively against safety legislation, and it is uncertain that these new safety laws will pass in Congress.



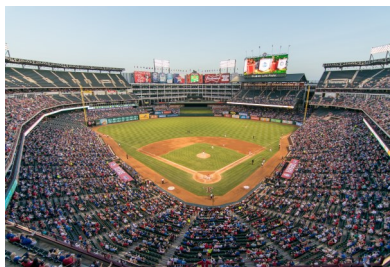
A Brief History of Baseball



By Madison Kaplan
Tusker Tribune Staff

Baseball was created using versions of older ball and bat games already being played in England in the 18th century. The game was brought by immigrants to North America, where the new version was created. By the late 19th century, baseball was known as the national sport of the United States.

How is baseball played? Baseball is played with a wooden bat, and a baseball (circumference of 9 inches). The game is divided into nine different innings. During the top (first half) of the inning,



the players from one team step up to bat. During the bottom of the inning (second half) the other team steps up to bat. Each team bats until three players get out.

There are nine players on the field playing defense at all times. These positions are, the pitcher, catcher, first baseman, second baseman, shortstop, third baseman, and the outfielders.

Where is baseball played?

Baseball is mostly played professionally in the United States but it is also played in Japan, Korea, Canada, Mexico, and many other countries.

Monday's the Last Day to Get Your Pulsera!



**By Ashley Contreras
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Last year, the International club sold pulseras (bracelets) to everyone in the school and donated the money to people in Guatemala and Nicaragua.

From all the sales, the International Club was able to raise over \$2,000 towards people in Guatemala and Nicaragua. That amount of money could make a huge difference to several people's lives. This year, pulseras are being sold at \$7 each. Unfortunately, all of the bolsos (bags) are sold out.



You can purchase Pulseras in room 237 or room 240 during WIN. Cash sales only. Sales will run from April 11th to April 24th, which means that sales are almost over. So, get a pulsera while you still can!

We hope to sell every single pulsera we have. Just by buying one you can help make a difference to people who don't have a lot of money to feed themselves or their families. Also, all of the pulseras are very colorful, vibrant, and make good accessories. So why wouldn't you buy one?

We Only Have One Planet—Let's Celebrate It!



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Earth day is an annual event on April 22nd. This year Earth Day is tomorrow (April 22nd). The day shows support for environmental protection. The first ever Earth Day took place on April 22nd, 1970. The day now a wide range of events coordinated by different organizations. Each Earth Day is given a theme. The theme for 2023 is **Invest in Our Planet**. Did you know there is a flag for Earth Day?



How can you help our environment on Earth Day and every day? One thing you can do is reduce the amount of trash you produce. To do this you can use reusable items or remember to recycle certain items. Avoid throwing away containers and bring your lunch in a reusable bag.

Another way to help the earth is by simply planting something. A tree or a few always makes the most impact, but you can also plant some flowers! Any plant is better than no plant at all. Lastly, you could walk around your neighborhood or on a near by road and pick up any trash you see. Happy Earth Day!

This is Why We Should Take Care of Our Earth!



**By Madison Kaplan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Why should we take care of our earth? Earth is our only home. We should protect it. Due to global warming (and other things), our earth is slowly dying. We won't live to see it, but future mankind will.

There is currently a huge hole in our ozone. But what is an ozone? The earth's ozone is a layer in our stratosphere (in the atmosphere). This layer protects us from the sun's harsh UV rays. In Antarctica, this hole in the ozone affects sunlight and the melting icebergs.

Reducing, reusing, and recycling are very important steps to take to keep our earth alive.



Reducing helps limit the amount of waste we as humans make. You can do this by reducing your plastic waste and reducing the use of other harmful things for the environment. Reusing helps eliminate the waste of things you can use repeatedly. You can help by replacing plastic with reusable alternatives. Recycling helps take the (plastic, cans, etc.) items you own and make

them into something new instead of throwing them into the ocean or on a landfill.

Another way to help the earth and its environment is by limiting your litter and using items that will end up in landfills. With less waste for animals to eat the less they will die and the more intact the food chain stays.

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