TUSKERS
SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

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The Raimondi family recently shared photos from Matthew Raimondi's hospital room showing all of the encouragement he has been receiving from SMS students. We can't wait for your return, Matthew!

Soto Has a Big Impact For Yankees



By Michael Paulmeno
Tusker Tribune Staff

It was a cold day in December of 2023 when the news broke. Juan Soto, one of the best baseball players in the world, signed with the New York Yankees! What a great Christmas present for Yankee fans! The whole baseball world went crazy. Fans were freaking out, and even people who didn't like baseball were talking about it. Soto, who had played for the Washington Nationals and then the San Diego Padres, was finally joining one of the biggest teams in New York. And everyone knew this was big.



The Yankees had already been good, with players like Aaron judge, Giancarlo Stanton and Anthony Rizzo, but adding Juan Soto to their lineup made them even better. It was like getting a superhero to join an already strong team of heroes. Soto was known for hitting home runs, getting tons of walks, and just being really good at baseball in general. Now he would be playing in the same city as past legends like Mickey Mantle, Derek Jeter and Babe Ruth.

When the Yankees announced that Soto was coming, the fans were going wild. The Yankees Instagram account blew up with excitement, and people all over the city were talking about how this could be the year they finally win it all. Yankees fans dreamed of seeing Soto hitting bombs at Yankee stadium, helping the Yankees get to the playoffs and possibly the World Series.

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All About Skeleton Flowers



By Sofia Mendoza
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever heard of a plant that can become transparent when wet? Well, it is possible because there is a real flower called the Diphylleia Grayi, that does this exact thing!

Also known as the skeleton flower, this unique plant transforms the color of its petals when wet. Skeleton flowers are woodland flowers that are native to Japan, China, and the Appalachian Mountains of the United States of America. They prefer cooler and more temperate climates, where the soil is slightly acidic, and grow in shady areas that are protected from extreme heat.

They are perennials, which means they grow back every year without having to replant them. They are part of the Burseraceae family, which contains about 540 species of woody flower plants. Skeleton flowers are also referred to as the "chameleons of the forest", because of their unique ability to transform.

Skeleton flowers have six white petals when dry. But when they are wet, these petals become completely see through as if they were glass. Once transparent, the delicate details of its veins running through each petal can be seen clearly. The color of the petals does not wash out when wet, but rather, its ability to become transparent happens because the white flowers have distinct loose cell structures that make this possible. They are about 12-18 inches tall when fully grown, and can also be quite large, with their umbrella-like leaves measuring up to 1-3 feet wide.



These unique flowers bloom in the summer around June or July. Usually, skeleton flowers represent calm and peace. These flowers can symbolize many things such as rebirth and transformation, and are associated with temporary beauty, fragility, and delicacy. These flowers can also remind us that it is possible to unveil hidden beauty under the certain right circumstances. Skeleton flowers are truly incredible and fascinating plants to admire. Perhaps you can plant some of these unique flowers in your garden to enjoy over the summer.

Just How Smart Are Animals?



By Lila O'Connor
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever wondered how smart animals really are? In this article you will find out about the smartest animals in the world.

One of our smart animals and distant relatives is the chimpanzee.



As a comparison a chimpanzee is about as smart as a 3–4-year-old. Think about that If you have a cousin like me who's two and knows their alphabet. a chimpanzee is smarter than them.

Another smart animal is the school mascot, an elephant. Elephants have some of the best memories. Another ability elephants have that not many other animals have is feeling empathy, which is basically feeling the pain other beings feel.



Our last animal is dolphins. Dolphins are comparable to a 5–6-year-old. My sister just turned 7 and can read, write and has homework.

Dolphins can also communicate with each other which is truly amazing. They also live in tight-knit groups called pods.

That's all about the smartest animals.



Sixth Graders Have a Blast at Chelsea Piers



By Elowyn Dawson
Tusker Tribune Staff

This year, the 6th grade took a field trip to Chelsea Piers. Chelsea Piers is in Stamford, Connecticut.

The bus ride was around 45-60 minutes. Once the kids arrived, they dropped their stuff off and immediately started the activities.



One of the rooms had a rock wall and trampoline dodgeball, Another room was a gymnastics room with a foam pit. There was even a parkour room with lots of climbing equipment.

The two other rooms were upstairs. Up there they had sports rooms with volleyball, basketball and field hockey courts. On the other side of the room, there was a soccer court.



After going to three rooms with a bunch activity, the 6th grade went upstairs to eat their lunch at the tables. After that, we went to our last two activities. After that we all got on the bus and drove back to the school.

It was such a fun trip and experience, and I would recommend it for next year's sixth graders!

A&S Fine Foods Definitely Worth a Try!



By Justin Mariani
Tusker tribune Staff

The store A&S at 3689 Hill Boulevard in Jefferson Valley, NY 10535 (Jefferson valley) is owned by Mario Mancini. His history includes working ten years in the A&S Yonkers store and learning the business under the supervision and training of Joe, Tony and Nicky Competiello.



The store opened in 1998 by Mario. He is a hardworking man with tons of talent. He also contributed in a fundraiser to help send the 12U Red Storm Somers baseball team to Cooperstown.

The store has great tasting food consisting of my personal favorites—mozzarella, dried sausage, and Terranova bread. The store has any kind of bread you can think of, with many more food types, drinks, and chips. And there is a hot and cold buffet with a variety of food to crave after you eat it.



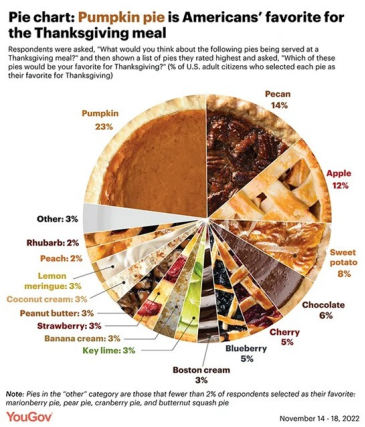
The store has a lot of workers who are nice and have respectful manners and great customer service. If you have the time to stop by, I would definitely recommend it.

The Thanksgiving Pie Tradition



By Laurel Knapp
Tusker Tribune Staff

Few can imagine a Thanksgiving feast without pie, so that raises the question: what is the best pie to eat on Thanksgiving? When most think of a Thanksgiving pie, pumpkin pie comes to mind first because of the way it traces back to the Native Americans and the first Thanksgiving, but that does not mean it is the favorite. Pecan pie is gaining a lot of popularity throughout the US. Along with pumpkin pie and pecan pie, apple pie is often eaten on Thanksgiving as well.



All these pies are all unbelievably delicious in their own ways; with apple pie being sweet and fruity; pecan pie being nutty and sugary; and pumpkin pie being perfectly seasoned and soft. Everyone has their own opinion on which one is best, but all can agree that a Thanksgiving feast is not complete without pie. The Top 3 Pies:

#1: Apple Pie

Did you know that apples did not grow in North America until English settlers came? So, apple pie originated in England, but it became exceedingly popular quickly in the US. According to southernliving.com, apple pie is a symbol associated with home and warmth, but the Amercian representation of apple pie is an example of the combination of diverse cultures that can combine to make something wonderful.



#2: Pecan Pie

Pecan pie has no real origin because a lot of people have tried to take credit for inventing it, and everyone has their own version. The first written recipe or mention of pecan pie was written in 1886, but it probably has been around before that; being passed down from generation to generation. Pecan pie is an American invention, since pecans trace back to the Native Americans and colonists, but only in the mid-1800s did anyone try to bake with them.



3: Pumpkin Pie

Pumpkins were one of the first foods brought back from the new world, and they were first called "pumpions". This orange gourd quickly became part of England's pie-making culture with other savory and sweet pastries. It is surprising that early versions used the pumpkin shell to hold the delicious filling instead of the buttery crust modern pumpkin pie has.



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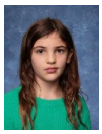
Soto

From Page 1

Juan Soto is only 25, he is still really young, and it felt like the Yankees had found their star for the next year. Everyone hoped that his arrival would turn the Yankees into a team that could compete for championships year after year. With Soto in the lineup, it looked like the Yankees were finally ready to make some noise in October and that's exactly what they did by making it to the World Series.

I am hoping he signs back with the Yankees because they are my favorite team.

The History of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade



By Elowyn Dawson
Tsuker Tribune Staff

Now that November is here Thanksgiving is right around the corner. There are many traditions surrounding Thanksgiving. For example, eating turkey, watching football, gathering with family and of course the Macy's Day Parade.

The parade is a big part of Thanksgiving traditions. The first Macys day parade was held in 1924, which means it has been 100 years since this tradition started. At the parade giant balloons filled with helium float in the sky. Those balloons feature popular characters like Yoda or SpongeBob. There are also giant floats with dancers. There are usually marching bands from around the country and musical performances from Broadway shows, along with pop stars. At the end of the parade, Santa Claus usually makes his grand entrance on his sleigh.





Now let's get into history. The parade was created by the Macy's workers to celebrate the store's expansion for the holidays and to promote holiday sales. The first parade had clowns, floats and animals from the Central Park Zoo. At the end of the parade Santa was crowned king of kiddies.

Overall, the ,Macys Parade is a great tradition that continues. So this Thanksgiving, be sure to turn on the parade.

Black Ops 6 Seems Maintains the Reputation of the Series



By RJ Hall
Tusker Tribune Staff

In May, 2024, famous gaming companies Treyarch and Activision announced the brand new Call of Duty Black Ops 6, and a couple weeks ago, the game was released on Xbox, Playstation, and PC.



Like the name suggests, this is the sixth game in the series and it has a lot to live up to with games like Black Ops 2. The price of the game at launch is $70.

The game came out on October 25th. It's only a couple weeks old and has mostly positive reviews. Some enjoy the campaign for how long it is and how interesting and wacky it is. Paul Tassi from Forbes says it's, "Absolutely unhinged, in the best way."

This game comes from an amazing lineage of games and maybe it's enjoyable enough to carry the torch of the former games in the series, so what do you think? Would you play this game if you could? Is it reasonably priced or is it too expensive?

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My Trip to Lyndhurst Mansion



By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff

Lyndhurst is a beautiful, gothic mansion in Tarrytown which was built in the 19th century. You can take a tour of the mansion, which is what I did last weekend. Lyndhurst has special events, such as the Gothic Harvest Market, which I went to. In this article, you can read about the history of the mansion, the Gothic Harvest Market, and my experience at Lyndhurst.

The History of Lyndhurst

There used to be woodland where Lyndhurst is, but it was turned into farmland by Europeans in the 18th century. Lyndhurst was designed in 1838 by Alexander Jackson Davis, who was commissioned to build the mansion by William S. Paulding, Jr. Paulding was retired, but he used to be a politician, military officer, mayor of New York, and state representative. Paulding did not spend much time at Lyndhurst, which was known as Knoll at the time. But his son, Phillip R. Paulding, lived there until the 1850s.



Knoll was sold to George Merritt in 1864. Merritt wanted to expand the mansion, so he hired the home's original architect, Alexander Jackson Davis, to do that. Davis also added gothic details to the interior. Additions from 1864-65 were more bedrooms on the 2nd floor, a large dining room, and a tower.

Merritt also transformed the landscape. Ferdinand Mangold, Merritt's Master Gardener, added trees, a greenhouse, and more, unlike Paulding, who used the property as farmland. Lyndhurst's name comes from the Linden trees that were added on the grounds of the mansion. Merritt died in 1873, leaving his wife, Julia to run the mansion. Julia sold Lyndhurst to Jay Gould in 1880.

Jay Gould was a financer and railroad tycoon. He did not make many changes to the house, but he refreshed the furniture and decorations. While Gould lived in Lyndhurst, Master Gardener Ferdinand Mangold continued to care for the greenhouse and the grounds.

After Gould's death in 1892, his daughter Helen took control of Lyndhurst. Helen contributed many things to Lyndhurst such as a pool, laundry building, and bowling alley. Helen also converted Lyndhurst into a school for poor children. Carpentry, sewing, and cooking were taught at Helen's free classes. She also let people use the pool and greenhouse and supported programs that helped women and girls.

After Helen's death, her sister, Anna, took control of Lyndhurst. Most of Anna's adult life was spent in France because she got married into the upper class of France. She went back to the U.S. when WW2 started. Like her sister, Anna used Lyndhurst for charitable efforts. She donated to the American Red Cross and let WW2 soldiers stayed at Lyndhurst. Anna went back to France after the war and died in 1961. After her death, Lyndhurst became a historic site and museum.

The Gothic Harvest Market

Despite its name, The Gothic Harvest Market wasn't a farmer's market, but there was art. There was a lot of different types of art, including jewelry, ceramics, prints, and more. There were also witchcraft/ritual things, which were interesting. I wanted to buy everything I saw, but I didn't have enough money for that. But I did get a necklace and an art print, and my mom got candles.

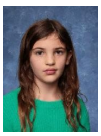
Here is a link to the list of all the shops that were there: https://lyndhurst.org/events/gothic-market-grounds-passes/

Conclusion

I loved going to Lyndhurst and the Gothic Harvest Market, and I recommend you visit if you like history, antiques, and/or art.

Source:

What's to Know About November? Lots of Stuff!



By Elowyn Dawson
Tusker Tribune Staff

I always like to write about interesting and fun things happening each month, so I had to write about November.



November is an interesting month. For example, this year, daylight savings was on November 3, which means it's getting darker earlier. Also, Thanksgiving is on the 28th .

Veterans day is on the 11th . Veterans day is the day we honor our military. The 6th to the 12th is National French Week, Polar Bear week, and Animal Shelter Week. November 1st isNational Authors Day. November 3rd is National Sandwich Day. National Cinnamon Day and National Hug a Bear Day also occur in November. And November also marks the start of the holiday season.

November also ties October for the most U.S presidents born. Some famous celebrities born in November are Emma Stone, Ryan Gosling, Leonardo DiCaprio, Owen Wilson and David Schwimmer. The Zodiac signs for October are Scorpio and Sagittarius. These are some of the cool things in November.