



The Tusker Tribune

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NEWSPAPER CLUB
TUSKER TRIBUNE

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue Number 32

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Spring 2023

Somers Fire/EMS Annual Visit to SMS Health Classes



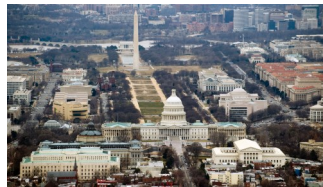
Somers Fire Department Volunteers paid a visit to SMS health classes, enabling students to learn about the FD's role in rescue and emergency medical situations. The visits serve to possibly get kids to volunteer in the future, when they turn 16.

This Was a Trip to Remember!



By Lenny Novichenko
Tusker Tribune Staff

The 8th grade trip to Washington D.C. was a very unique and exciting experience for us 8th grade students. It was the farthest and longest school trip that we have ever gone on, and the first school trip where we stayed in a hotel. We visited many interesting places, we learned a lot of new things, and most of all, we had a lot of fun. We will definitely remember this trip for many years to come.



Although the trip started on May 17th, I will start my narrative from way back in September. For the first time in three years, it was announced that the eighth graders will go on the Washington D.C. trip. We felt very lucky to be going on the trip, especially as the previous eighth graders did not get to because of COVID. This excitement ended abruptly as soon as the cost of the trip was announced. There was much debate among students whether the hefty \$800 per student price tag was worth it. Most of us scowled at the thought of going on the trip (was it really worth that much?), but in the end, I think almost all of us secretly asked our parents to sign us up.

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SMS's STAR Students For May 2023

Grade 6:



Leila
Herrera

Grade 8



James
McLeod

Grade 7:



Cash
Nyikos



Millie
McCormack



Sophia
Borrelli

A STAR award stands for STudents who Are Role models. The students pictured here were caught doing something that deserves the STAR recognition for the month—from common courtesy, to helping another student or staff member, to standing up for someone or cheering them up!

Washington From Page 1

Flash forward to May of this year. Excitement was buzzing. We had an assembly where we learned more about the trip and what rules we had to follow. Later, the lists with our chaperone and room assignments were posted. This caused a burst of activity in the eighth-grade hallway. Kids were very eager to find out what students and teachers they would have to spend 62 hours with. Some were elated, while others were disappointed.

The days before the trip, we hardly learned anything new, since the teachers were busy answering our questions about the trip (they were mostly pointless questions; we were mostly trying to avoid work). On May 16th, we packed our suitcases (a bit too much) and went to bed to get a good night's sleep (hopefully).

The next day, we woke up before 5:00 in the morning to make some last-minute preparations. We put on our red Somers shirts and got driven to SMS. There, we hugged our parents and headed to the cafeteria to get our bags checked. After Mr. Panetta confirmed that I had no contraband, I found my group members, and we chatted happily amid the noisy crowd of both hyper and tired kids. Then it was time to board the buses. A friend and I found some suitable seats, negotiated window seat privileges, and settled down. After a few minutes, we finally left the middle school, accompanied by our clapping and cheering.

I opened up my book and started reading. The next three or so hours were rather uneventful. I read, ate chips, played Uno with my friend, stared out the window, and ate my lunch (more of a second breakfast). Some highlights of this trip



were the Spirit Airlines planes at Newark airport (nobody likes Spirit), and the truck with "Yellow" written on its side (it is actually orange). Soon we reached the rest area. We ran to the restrooms, relieved ourselves, and then ran back to the buses. The next two hours were a bit more interesting. We crossed the Delaware and Susquehanna rivers, travelled through Baltimore, and went through a tunnel (I'm surprised that buses can even fit in there). Towards the last hour of the trip, everyone was starting to ask, "are we there yet?" The answer came when I recognized the Anacostia River. I yelled out "We're in Washington D.C.!" Before long, we saw the Capitol building, the Washington Monument, and the Watergate complex.

After some cheering, we arrived at Arlington Cemetery. There, we met our tour guide, Jay. Jay told us a bit about the cemetery, and then we

embarked on our walking tour through the hilly fields dotted by gravestones. We saw the grave of President Kennedy and learned about the history of the cemetery. Later, we saw the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was a very moving experience as we watched the sentinels flawlessly perform their routine, while the audience stayed completely silent. After that, we walked back to the buses and drove to the Iwo Jima Memorial. Jay told us that there was an optical illusion hidden in the monument. After some walking around, we figured it out. As you walk around the monument, the flag appears to be rising. The memorial itself is based on a famous photograph taken after the battle of Iwo Jima during World War Two, of American soldiers raising the flag showing that the island had been captured.

After that, we drove across the Potomac River to visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture. One of the first things we noticed about the museum was its enormous size. The overhangs where you could stare several stories down and the very tall ceilings made us feel quite small. More importantly, there was a vast number of artifacts and exhibits, including topics ranging from sports to aviation to cooking. More interesting features of the museum were its exterior, decorated with ornate metal panels, and the (very loud) indoor fountain.



Next, we went to the Washington Monument. We had fun frolicking in the grass around the monument and taking photos of the pencil-shaped memorial. If you look closely at the Washington monument, you can notice the change in color from the bottom to the top of the monument. This difference was caused by the pause in construction during the Civil war. When construction was resumed, the builders used a slightly different form of rock, which aged differently than the original rock.

Our final memorial for the day was the World War Two Memorial. This memorial centered around a large fountain, with memorials on either side dedicated to the Pacific and Atlantic theaters of the war. Jay challenged us to find the pillar dedicated to New York. We quickly found it. One unexpected feature of the memorial was the presence of ducks and ducklings in the smaller pools and fountains.

After some difficulties getting all the students together, we walked across the street to the Albert Einstein Memorial. We all climbed on the statue to take a picture. Legend has it that rubbing the nose of the statue of Albert Einstein gives you good luck.

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Washington

From Page 2

After that, we boarded the buses, and drove to Carmine's restaurant. After a long day of traveling, everyone was very chatty and agitated. We ate pasta, lasagna, salad, chicken parmesan, and drank water and soda. The food was good, and I more than satisfied my hunger, but I was a bit disappointed that all we got for dessert was a single cookie.

After we ate, we filed back on board the buses, and settled down for the half hour drive back to the hotel. When we got to the hotel, I helped pull the luggage out from under the bus, and then along with the rest of the boys, lugged my suitcase up several flights of stairs. The girls got to use the elevator (gender equality?) My group



had some difficulty with our room key, but after a few minutes we were able to get in. We were overjoyed at our newfound independence and explored every inch of our new domain. After dividing the

beds amongst us, we watched TV and peeked out the hallway window, until we realized that we should probably be sleeping. Then we quickly jumped into our beds and fell fast asleep.

The next morning, we woke up early at 6:00. We watched as the sun rose between the buildings outside of our window, including the PBS headquarters. We put on our formal clothes (since that day was the day when we took our class picture) and got ready for the day. Then, we headed down to the buffet to have our breakfast. The breakfast food was mediocre, but I did particularly like the pastries, the fresh fruit, and the yogurt. After we ate, we went back to our rooms and waited for the signal to head towards the buses. When our chaperone announced that it was time to go, we bolted down the stairs and got on the buses. I regretted not bringing my hoodie, since it was a bit cold outside in the morning. On our way to our first stop, we passed the Boeing headquarters, and the Pentagon, which loomed like a giant beige wall just off to our left.

Our first stop for the day was the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. We got to see the large statue of him, accompanied by the powerful words, "Out of a mountain of despair, a stone of hope." We read more of MLK's quotes, took pictures in front of the Tidal Basin and the statue, and read some of the quotes etched into the wall. After that we walked to the President Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial. We saw 4 different sections, each dedicated to one of his terms in office. We took pictures in front of the many different statues and fountains. This memorial was interesting because we were able to connect it to the Great Depression unit in

Social Studies.

Next, we walked to the Jefferson Memorial. The sidewalk next to the tidal basin was flooded, so we had to take the more crowded alternate route. At the Jefferson Memorial, we sat down on the steps while Jay explained to us some of the legacy of Thomas Jefferson, and how it is honored on the memorial. The statue is 19.5 feet tall. It is this exact height because it cannot be taller than the statue "freedom" on top of the capitol building. It was very crowded inside the memorial, but we were still able to take some pictures and read the excerpts on the wall. We also saw a Marine Corps helicopter fly by. I knew that it belonged to the unit that transports the president, but this helicopter could not have been carrying the president because the helicopter was flying on its own, without escort from other helicopters.

After the Jefferson Memorial, we visited the Capitol. We arranged ourselves in height order and waited in line. Surprisingly enough, there were many other schools visiting Washington D.C. on the days that we went, and apparently every school was getting a photo from the same photography company. Eventually, we walked onto the steps, and after some shuffling around, the photographer panned the camera across the steps several times to make sure everyone was included in the shot. After that,

we walked around the capitol building while Jay talked to us about it.

We took some more group photos on the steps on the other side of the Capitol and stood in front of the Supreme court. We finished our loop around the Capitol and boarded the buses.



We disembarked at the National Museum of American History. Unfortunately, we did not get to see much of the museum. We were supposed to eat lunch at the museum, but the lines were very long, so it took nearly 50 minutes for us to finish lunch. If you add in our browsing at the gift shop, we only viewed actual exhibits for a mere 10 minutes. Some highlights were the "Star Spangled Banner" metal artwork, and a gunboat from the Revolutionary war. Our last museum for the day was the Holocaust Museum. The museum was, appropriately for the subject matter, quite somber and morbid, and left a very deep impression on me.

Our next stop was the White House. We took photos, organized a protest to raise the ceiling, and improvised a school dance with the help of a DJ playing music on the street. Next, we bought souvenirs. I decided to let myself go on a bit of a shopping spree and bought around \$80 of merchandise.

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Washington

From Page 3

At the end of the day, we drove for approximately an hour to Dave and Busters in Maryland. There food was mediocre, and the drinks could have been better. The arcade games were very fun, although I am not very good at them (to be fair, it was my first time at Dave and Busters). After exhausting ourselves at that sensory overload inducing entertainment center, we headed back to the hotel. At our hotel room, my group and I had some land disputes, and so for an hour, we annexed furniture, and created and broke treaties, until we finally established peace. After that, we packed our bags and went to bed.

When we awoke in the morning, we had a lot of work to do. We had to clean our room and make sure that we took all of our belongings. We went through the checklist, picked up our drawing string bags and suitcases, and locked our hotel



room for the last time. We went downstairs for breakfast, which was the same as the day before. Then we rolled our suitcases out to the parking lot and shoved them into the luggage com-

partment. We said goodbye to the hotel, and we rolled out. Soon we left Virginia for the last time as we drove across the Potomac. We viewed the Vietnam Memorial, and Jay and our chaperones found the name of a Somers graduate whose name was engraved in the wall.

Our next stop was the Lincoln Memorial. At this massive memorial we again felt the feeling that we had felt at the African American Museum: the feeling of being very small. The columns were so large that two people could not link arms around them, and you could fit your head into the indent. We read the quotes and found the engraving mistake in one of them. From the Lincoln Memorial, we had a good view of the national mall. We could see almost all of the museums and memorials that we had already visited, and some that we were yet to visit.

Our next stop was the Korean War memorial. We saw the field of bronze soldiers in ponchos, with bewildered looks on their faces. We saw the names of all the countries that supported South Korea in the war, including some that I did not expect (Ethiopia was involved?). We saw the wall on which photographs were engraved, and we found the engraving of a military dog.

Our last museum of the entire trip was the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. We quickly ate lunch and started viewing the exhibits. This

museum was very interesting. We saw some of the first planes to ever fly, and even got a chance to fly them in a simulator. We saw the real engines that power the world's largest and fastest planes, and we even got to go in the cockpit of a Boeing 747 jumbo jet. We also saw some rather weird planes, such as the *Airphibian* (a sort-of flying car or driving plane).

After about 2 hours of exploring, we left the museum. My group and our chaperone decided to buy ice cream from an ice cream



truck that was parked next to the sidewalk. As we were waiting in line, the Park Police came and started banging on the door of the truck, while a plain-clothes officer told us to go find another place. The ice cream seller argued with the police, until he was arrested, and his truck was towed. Meanwhile, we bought ice cream from a different truck.

Finally, it was time to hit the road and go back home. We said goodbye to our tour guide, Jay, and settled down in our seats for the journey back home.

The first hour or so of the trip went uneventfully until... one of the buses broke down. We had to wait for about 40 minutes while the bus received maintenance. The worst part is that students from the other buses we allowed to walk around the gas station, while we were forced to stay cooped up. Soon, the bus was fixed, and we were on our way again. After some time, we arrived at the rest stop. There, I had to budget my money, and scout out maximum savings, since I was now starting to regret my souvenir shopping spree. Nevertheless, I was able to buy a sandwich and a drink and shared some chips with a friend. The next 3 hours of the ride were virtually the same as they had been on the drive to D.C. The only interesting thing that happened was that a military cargo plane flew over the highway while we were in New Jersey.



Soon, the lights of New York City came into view, and we decided to do some Karaoke. By "we" I mean the rear half of the bus. I just wanted to read. Thus, from then to the end of the trip, we blasted music and sang our hearts out, culminating in us belting out "Sweet Caroline" as we pulled into the SMS bus loop. We unloaded our luggage, hugged our parents, and thanked our chaperones for a trip of a lifetime.

SMS Band and Orchestra Head to Lake Compounce Today



**By Alyssa Diaz
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Students in orchestra and band have the High Note festival field trip at Lake Compounce today.

The High note festival at Lake Compounce is where students play songs they have been practicing as best as they can to impress the judges. The students receive feedback in the form of comments from the judges on what they did well and what they can improve as well as a number grade.



They have 15 minutes to play their songs and introduce their songs.

After they play, they can enjoy the day at Lake Compounce with their friends and celebrate how great they played their instruments. The

students have been working hard on songs they either previously played in the winter or spring concerts, found new songs to play or a mixture of both.

If you see any orchestra or band students in the hall, make sure to congratulate them and give them a high five!

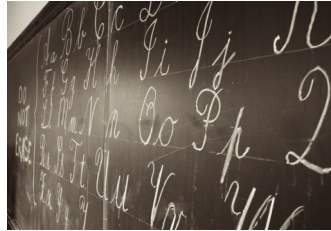
Whatever You May Think, School is Pretty Important



**By Terezina Parubi
Tusker Tribune Staff**

School is an essential part of every person's life. It provides people with a formal education that helps them develop intellect, personality, and life skills. School is a place where we learn the basics of many subjects such as math, social studies, science, and ELA.

These classes provide people with a basic understanding of the world around us. It also helps us develop thinking skills, problem solving ability, and communication skills. School provides the opportunity to learn from teachers and inter-



act with our peers, which helps develop social skills and build relationships. Therefore, school helps us prepare for the future by providing us with the needed knowledge and skills to pursue whatever career wanted.

In conclusion, school is a vital part of anybody's life and plays a crucial role in the future of mankind. It is important that we take school seriously and make the most of the opportunities that it gives us.



Not Every 8th Grader Went to Washington, D.C.



**By Ashley Contreras
Tusker Tribune Staff**

What was SMS like while most 8th graders were in D.C.?

As most of you may know, 8th grade students returned from a field trip to Washington D.C.

However, not everyone in 8th grade attended the trip. Some students who did not attend the trip decided to come to school during those days.

Including me.

So let me tell you what that experience was like. First off, the 8th grade hallways were almost completely empty. There were a

couple of people at their lockers. Our schedule was the following: Course 1: library. Course 2: gym.



Course 3: music. Course 4: reading. Course 5: art. Course 6: math. Course 7: gym.

All the classes were mostly just free time. We did a lot of different things. For example, one day we would be playing Hangman, and the next, we would be drawing on the white boards. There was even an amazing drawing of Snoopy drawn by Anna Huber.

During gym, we would connect some of the scooters and make a train. Everyone would ride it and glide around the gym. During music, we would play guitars and the piano.

On the final day of the trip, during WIN, everyone was playing a variety of games and challenges with fun equipment. Everyone was having a blast during those three days. We bonded and grew new friendships. Even though we couldn't go to Washington D.C, we were all still able to have fun.



The History of Ice Cream



**By Madison Kaplan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

We all know and love this delicious dessert, ice cream! Ice cream has been around for years and has been perfected and changed to fit everyone's taste.

The origins of ice cream are known to date back to the second century (B.C). It is known that Alexander the Great enjoyed snow and ice flavored with honey and nectar.

Over a thousand years later, Marco Polo returned to Italy from the east with a recipe that



closely resembles modern day sherbet. It is estimated that this recipe evolved into ice cream in the 16th century.

The first official account of ice cream in North America and South America comes from a letter written in 1774. Records kept by a New York merchant show that President George Washington paid approximately \$200 for ice cream in 1790.

Since then, ice cream has evolved into a much cheaper snack. Ice cream is one of the most popular desserts on earth with over 5,000 different flavors.

Owning a Dog Brings Many Benefits



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

There are many valid and scientific reasons you should get a pet dog. An Australian study shows that dogs make humans feel less alone. This is because dogs are always there when humans aren't.

Did you know it's a proven fact that people with dogs suffer from fewer heart attacks? It is also proven that people who own one or more dogs suffer less from depression and anxiety.

Having a dog can also improve your cardiovascular health. When you have a



dog, you need to play with it and walk it. However, if you didn't have a dog, you wouldn't be doing that activity.

Despite their great effects on your mental health, dogs are very expensive. For small breeds, like a chihuahua, you might have to pay anywhere from \$400-\$1000 per year. Big dog breeds are much more expensive. For example, a golden retriever costs around \$2000 or \$3000 a year!

Overall, if you struggle with mental and physical health, it might be a huge benefit if you get a dog. However, if money is something you struggle with, a cheaper option might be better for you.

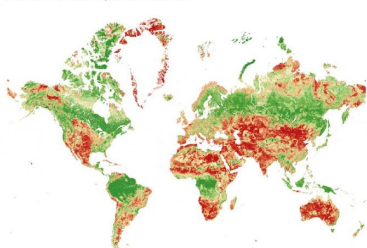
The Importance of Healthy Ecosystems



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

An ecosystem is a network of interacting organisms and their physical environment. There are three broad categories of eco systems: freshwater, marine, and terrestrial. The freshwater eco systems consist of lakes, rivers, ponds, wetlands, streams, springs, and the living organisms that live there.

Global SRI BES Index map at 1 km² resolution



Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services (BES) Index
 Very Low (<15) Low (15-30) Moderate (30-45) High (45-60) Very High (>60)
 Source: Swiss Re Institute and multiple data sources

off/in rainforests, grasslands, and deserts.

Healthy ecosystems are important because they clean our water, purify our air, maintain soil, regulate the climate, provide us with food, and recycle nutrients. They provide resources and raw materials for things like modern day medicines. Ecosystems are the foundation of all civilization. Without them there would be no earth.

Marine ecosystems are aquatic environments that have high levels of dissolved salt. These eco systems consist of the deep sea, open ocean, and animals living there. The last category of ecosystems is terrestrial.

Terrestrial ecosystems are land-based communities of organisms. For example, these eco systems are normally part

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NEWSPAPER CLUB



TUSKER TRIBUNE

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Desserts



By Allison Cardillo and Ila Schoenberg
Tusker Tribune Staff

Macaroons

Macaroons come in different flavors like lemon, orange, salted caramel, and much more. You can put them out for special occasions or just to eat because they are so good. Macaroons are made from almond flour and meringue.



Cake Pops

Cake pops are so good that you can have them whenever you'd like. They are made out of cake dipped in chocolate, with sprinkles added on top.



Churros

Churros are a classic dish that is very popular in Mexico. That popularity has spread throughout the US. Churros are fried dough covered in cinnamon. They can be dipped in a chocolate dipping sauce or whipped cream. Churros can be baked or bought at a local grocery store. You can even get them from certain restaurants. Get some warm, buttery, chocolaty churros today.



Chocolate Chip Cookies

Chocolate chip cookies are one of the most popular desserts across the world. They are popular for their warm soft cookie texture and their nice chocolate flavoring of warm melty chocolate chips. You can get them by making them or buying them at a grocery store. I hope now you are persuaded to get chocolate chip cookies today.



Cupcakes

Cupcakes are very easy to make and eat *wink*. They are very delicious with their butter cream frosting and many different flavored cakes for the base. They are great when celebrating holidays and birthdays. They are basically mini-cakes. They are perfect for all occasions and are a very quick snack.



Donuts

Donuts are made of a soft dough on top of which is frosting, or sprinkles, or glaze.



Lava Cakes

Lava cakes are known for their creativity and their delicious chocolate flavor. Most people love the way lava cakes' chocolate sauce in the center drips out like lava from a volcano. They were first invented in the year 1981 and are still popular today. The spongy cake is also a very delicious factor of the lava cake. I hope now you want to try or eat a lava cake.



Chocolate Covered Strawberries

Chocolate covered strawberries are really easy to make. You only have to dip strawberries in to melted chocolate and then let them harden for 20 or 30 minutes. You can then add sprinkles and M&Ms and other toppings, and enjoy.



Les Escargots Sont Si Mignons!



By Amber Sinagra
Tusker Tribune Staff

Mrs. Hauser is a French teacher here at Somers Middle School. As one of her 8th grade students I have been so lucky to have her as my French teacher. She has such a positive attitude and makes French class so much fun!!!

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:

DPappas@somersschools.org.

Tusker Tribune Website:

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

This month she has been giving all her 8th grade students per snails! Today in WIN we were all able to decorate them with paint markers and hot glue. Before we were able to take them home, we had to say an Oath promising to take care of our new little pets. We were able to pick a gender and a name for our snails! I decided to make mine a girl and call her Juliette. Juliette is so much fun! We had to fill out an adoption letter showing that we would be a perfect match for our pets. In French, snails are called Escargot. When I decided to pick a name I decided to go with one. When I decided to pick a name I decided to go with one that would sound beautiful in French!



June 3 is Black Bear Day



**By Vivan Hernandez
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The first Saturday in June celebrates the most common bear in North America. The scientific name of the Black bear is *Ursus Americanus*.

Despite their names black bears can be found in colors such as cinnamon, blue/black, and blue/gray, and in exceedingly rare instances, even white! The common diet of a black bear consists of 80% plants, 15% insects, and 5% animal matter.

Even though most bears hibernate during the winter, the black bears who live in colder parts of Alaska will hibernate for seven months. Black bears who live along the warmer coast will hibernate for only one to two months or not even hibernate at all!

It is common for black bears to live along warmer coasts. A North Carolina black bear biologist found that off the coastal area of North Caro-



lina, they have found the biggest black bears on the planet! North Carolina currently holds the record for the largest black bears found on the planet.

In North Carolina, black bears have access to high protein food and huge crops which is why they have grown so big. They have a prey mentality instead of a predator mentality, so they are not interested in eating you or your pets. They are mostly omnivores, eating plants. They look for berries, roots, and insects, but will also eat small mammals, fish, and carrion.

If a bear has been fed human food, it will also help himself to your picnic leftovers or camping supplies. This is where they have earned a bad reputation for destroying campsites or being reckless. Lesson learned! Next time you go camping, do not leave food out or feed human food to bears. Otherwise, you will have uninvited campers that will feast on the rest of your food while you are away doing activities in the wilderness!

June 3 is Also Chimborazo Day



**By Vivan Hernandez
Tusker Tribune Staff**

What is Chimborazo? Chimborazo is the tallest and biggest volcano in Ecuador, coming in at 20,000 feet (about twice the height of Mount St. Helens).

The Chimborazo Mountain is not the highest mountain in the world, but it is the highest point in the world. How is this possible though? Well, the Chimborazo volcano is at the Earth's highest peak, located at the equator. Since this volcano is measured from earth's center instead of sea level, it is the closest point to the moon. The Chimborazo volcano is in the Andes Mountains. It is the 39th highest peak in its range. It also ranks as the 16th most prominent (famous) mountain in the world.



The Chimborazo volcano is a dormant volcano, which means it is potentially active, but not erupting now. Its last eruption was 1,400 years ago.

The word "Chimborazo" means either "women of snow" or "mountain of ice". This volcano also contains four major summits. During the 17th and 18th century, many people tried to climb the mountain, but were unsuccessful. An English climber named Edward Whymper was the first person to successfully climb up the mountain and back down.

To this day, many people have tried to climb this volcano. It takes 8 to 12 hours to get up the mountain and 5 hours to get back down. This volcano is one of the most famous landmarks in Ecuador. Maybe one day, you could go!

World Pet Memorial Day is June 8th

**By Vivian Hernandez
Tusker Tribune Staff**



Just as we have Memorial Day for humans, there is a Memorial Day for pets. Every year on the second Tuesday in June, World Pet Memorial Day gives time for pet owners to remember their furry companions that have passed away.

It is also a day to do something kind for those who have recently lost their beloved pet. It is no secret that people love their pets with all their hearts. Our wonderful pets have been with us during happy moments, sad moments, and emotional



moments. They provide joy, companionship, emotional support, and lots of joy.

Did you know that pets can also help us improve our physical and mental health? Take dogs, for example. People train dogs to be the eyes of a blind person to help them walk. There are also animals like therapy dogs or even cats. These animals help a person who has anxiety or depression, or any other mental illness relax or calm down. It is not a surprise that dogs and cats are the most owned pets in the world.

Over 470 million dogs are kept as pets and 370 million cats are kept as pets.

Continued on Page 6

Slavery Still Exists Today



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

One of the United Nations' declared human rights is freedom from slavery and torture. Even though this is a basic human right, there are still places in the world where this happens.

The country with the most slaves is India, with over 7.9 million slaves. In 2018, 10.46% of North Korea's population were slaves.

The vast majority of slaves are not paid, however, the ones who are receive a yearly wage equal to only \$65! Slaves work anywhere from 7-16 hours per day, depending on what season it is



and where they live. There are an estimated 40.3 million slaves across the world. Ten million are children and 24.9 million are doing forced labor. Over 15.4 million people are in forced marriages, and 4.8 million people being forced to be sexually active with their

owners. Luckily for people in the US, slavery was abolished by 1865. For other people who live in countries that are members of the United Nations, slavery was made illegal in 1949. Unfortunately, there are still 167 countries that allow slavery.



Pitbulls and Berndoodles Can Make Great Pets



**By Madison Kaplan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Pitbulls and Berne Doodles are two very different breeds of dog. Pitbulls are known for their strength, loyalty, and affectionate nature towards their owners.



Unfortunately, they also have a well-known reputation for being aggressive. However, Pitbulls are loving and gentle pets when raised in a loving, caring, and responsible environment.

Berne Doodles, on the other hand, are a relatively new breed of dog that has increasingly become more popular over the last few years. They are a cross between a Bernese Mountain Dog and a

Poodle, and are known for their friendly, outgoing personalities, and their hypoallergenic coats. Berne Doodles are great family pets and are often used as therapy dogs due to their gentle nature.

While Pitbulls and Berne Doodles may seem like very different breeds, they both have potential to be loving and loyal pets. It's important to remember that a dog's behavior is largely determined by their upbringing and environment, rather than their breed. With proper training, and socialization, both Pitbulls and Berne Doodles can make wonderful pets for loving families.



Pet Memorial Day

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No matter what animal a person has as a pet, that pet will quickly sink into their owner's heart like quicksand. It comes as no surprise that when a person's pet passes, they will be put in a stage of sadness and grief.

If a person's pet passes, it could take up to several months for a person to accept that their pet is no longer with them. This is why we have "World Pet Memorial Day" to remember our beloved pets and here are some ways you can celebrate and remember your pet:

- Create a memorial stone for your pet and place it in your garden or walkway. <3
- Plant a tree or flower in memory of your pet. <3
- Donate to your local humane society or animal rescue group in honor of your pet. <3
- Gather photos of your pet and make a photo album. <3
- Draw or paint a picture of your pet or have a picture painted by a local artist. <3



*Only two more
issues left for
this year! So,
if you'd like to
be published,
write on!*