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There's Only One Earth, So Try to Protect It



By Allison Cardillo
Tusker Tribune Staff

Earth Day first started on April 22, 1970, by Senator Gaylord Nelson.

Today, over 20 million people nationwide attend events in school, universities, and at community sites across the United States. We celebrate Earth Day on April 22 because it falls between colleges' spring break and final exams.

Even though Earth Day is not an official holiday, it is still celebrated in different ways.



Earth Day is important so we can raise awareness for the environment and educate people worldwide. It is important to protect the earth so we can have cleaner air, water, and food materials.

Did you know Earth Day was inspired by the Vietnam War?

Continued on Page 4

Central NJ Earthquake Shakes Up Somers



By Cole Dolan
Tusker Tribune Staff

Writers note: This story was written the few minutes after the earthquake on April 5. Some information may now be different.

On Friday morning, April 5, around 10:23 AM, many people in Somers were frightened by their houses shaking, cars shaking and many other objects swaying. I started reaching out to some of my friends asking if they felt that, and all of them said yes, and I came to the conclusion that we just had an earthquake.

After a few minutes, it came out to be a 4.8 magnitude earthquake on the Richter scale. This is a huge earthquake for the New York-



New Jersey area. The New York and New Jersey area usually get 1.8-magnitude earthquakes that really can't be felt. The reason an earthquake happens is when the Earth's tectonic plates shift and slide back and forth on the Earth's upper mantle and crust. In this case, the earthquake occurred along the New Jersey Ramapo fault.



Many people on the east coast have never felt an earthquake. It is a very rare occurrence that an earthquake of this magnitude happened. The Governor's of New York and New Jersey sent their teams out to assess damages. JFK and Newark airplanes were grounded to assess the runway. There have been no reports of damage in the early stages. Did you feel the Earthquake?

Passover Begins Monday



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Passover holds a significant place in Jewish culture, commemorating the journey from slavery to freedom in ancient Egypt. Lasting about a week, it begins on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan.

During Passover, Jewish families gather for special meals known as Seders, where they partake in symbolic foods, share stories, and offer prayers.

One of the key traditions of Passover involves refraining from leavened bread, symbolizing



the Israelites' swift departure from Egypt. Instead, they consume unleavened bread called matzo.

For non-Jewish individuals like me, Passover offers an opportunity to learn about Jewish history and customs, fostering a deeper understanding of the values of freedom and solidarity. It serves as a reminder to appreciate the importance of community and empathy.

Passover encourages us all to reflect on the struggles of the past, express gratitude for our liberties, and strive towards a more inclusive and compassionate society.

Washington, D.C. Was Awesome!



**By Alexa Ernst
Tusker Tribune
Staff**

DAY ONE:

We got to school by 5:30 AM and left for D.C. by 6:20. The six-hour bus ride was long but fun. We listened to music and sang to songs like "Sweet Caroline", "Bohemian Rhapsody", and "The Muffin" song. We also watched *Shrek* and *E.L.F.*

When we finally got there, the first thing we went to see was the FDR Memorial (Franklin Delano Roosevelt). Then we went to see MLK's (monument (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

After that, we went to see the Holocaust Museum (the museum about the Jewish people and how they were tortured in World War II). After that, we went to see the Arlington National Cemetery. We got to see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier! We were able to see John F Kennedy's tomb with his wife Jacqueline Lee Bouvier and their daughter.

After that, we saw the Two Jima Memorial (the six soldiers holding the flag statue) and we went bowling and had dinner at Pinstripes restaurant. We then checked into the hotel and slept.

DAY TWO:

We ate and then left the hotel (the food was good!!) We took the original classic picture at the capitol building, and then we went to the White House. Some guy was blasting "YMCA" and the "Cupid Shuffle".

After that, we saw the Jefferson Memorial. We saw some of his most famous quotes like: "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal." Then we went to the National Museum of Natural History. I got to see the Hope Diamond and some dinosaurs. It was cool!

After that, we went to Dave and Busters to eat and



then play games. We each got \$25 worth of game cards. Then we went back to the hotel.

DAY THREE:

We ate breakfast and checked out of the hotel. It rained a lot! But we saw the WWII Memorial (I found the NY state column in it).

Then we went to see the Korea and Vietnam memorials and the American History Museum (I FOUND LIN MANUEL MIRANDAS JACKET WHEN HE WORE IT ON HAMILTON!! AND CHRIS EVANS' SHIELD HE USED IN CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE WINTER SOLDIER!!!!)

After that we were on the road again, had lunch and went home.

Reporters /Contributors

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**Somers Middle School
250 Route 202
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Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at:

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Tusker Tribune Website:
<https://www.somersschools.org/Page/11489>

The Gruesome History of the Great Wall of China



By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff

The Great Wall of China is a fortification built by the ancient Chinese to keep invaders out of their land. It started being built around 220 B.C by Qin Shi Huang, a Chinese emperor. Today, many tourists like visiting the Great Wall of China, but what many do not know is the gruesome history behind it.

Qin Shi Huang was a Chinese emperor who ruled from 221-210 BCE. He was the first person to unify China. (Before him, there were many warring states instead of one unified one.) Qin ordered that the Great Wall of China to be built. There were some walls, but they were scattered and not connected. Qin wanted to connect all the existing walls and combine them into one big wall.

This is where the gruesome part comes in: Qin forced thousands of criminals and peasants to build the wall, where a lot of them died in the process. Not only was the work extremely hard, but the workers were not paid. They were slaves.



Workers often died of exhaustion, disease, or rocks falling on them. They were barely fed enough food. It is estimated by historians that over 1 million people died during the making of the Great Wall of China. Some people who died while building the Great Wall were buried under it. The work of slaves who constructed the Great Wall of China paid off though, because it is more than 5,500 miles (about twice the width of the United States) long! It is the longest building made by humans in history.

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Painful Looking Torture Methods from Medieval Times



By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff

Medieval times- not the best era to live in. When I think medieval times, I think the plague, war, peasants, death, the lack of women's rights, and the torture devices. We are so lucky we don't have medieval torture devices now. So, let's look at some medieval torture devices because why not!

The Brazen Bull

The brazen bull was not made during medieval times, but I still wanted to include it because it is horrific. It was made in the 6th century BCE by a bronze worker. The brazen bull, or the bronze bull, was made completely out of bronze, and it was shaped like a life size bull. It was hollow on the inside, which is where the victim of this horrific contraption would go, via a door on the side of the bull. When a fire was lit below the bull, the person inside would be roasted alive slowly. Also, the bronze bull was designed so the screams of whoever was inside it would sound like a bull.

The Breaking Wheel

The breaking wheel, or the execution wheel, was a wooden wheel with spikes. It also involved other forms of pain, one of which was whacking the victim with a hammer, which would cause severe injuries such as bone fractures. After the hammer, the victim would be put on a mast or pole or another wheel. Now, the victim could be burned or get their head chopped off. This device also was de-



signed to torture the victim after death in a spiritual way as well.

Caged Rat Torture

This is worse than the name suggests. This method of torture included a cage of rats, which would be placed on the victim's stomach. Then, someone would place some burning coal on top of the cage, making the rats want to get out. But there would be nowhere to go for the rats... except for a tunnel through the victim's body they could make.

The Rack

The rack was an open frame in which the victim's ankles and hands would be tied to poles. These poles would be turned, causing pain and dislocation. It was often used to extract information. It was introduced in 1420.

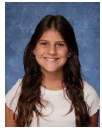
Conclusion

In closing, we should all be glad we do not live in medieval times. These things look and sound so horrific. There are a lot of reasons modern people would be sentenced to medieval torture (for medieval reasons). Which one of these devices do you think would be most painful?

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Passover Celebrates Freedom



**By Allison Cardillo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Passover, or “Pesach” in Hebrew, is a celebration that commemorates the Jewish people’s escape from slavery in ancient Egypt. Passover is celebrated from April 22 through April 30th. The first night is the most important of the celebration. When the sun goes down, families enjoy the ritual meal called the Seder. This celebration is a time for reflection and remembrance.

Passover is a festival of freedom. During these holy days, holiday meals are prepared, there are special prayer services, and you should not work. The Passover Seder plate has symbolic foods,



some to be eaten, some to be displayed. Each of the six items have special significance in re-telling the story of the Exodus through stories and songs.

Before eating, we go around the table taking turns reading the Haggadah, which includes the ten plagues, which we made into puppets to illustrate. The four questions are usually read by the youngest around the table.

One of the popular songs is called “Dayenu”, which is about freedom. The fun part of Passover is hiding the matzah known as the “Afikomen” for the kids to find. My nana and papa always put a few dollars in with the matzah. The annual holiday celebration ensures that the events of the past are not forgotten.

SMS STARS: March 2024

Grade 6:



Nicholas Bojaj

Grade 7



Leah Agyeman

Grade 8



Kealin Wiggins

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!

Earth Day

From Page 1

The benefits of Earth Day are to teach people to recycle, not litter, plant trees, create cleaner vehicles and much more to keep our earth safe.

Did you know each year, Earth Day has a theme? The 2024 year's theme is “Planet vs Plastic”. The theme wants to raise awareness of plastic pollution and how much is used in a day.

It is a commitment to have a 60% reduction of the production of all plastic by 2042. What are you going to do to help support our planet?

Earth Day Focus This Year is on Plastic Pollution



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Earth Day happens every year on April 22nd. It's a day when people all over the world think about how to take care of our planet. We celebrate Earth Day to remind ourselves to protect nature and keep it healthy.

Back in 1970, the first Earth Day took place. Since then, it's become a big deal. People everywhere do things to help the Earth on this day. They plant trees, clean up trash, and talk about how to use en-



ergy in better ways.

Earth Day is important because it helps us remember that we need to take care of the environment.

Our planet faces many problems like pollution and climate change. Earth Day reminds us that we can all do things to help, no matter how small.

This year, the theme for Earth Day is “Planet vs. Plastics”. It is meant to raise awareness for the HUGE amounts of plastic we as humans put into the environment and the impact it has on our ecosystem.

Have the Zodiac Signs Ever Interested You?

Disclaimer: Zodiac Signs are not meant to define how you live your life; they are just fun pieces of information to know.

All About Virgos!



By Vivian Hernandez
Tusker Tribune Staff

Here are facts and fun facts about the Zodiac Sign **Virgo**! The Zodiac Sign Virgo starts in August on the 23rd and ends in September on the 22nd. Virgo is an earth sign and is represented by the goddess of wheat and agriculture. This speaks in association that speaks to Virgo's deep-rooted presence in the Material World.



The character traits of Virgo are logical, practical, and systematic in their approach to life. Virgo is a perfectionist at heart and isn't afraid to improve skills through diligent and consistent practice. Virgo rules the digestive system which makes these earth's signs especially attuned to the ingredients that make up a whole- in food and in everything else.

This sign is also hyper-aware of every detail. The planet Mercury governs Virgo, Mercury is the messenger planet of communication. Though Mercury also rules Gemini, these two signs are radically different. Gemini is about output and expression, whereas Virgo is about input and processing. An interesting trait about Virgo is that they deal with information like a computer. A Virgo can transform even the most confusing set of information into organized, clear concepts.

Continued on Page 6

If You're a Leo . . .



By Vivian Hernandez
Tusker Tribune Staff

Here are facts and fun facts about the Zodiac sign **Leo**! The Zodiac sign 'Leo' starts in July on the 23rd and ends in August on the 22nd. Leo is represented by a lion which is the ruler of the jungle, making Leo a natural leader.

A Leo tends to be vivacious, theatrical, and passionate. Leos love to bask in the spotlight and also celebrate themselves for their accomplishments. Leo is a natural leader and enjoys cultivating friendships and relationships.



The Leo is ruled by the sun, which is a dazzling celestial body that governs life and vitality. The sun never goes retrograde meaning that the sun never moves backwards and likewise Leo never looks back or goes backward. Leos are known for their stability, loyalty, and consistency. Leos are dedicated friends and lovers who put their whole heart into every relationship (Accordingly, the Leo sign governs the heart.) Lions love to watch their mate succeed until they feel threatened.

Continued on Page 6

And Then There's Cancer . . .



By Vivian Hernandez
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have the Zodiac signs ever interested you? Well, here are facts and fun facts about Zodiac

Sign **Cancer**!

The Zodiac Sign 'Cancer' starts on June 20th and ends on July 22nd. The Cancer is a Cardinal sign which is a sign that starts a new season! Cancer starts the season 'Summer'. This sign is represented by the crab. The crab symbolizes the crab which pinched Heracles while he was fighting the Lernaean hydra.

Cancer is ruled by the Moon, which is the celestial body of comfort, self-care, and maternal energies. Accordingly, a Cancer is often domestically oriented. Cancer loves to create cozy safe spaces that can serve as their personal sanctuary which they spend most of their time in. Cancer deeply cares about their family and quickly adopt caregiv-



er roles. But a Cancer must take caution because when Cancers invest in someone emotionally, they risk blurring the line between attentive and nurturing and controlling behavior.

Cancers tend to be loyal, committed, and emotional depth. These crustaceans make excellent hosts and love to entertain with comfort food and free-flowing libations. Here are 10 fun facts about Cancer:

1. They're very intuitive: if they have a bad feeling about something, they're usually right
2. In that sense, they usually have logical reactions
3. They can be nostalgic and love reminiscing
4. They have a hard time saying no
5. Cancer is one of the most sentimental signs of the Zodiac.

Continued on Page 6

World War II a Key Part of D.C. Trip and 8th Grade Curriculum



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Part of what 8th graders learned about on the DC trip is World War II. World War II was a major conflict that lasted from 1939 to 1945, involving many countries around the globe. It started because of aggressive actions by Nazi Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, and Japan's expansion in Asia.

The war was fought between two main groups: the Allies (including the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union) and the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan).

The war caused widespread destruction, loss of



life, and displacement of millions of people. Important events included Germany's invasion of Poland, the bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japan (which was the reason the U.S joined the war), and the D-Day invasion in Normandy. The war also saw new technologies like tanks, airplanes, and submarines being used.

After the war, the world changed significantly. The United States and the Soviet Union became powerful nations, and the United Nations was formed to promote peace and cooperation among countries. World War II had a lasting impact on global politics and society.

Virgo From Page 5

A Virgo can be meticulous in all pursuits, but they must remember that constantly chasing after the ideal can be destructive when applied to self or others. Virgos are known to be kind, gentle, and a supportive friend. Virgos love to use their incredible intellect and resourcefulness to solve problems.

Earth signs are always striving to provide a workable solution and improve broken systems. Virgos are known for being perfectionists and known for their attention to detail. For this reason, Virgo tends to be extremely hard on themselves. Although Virgo can tend to be perfectionists, it doesn't mean just to themselves. Whoever is surrounding a Virgo is the person whom a Virgo put helping others before themselves. This can lead to an overwhelming feeling for Virgo and when all those feelings build up, a Virgo can lash out at anyone, even a family member. Virgos are also known for being intelligent, but because of their introverted nature, they want the best for you. This is why Virgos tend to can sometimes have trouble expressing themselves.

Here are 10 fun facts about Virgo:

1. They have organized, analytical minds.
2. They are curious people and have a natural gift for research.
3. They have a talent for intuition.
4. Virgos are most compatible with Taurus, Cancer, and Capricorn.
5. Their birthstone is sapphire which is the rarest birthstone stone out of all 12.
6. They can be very private.
7. Virgos are perfectionists.
8. Virgos tend to avoid conflict.
9. When conflict occurs, they are not afraid to speak their mind and stand their ground.
10. Virgos are attracted to confidence, ambition, and intelligence.

Leo From Page 5

Since the Leo is represented by the Lion, a Leo had the same characteristics. Leos can start to feel impaired by their ego, pride, and jealousy when they start to fear that their power will fade away. Ultimately, Leo's own hubris, which is an extreme quality or excessive pride of overconfidence, leads to their own downfall. A Leo is a fixed sign known for being ambitious and determined but above all, Leos are celebrated by their remarkable bravery. Here are 10 fun facts about these out-going lions:

1. They're extremely good at making everyone happy and protecting them.
2. They have very strong opinions.
3. They are incredibly determined to achieve their goals.
4. Leos are often seen as a symbol of power.
5. Ruled by the sun, the Leo is a very energetic sign.
6. It's never a good idea to provoke a Leo: they're known for their sharp personalities.
7. They're not afraid to tell you how they feel.
8. Before they're so ambitious, they love to keep themselves busy.
9. They can be misunderstood while they are strong and proud, they deeply care about other people too.
10. In that sense, they're confident on the outside, but sensitive on the inside.

Cancer From Page 5

6. They are courageous leaders, while caring a lot about those they lead
7. They tend to isolate when they're feeling low
8. They're extremely generous
9. Their birthstone is Ruby
10. Cancer appreciates being and feeling at home, even though they're always up for an adventure!

How Ai is Impacting Art



**By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Art has been a way to express feelings, cope with stress or anxiety, and have fun for centuries. It is also something many people make a living out of by selling their work. There are many types of art as well, such as sculptures, digital art, markers, colored pencils, watercolor, paint... the list could go on forever. But there is a new type of art, ai (artificial intelligence). But is ai "art" legitimate, or is it just typing in a prompt and generating an image in just a couple seconds?

In 2022, Jason M. Allen won \$300 at an art competition for his ai generated "artwork." Just let that sink in. Someone gave a robot a couple of words, the robot spat out an image, and the "artist" won \$300. Meanwhile, *real* artists poured their heart and soul into *real* art pieces and lost to a robot.

As an artist myself, this boils my blood. I might be a young artist, and I am not terribly advanced, but I even have more experience in art than people who just give a robot some words and see what happens! And get this, people are defending ai "art." The audacity!

And ai isn't even original; it just looks online at *real* art and replicates the style! And if you still think ai "art" is good and fun, listen to this.

According to Zippia.com, "there are over 206,202 painters currently employed in the United States." If ai replaces art, 206,202 people will lose their jobs. Then, that could lead to homelessness. There will be 206,202 people who are homeless. But that is only painters in the U.S.! There are painters in other places, digital, color pencil, mixed media, markers artists as well! There are also animators and people in art school, and I don't see why you would go to art school if you don't want to be an artist!

I don't think ai art even looks that good. It is usually easy to tell when something is ai generated. Also, I mostly see people using ai for jokes and stuff. There is a lot of stuff that goes along the lines of "ai tries to make tutorials for simple things" and then the ai generated tutorial doesn't make any sense or words are spelt wrong, or both,



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usually.

Also, when *real* artists make *real* art, it feels much more special. This could be because the artist is famous, they made the art to cope with depression or anxiety, or it is something they made during their childhood. For example, let's say there is someone called Gerald. Gerald's mom died, and maybe to make his happier, he paints. The paintings Gerald makes during his grief are extremely special since those paintings might have made him happier during a sad time.

And those paintings are much more meaningful than anything ai could do, even if Gerald isn't the best painter. In addition, it takes much more work to make art than to just give a robot a prompt. Artists also need to practice. No one just paints the Mona Lisa right after popping out of the womb! I am proud of most art I make, but when I was in 4th grade? 2nd

grade? Lets just say I was not the sharpest tool in the shed. And imagine all that practice, all that work, all the progress you have made in your hobby.... only for a robot to beat you.

In conclusion, ai "art" is not *real* art for many reasons. Art is a beautiful way for *humans* (not robots) to have fun, express feelings, or cope with grief. There are so many ways to have fun with art, even if you do not think you are good at it. Meanwhile, ai "art" is just typing in a prompt and seeing what a robot does. That does not even sound fun to do. It is okay to experiment with ai, and its great if it will help scientists find a cure for cancer or something. But ai is not a hobby.

And to any artists who are afraid of ai- ai only has an extremely tiny fraction of your talent and power. Ai will never even come close to your art, so keep going no matter what people say and how good you think you are. Even if you do not think you are good at art, keep going because quitting will not make it better.

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Sean Ono Lennon and James McCartney's New Song



**By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff**
Sean Ono Lennon
(son of John Lennon) and
James McCartney (son of
Paul McCartney) re-

leased a song together on April 12! Beatles fans, me included, are excited! The song is called "Primrose Hill", after a park in London.

Primrose Hill in London is a beautiful park which has a wonderful view of the city. It is no surprise that McCartney and Ono Lennon named their song after it.

Sean Ono Lennon was born in 1975 and has been a musician since the 1990s. He has performed with the band Cibo Matto and his mother, Yoko Ono. James McCartney was born in 1977 and has also been doing music since the 1990s, but he never released his own songs "until a decade later" (according to npr.org)

The song Primrose Hill is great, I would



recommend listening to it. Lennon and McCartney's song is much like what their fathers wrote. I would like to see them do more collaborations. Did you listen to Primrose Hill, and if you did, do you like it? You can listen to Primrose Hill on Spotify and YouTube.

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A Memorable Trip to Tampa, FL



**By Olivia Ball
Tusker Tribune Staff**
In the beginning of
March, I flew to Tampa
Bay, Florida, to visit my
grandparents. The flight

took about 2 ½ hours and seemed quick. There wasn't much turbulence, so it was a comfortable flight, with lots of in-flight entertainment.

Once we stepped out of the airport, you could immediately feel the change in temperature. It was low 40's in New York and low 70's in Florida, so I had to change into shorts. That's why many retirees go to Florida for the winter. They have been nicknamed "snowbirds," because they migrate like birds to warmer weather. During my four-day visit, we went to Busch Gardens, Zoo Tampa, to Fred Howard Beach and on a four-hour food tour of Ybor city.

Busch Gardens was our first stop. It is an amusement park and zoo combined. Our favorite ride was the Cobra's Curse. It is a rollercoaster that goes backward and spins around in some parts. It didn't go upside down, but it was still a thrilling ride, because of the speed and drops. At Busch Gardens, we also did an animal interaction with a sloth. My brother is obsessed with sloths, so this was a dream experience for him. We were able to pet the sloth, whose name was Harry. His fur felt like human hair, and he liked to eat vegetables.



He was in his 40's and was an active zoo ambassador for many years. In fact, he traveled all over the world, so much, he almost got upgraded to first class on one of his trips. Sloths are considered solitary creatures, but Harry changed all that when he became an ambassador. Now they have sloth ambassadors at many zoos.

During the trip, we

stopped at a beach called Fred Howard. The water was a little chilly, but you could still swim. Umbrellas and chairs are available to rent, so you didn't have to lug them to the beach. The ocean was calm and beautiful and since it was a nice day, there were a ton of people out. They also had a shaved ice truck in the parking lot, so I got one. You could pick whatever flavors you like and it was delicious.



After that, we stopped in a little town with tons of shops called Tarpon Springs. It was established by Greek sponge divers. We stopped in a famous Greek coffee and pastry shop called Hella's Bakery to pick up dessert for a family dinner. The decorations around the area were beautiful and it really did look like Greece. There were many lively restaurant and shops. We stopped to look at a statue dedicated to the sponge divers. Florida is the natural sponge capital of the world.

Continued on Page 8

Tampa Bay

From Page 7

Once we learned that, we stopped at a sponge shop. They had shells and natural sponges labeled with a description of how to use. Later that night, we went to dinner at Mystic Fish for a special dinner with my grandparents. The restaurant had a cool vibe and the food was delicious. If you are near Tarpon Springs, I recommend it for nice dinner.

The next day, we went to Zoo Tampa. Before the trip to Florida, I started watching this series called "Secrets of Zoo Tampa", so I wanted to visit the zoo to see if I could see any of the animals or people from the show. I recognized some of the animals, including _____ from the show. The manatees and penguins were also super cool. They had a prehistoric exhibit, which scared all the little kids, so that was funny. We couldn't see the Australia section, because it was being renovated, so we'll have to save that for next time. We got to pet the stingrays on the way out, which were slimy, but it was cool.

Our last stop was Ybor City, which is pronounced "eee-boar". We took a historic food tour. We toured around the area, stopping at different



places, learning about the neighborhood and trying the cuisine. Ybor was the cigar capital of the US and was founded by Vincente Martinez. Different cultures lived in the neighborhood, including Cubans, Italians, Spaniards, and Germans. They had social clubs and the neighborhood was lively. The workers lived in houses called casitas.

Mr. Ybor paid a good wage and educated his workers by hiring lecturers. The lecturers would read books and news to the workers. There were also many haunted buildings in the neighborhood. We tried different types of food, including Shepherds pie, Cuban sandwiches, calzones, and hot chocolate. My favorite was the Cuban sandwich-es.

We stayed in the house my grandparents rented in a retiree village. The village had a heated pool and people get around in golf carts. Since my parents rented one for their visit, we took it to the pool and were able to ride around the village with it. There was also bingo in the pool house, but we were too young to play, because people win actual money.

I loved visiting Tampa for a few days and recommend it to other kids looking for a place to visit in Florida other than Orlando.



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Runs from 4:10 - 5:30
Open to ALL GRADES

Prompt: Imagine waking up one morning to find spring has arrived in a magical way. Flowers bloom in vibrant colors, birds sing beautiful tunes, and the sun shines warmly. Write a short story about your adventure in this enchanted spring world. What wonders will you discover?

Original Works
in narrative or
poetry
SUBMIT TO
MS. O'CONNOR

Prize: \$20
gift certificate
to the BF

NYSUT SOMERS FACULTY/SCHOOL RELATED PROFESSIONALS

FOOD DRIVE

30TH YEAR!

APRIL 24 - 30TH

I totaled, over the past 29 years of food drives, we have donated close to 90,000 lbs of food and used \$58,333 through our NYSUT SFA/SSRP Food Bank Drives! Our food and monetary donations have helped so many families in Westchester County. They are also a testament to the generosity of our teachers and staff and to the giving spirit of the Somers community at a large! This year, our donations will go to "Feeding Westchester". As in the past years, we are inviting the donation of non-perishable food items from students.

About feeding Westchester: they serve 220,000 people (on average) each month through community partners, meal programs, food pantries and other distributions. In 2023, they distributed more than 21 million lbs of food, equal to over 17 million meals!

We look forward to another successful drive and again having the opportunity to help those who are less fortunate. Thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely,
The SMS FOOD DRIVE COORDINATOR
Jesse Annett, Deb Kilmer & Cheryl Astrologo

ITEMS MOST NEEDED

- Brown/white rice/pasta/grain (dark cereal)
- Mac/high protein soup: canned meat
- Beans, meal spread, oil (olive, chicken)
- Canned Fish/Tuna, salmon, sardines, mackerel
- Peanut butter, jam, jelly, applesauce
- Peanut butter (plastic container)
- Canned soups: beans, chicken, ham, beef
- Evaporated milk/condensed milk
- Canned fruit: fruit, peach, guava, juice, raisins
- Vegetables (canned/sautéed), dried fruits (raisins, apricots, prunes)

PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATES
AVOID ALL GLASS ITEMS AND NO PERISHABLE FOODS

Collect items from the following on the date:
LOW SOLEM, REDUCED SODAS, NO SALT, NO SUGAR, UNSWEETENED, 100% FRUIT JUICE/LITE

DROP-OFF LOCATION
SMS - MAIN LOBBY BY PEANUT