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Winter 2019

Big Bucks Spent on Valentine's Day!!!!



By Natalia Tellez
Tusker Tribune Staff

How much money do you think is spent on Valentine's Day? \$80? More? Less? You will

be really surprised at how much people spend for their loved ones and how much companies have to make to be ready for sales.

An average person buys candy, cards, gifts, and much more that add up to the amount of around \$130 during Valentine's Day!

Hershey's company makes more than 8 million pounds of Kisses and sells more than 800 million individual Kisses for Valentine's Day. That's a lot of money and candy!

Valentine's Day is not only a fun holiday full of love, but also a big amount of money. It contributed about \$19.6 billion in 2018 to the economy. The people doing more of the spending are men with, \$196. That is twice as much as a woman. Of course, younger people participate more in this amount than others. Nearly two-thirds of those between the ages of 25 and 34 celebrate the holiday, and also 60 percent of those between 18 and 24 years old. The most popular gifts include candy, flowers, jewelry, food, and cards while the least bought are clothing (\$1.9 billion) and gift cards (\$1.4 billion).

Not only is Valentine's Day great for people to have fun but it's an amazing boost for companies and their sales. 1-800 Flowers have over 1 million costumers each February 14th and to keep

up with the demand, hires 6,000 extra workers. This year will be very helpful for this business because 60% of men and 15% of woman are expected to purchase flowers as a

Purchase	Percent	Billions Spent
Candy	55%	\$1.8
Greeting cards	44.9%	\$1.0
Evening out	35.2%	\$3.7
Flowers	35.6%	\$2.0
Jewelry	19%	\$4.7



gift.

Hallmark creates around 1,400 Valentine's Day greeting card designs. Last Valentine's Day it was Hallmark's second biggest day of the year with 144 million people purchasing their cards. Necco manufactures a popular candy called Sweet tarts and are very popular to give to friends because they have short messages relating to friendship and love.

Necco manufactures 8 billion Sweethearts per year and approximately 100,000 pounds of candy hearts are sold each day during the six-week period between January 1

and Valentine's Day.

As you can tell Valentine's Day is significant to company's sales and economics everywhere. That doesn't mean that you should stop celebrating or buying gifts but don't spend more than what is needed. Enjoy this special holiday and Happy Valentine's Day!

NJHS Sets a High Standard



By Ruby Ellison and Sophia Mancuso
Tusker Tribune Staff

RE: For people who missed the news, Nation-

al Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is a club to show you are hardworking and dedicated to accepting a challenge to be a better person and helping the community. Not many people are up to the task of volunteer work but, it is worth it. Being a member of this club

is a great honor for your present and future life.

Not only does NJHS make you push yourself to be the best you can be, but it also helps other people in need.

SM: Only the best try to get in. The ones who try the hardest to succeed! The ones who work hardest to achieve their goals. The ones who step up their game to win that sweet feeling of victory after awarded a certificate of being accepted into NJHS.

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**The Tusker Tribune Commentary:
Last Year's Super Bowl was Better!****Jesse Manginelli
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Super Bowl LIII, or Super Bowl 53, was a bit upsetting to most. The final score was 13-3 with the Patriots coming out on top.

Super Bowl 53 was held in the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia. It was a slow game, to say the least. At the end of the 1st quarter, the game was tied at 0-0. The Patriots' kicker missed a field goal from 46 yards away and the Rams totaled 29 yards.

At the end of the 2nd quarter, the score was 3-0 Patriots. Stephen Gostkowski, who missed his last field goal attempt, made this one

from 42 yards away. The Rams punted on all 6 possessions in the first half and it was the second lowest scoring half in the Super Bowl.

By the 3rd quarter, the score was 3-3. The Rams finally got on the board with a 53-yard field goal made by Greg Zuerlein.

The final quarter was where the game started to take off. Patriots running back Sony Michel scored from two yards away from the end zone.

The Rams could have come back but lost possession. Stephen Gostkowski then kicked a 41-yard field goal to win the game. Final score was 13-3.

I'd say the best part was when SpongeBob performed in the halftime show.

**OKC Making Waves in the NBA****By Luke Cukaj
Tusker Tribune Staff**

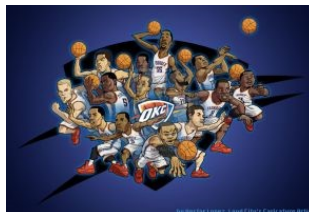
In the NBA, the OKC/The Thunder have been having an amazing year in 3rd place in the western conference and a 37-19 record.

They recently have come off a two-game winning streak, defeating the Orlando Magic 126 to 117 and 132 to 122.

OKC's top scorer is Paul George who averages 28 points, 8 rebounds, and 4 assists per game.

Another player named Russell Westbrook who is the main playmaker on the thunder averages 25 points, 11 rebounds, and 10 assists per game.

Most recently, he put up 21 points, 14 assists and 11 rebounds to set an NBA record with his 10th straight triple-double, passing Wilt Chamberlain.

**NJHS****From Page 1**

SM: Volunteering is all about helping others. If you volunteer to help someone or something, you are choosing to take time out of your day to do that. You can't just be a member of NJHS. You must show your inner self and interest toward this society. For example, you must complete tasks in order to quality.

The first task is to put 7-15 hours of service towards your community. An example of community service is helping at our local animal shelter or helping in the Somers library without being

paid for what you have done.

Another one of the tasks you must complete is asking one teacher and one adult for a recommendation letter saying whether you are eligible (having good behavior in and or out of class) to be accepted into NJHS. The third and final task of the National Junior Honor Society is to maintain an overall average of a 92.0% or higher.

RE If you are all about helping others, going out of your comfort zone, and ready to be a role model for people to follow then NJHS is the right club for you. After reading this, have you considered applying to NJHS? If so, meet all the requirements needed to be a member and you will be on the right path to success! Good luck!

Heard of 'Fun Facts'? Try 'Sun Facts'!



**By Andrew Fasone
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The sun is the closest star to earth only thanks to the sun, life as we know it exists. Its light hits the surface of the planet making it warm enough for living organisms to develop and live on.

Plants convert solar energy into chemical energy. They give us oxygen to breathe, so you can go to the beach and have a tan. But what would happen if the sun disappeared right now? What do you think? Well, I don't know, but let me take a wild guess and say, umm, it would get dark?

Would we even notice that? How would we be able to survive without the sun? Would it be cold enough for the Russians to consider moving to a different planet?

I decided to take a look at this hypothetical situation and imagine what it would be like to live on earth without the sun. Therefore, let's go to the dark side. We would have no idea at first. Seriously, the sun is 8 light minutes away from earth. That means it is a distance that light can travel in one minute.

For example, if you were on Mars and your friends were here on Earth, imagine that you both have good enough eyes to see each other. If you wave to your friend, he/she would see you only in about 30 minutes, depending on how far Mars would be at the moment.

Here's another example: if 65 million light years away there were some advanced creatures that had powerful telescopes, they would be able to see dinosaurs walking on earth or rather making their last steps because that's when they went extinct approximately.

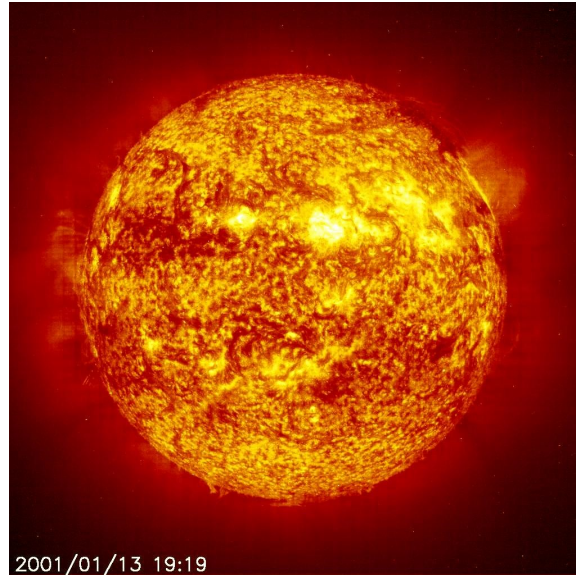
The sunlight reflected by earth would need 65 million years to reach the creatures' eyes or whatever they use to see things. As we know, nothing, literally nothing in the universe, can travel faster than light so right after the sun disappeared, it would take 8 minutes for this good news to reach us.

Even the gravitational pull that the sun has on our planet would also end only in eight minutes. So, the earth would continue orbiting the spot where the sun had been as if nothing happened but for only 8 minutes.

After that, our planet would start to fly in a straight line and that's when mass panic would probably start as people

try to return those solar panels they just had installed. It would be very dark. In addition, the other planets would disappear into the darkness as there would have no sunlight to reflect other planets.

On top of all of that, it would be extremely cold. Without any source of heat, Earth would cool down very quickly. Within just the first week, the Earth's average temperature would be right at the freezing point. After a few years, it would be too cold to live on, and we would slowly die off.



Minor League Football? It's Coming!



**By Jesse Manginelli
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Many people believe there should be a minor league for football. Now this day has come.

The Alliance of American Football is the new minor league football league. There are eight teams.

They are the Arizona Hotshots, Atlanta Legends, Birmingham Iron, Memphis Express, Orlando Apol-



los, Salt Lake Stallions, San Antonio Commanders, and the San Diego Fleet.

The Alliance of American Football or the AFF, debuted on Saturday. Many former and current NFL players joined the AFF. Some familiar names include Christian Hackenberg and Josh Johnson, who played for the Redskins in the 2018 season.

The league has eight teams and focuses on showing local talent.

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Soulja Boy's Lasting Impact



**By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Ever since his first viral videos took over the Internet, Soulja Boy has been an influential figure in hip-hop.

With the release of his debut album *Souljaboytellem.com* in 2007, Soulja Boy helped create the blueprint for a whole generation of rappers both in terms of his DIY sound and his Internet presence.

"I was livestreaming and doing all this ten years ago, and now y'all wanna make money off YouTube and I was being shunned upon and laughed at," he said in an interview.

Soulja Boy's early music started getting popular on sites like Soundclick and MySpace, but it was LimeWire that really helped him make "Crank That" his breakout hit. "Then they'll go they'll download that song for free like I'm finna get 50 Cent 'In da Club,'" they hit download hit play, it go YOUUUU they like what is this? But then by probably like a minute in they like this hard!"

And it worked. In September 2007, "Crank That" peaked at #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 and stayed there for almost two months. As "Crank That's" popularity grew, so did its streams. In early 2008, the song broke the record at the time for the most digital downloads. And the track was even nominated for a Grammy for Best Rap Song. Soulja Boy's tactics got him some attention. Shortly after Soulja Boy blew up, we started seeing rappers like the Bay Area's Lil B take command of his own online audience, and today we see that kind of thing all the time.

In an interview in December 2018, industry insiders behind acts like Lil Pump detailed what they call "the Pump Plan" to help rappers get attention online and go viral, saying they use "social-media influencer campaigns, meme-ing the artist, Musical.ly placements, World Star promotions, and something called 'controversy projects.'" Meaning that they stage drama online.

But Soulja Boy maintains that he was the first to really figure out how to blow up online and then use it to spark a music career. Mr. Collipark, president of Collipark Music said that "those kids didn't need the radio stations or the DJs in the clubs they use the Internet to go

straight to each other. He (Soulja Boy)'s a pioneer."

Part of what made Soulja Boy an instant topic of conversation was his sound, both in terms of his flow and his DIY instrumentals. "I did 'Crank That,' right?" he said.

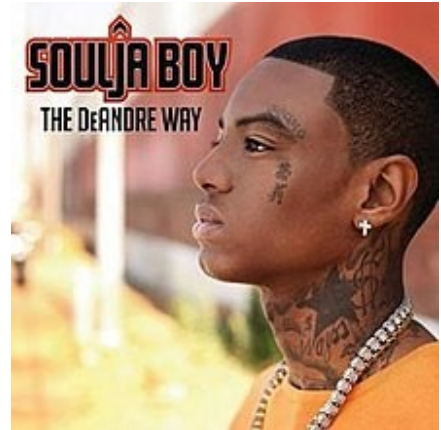
"On this program called Fruity Loops." Fruity Loops is now more commonly known as FL Studio. "Probably took me like ten minutes to make it. And everybody know I made like \$10 million."

And Big Draco's homemade style on FL Studio even influenced other producers (including myself), like Metro Boomin. In an interview, Metro said "I had followed Soulja Boy, and I knew that's what he was using. I knew 9th Wonder had used it too, and that a lot of EDM and dubstep was being done through it."

Tracks like his self-produced club anthem "Donk" with its energetic claps lent itself as the beat behind classics like Nicki Minaj's 2009 cut "Itty Bitty Piggy." And in recent news, Soulja Boy's sonic influence has become the topic of conversation, after he claimed in January 2019 that Drake stole his flow on the 2010 track, "Miss Me." His comments on the alleged stolen flow on The Breakfast Club (now memed to the extreme) were, "Draaaaaake?! That's Soulja. That's my bar. He copied my whole ***** flow." Just a few days later, Soulja Boy took to Twitter to accuse Ariana Grande of using his flow on her recent track, "7 rings."

And it's not just his flows. Several phrases he first popularized have also found a permanent place in the culture. Like his 2008 cut, "Turn My Swag On." His dance moves don't seem to be going anywhere any time soon, either. And his reach has even made it around the world. Several rappers have shared their support for the southern MC and his contributions. Everyone from seasoned MCs like Juicy J and Meek Mill have said something about Soulja Boy. And the younger generation of rappers like Houston's Tay-K have had a lot to say, too.

While it's been more than a decade since Soulja Boy first took over the Internet, he's still more than happy to let you know all about his impact. "Now this is what everybody is glorifying is making money off social media what I created and started. Y'all gotta stop playing with me."



NBA All-Star Weekend: Something for Everyone



By Arjun Ojha
Tusker Tribune Staff

During the weekend of February 16th, there will be NBA All-Star Weekend.

The first event is the 2019 Taco Bell Skills Challenge. It will air on TNT at 8 pm on February 16th. The Taco Bell Skills Challenge is a series of challenges such as passing the ball through a hole, skill past fake players and at the end, making a 3 pointer. The first person to make the 3 pointer wins that round. The participants for this event are Jayson Tatum, Trae Young, Luka Doncic, Mike Conley, Kyle Kuzma, De'Aaron Fox, Nikola Jokic and Nikola Vucevic. Last year's winner, Spencer Dinwiddie, is unable to defend his title due to injury.

Mountain Dew 3 Point Conference

The second event of the NBA All-Star Weekend is the Mountain Dew 3-point Conference. The 3-point contest is just simply how it sounds. A 3-point contest. In the 3-point contest, there is 25 shots taken in total. The shots are taken in the corners, the wings and the centers of the court. You shoot five balls with the last one on each rack being the money ball. The rack of your choice is the money ball rack. You have all money balls. Money balls are worth 2 points each.

The contestants for this competition are Devin Booker, Seth Curry, Stephen Curry, Danny Green, Joe Harris, Buddy Hield, Damian Lillard, Khris Middleton, Kemba Walker and Dirk Nowitzki. The defending champion Devin Booker is participating to try and defend his title.

AT&T Slam Dunk Contest

The third event of NBA All-Star Weekend is the AT&T Slam Dunk Contest. The Slam Dunk Contest is a competition between the four best

dunkers in the NBA. There are five judges that have cards with numbers between 1 and 10. After the dunker does his dunk, the judges rate the dunk.

Every year, there are some creative dunks. For example, in 2011, Blake Griffin won the slam dunk contest by jumping over a KIA. Also, one of the most famous dunks was in 1988. Michael Jordan jumped from the free-throw line. He ended up winning it that year. The participants for this year are Dennis Smith Jr., Miles Bridges, Hamidou Diallo and John Collins. Last year's winner, Donovan Mitchell, was not selected.

NBA All-Star Game

The fourth and final event is the NBA All-Star Game. This year is the 68th Annual All-Star Game. This event will take place on February 17th

and 8 pm. The NBA All-Star Game is where all the NBA Stars play. The players this year were selected by NBA fans all around the world. The two most voted players every year are chosen to be the captains of each team.

This year, the captains are LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers and Giannis Antetokounmpo (An-Tet-O-Koun-Po) of the Milwaukee Bucks. There is really no defense played throughout this game. On Team LeBron, the

starters are LeBron James, Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving, Kawhi Leonard and James Harden. On their bench, they have Anthony Davis, Klay Thompson, Ben Simmons, LaMarcus Aldridge, Karl-Anthony Towns, Bradley Beal and Dwyane Wade.

For team Giannis, they have Giannis Antetokounmpo, Stephen Curry, Joel Embiid, Paul George, Kemba Walker, Khris Middleton, Nikola Jokic, Russell Westbrook, Blake Griffin, D'Angelo Russell, Nikola Vucevic, Kyle Lowry and Dirk Nowitzki. Both Dwayne Wade and Dirk Nowitzki were added by commissioner Adam Silver because of their extraordinary contributions as iconic NBA champions and beloved ambassadors and in recognition of their All-Star Careers.



Minor League

From Page 3

Some other former NFL players are also participating in this league like Matt Asiata, Garrett Grayson, and Trent Richardson. The AAF already has a whole season planned that will be televised. It was founded by Charlie Ebersol and

Bill Polian. They are TV partners with CBS and NFL Network and other smaller companies.

This will most likely be played for every offseason of the NFL. What makes this different from other football leagues is that this league gets the publicity it needs. Players will be given a three-year contract for \$250,000 which means they will receive about \$84,000 annually.

Basketball's Best Take to the Court Sunday



**By Benji Cutler
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The NBA All-Star Game, on February 17, is right ahead. Recently, the All-Star Game Draft took place, televised this year, unlike last year.

The two players with the most All-Star votes, LeBron James from the Western Conference and Giannis Antetokounmpo from the Eastern Conference, select the All-Stars for their team. LeBron got to select a player every other turn, as well as Giannis. Last year was the first year they used this format, and it worked out very well. Before then, it was the Eastern Conference versus the West.



Since last season, the NBA All-Star Game has been played for charity. Each team captain will select a charity or national organization located in Charlotte, where the game is being played, where donations will be used to support local efforts.

They each got to pick four other starters, someone who's representing either conference, one by one. Then, they each got to pick 7 reserves, representing either conference as well, which were voted in by head coaches. Also, this year, they added just before the draft a special roster addition, one from each conference, dedicated to people who are soon retiring and have had incredible careers. These two players were Dirk Nowitzki and Dwyane Wade.

Now that I got that out of the way, I will show you the 2 teams that will be battling against each other on Sunday, February 17.

Team Giannis:

Starters:

Stephen Curry
Joel Embiid
Paul George
Kemba Walker

Reserves:

Blake Griffin
Nikola Jokic
Kyle Lowry
Khris Middleton
D'Angelo Russell
Russell Westbrook

Special Roster Addition:

Dirk Nowitzki



Team LeBron:

Starters:

Kevin Durant
James Harden
Kyrie Irving
Kawhi Leonard

Reserves:

LaMarcus Aldridge
Bradley Beal
Anthony Davis
Damian Lillard
Ben Simmons
Klay Thompson
Karl-Anthony Towns

Special Roster Addition:

Dwyane Wade

Along with the special roster additions, there was more history that was made this year. As I said earlier, this was the first ever televised NBA All-Star Draft, and this was the year of the first ever All-Star trade. Russell Westbrook of Team LeBron was traded to Team Giannis for Ben Simmons. All-Star Weekend will be very exciting to watch. Now that I've told you about the new NBA All-Star Game, you'll be prepared for the spectacular game that will be played Sunday, February 17, 8:20 P.M. on TNT.



**Next
Issue:
February
28!**

**Enjoy the
Break!**