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10th Annual Game Awards



By RJ Hall
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This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Game Awards, which is "celebrated" every year. This year, the Game Awards was held on December 12. The organizers nominate and give awards to the best games of the year and announce new and upcoming games and sequels.

This year, many people tuned in because of a rumor about huge game announcements like Half Life 3, Persona 6, Borderlands 4 and more news



about the long-awaited Grand Theft Auto 6. Pretty much half of those games were mentioned during the award ceremony. Grand Theft Auto 6 was awarded "Most Anticipated Game of the Year," and the trailer for Borderlands 4 was also shown.

Although some like myself are disappointed about the lack of huge game announcements, we have some other new games and updates announced, like Split Fiction, The Witcher IV, The Outer Worlds 2, Warframe 1999, Helldivers 2: Omens of Tyranny, and a remaster of The Last of Us Part 2.

December Days: More Than Just the Familiar Holidays



By Elowyn Dawson
Tusker Tribune Staff

I like to write about the things going on each month. So of course, I had to write about December.

When you think about December, you may think about Winter or snow but what usually comes to mind are Christmas or Hannukah. Both holidays are public, and many countries celebrate.

Since they are very common, the month of December sort of revolves around them like shopping, lighting your menorah or putting up the Christmas



tree.

But other than the busy holidays, December is also the 12th and last month of the year. New Year's Eve is Tuesday December 31st. World's AIDS Day is celebrated on December 1st.

December 4th is National Cookie Day, too! Some of the celebrities who celebrate birthdays in December are Britney Spears, Walt Disney, Brad Pitt, LeBron James, Taylor Swift and Billie Eilish. The zodiac signs for December are Sagittarius and Capricorn.

That's all about December. Hope you enjoyed, and Happy Holidays!

Soto Contract is One for the Record Books!



By Cole Dolan
Tusker Tribune Staff

Just last week, young phenom Juan Soto signed a contract for 15 years and \$765 million to play for The New York Mets.

Juan Soto has been one of the best players in the MLB in recent years. Soto had his best season last year with the New York Yankees. He hit 41 home runs, drove in 109 RBIs, and had a .288 average. Soto was the top free agency target in this year's free agent class.

The Yankees, Mets, and Dodgers were the favorites to sign him, and he ended up picking the



Mets. This was a heartbreaking moment for many Yankee fans, who thought he would resign with the Yankees after making it to the World Series and pairing up with Aaron Judge, who hit a combined 99 home runs last season.

For Mets fans, this came as no surprise getting Soto, as Mets owner Steve Cohen is one of the richest people in the world, with a net worth of \$21.3 billion. Just to give an overview of this contract, Soto will be making \$980,000 a week, \$140,000 a day and \$5,822 an hour. That is a lot of money. This is a great signing no matter who you root for. Who is your favorite team?

World Holidays Mark December



**By Katherine Sautner
Tusker Tribune Staff**

There are many winter holidays around the world with so many special traditions. But have you heard of the holiday Yule? The holiday Yule is mostly celebrated in Germany and other countries. It is celebrated because of Winter Solstice and The Nature cycle. This holiday is celebrated on December 21st.

Another holiday you probably don't know about is Las Posadas. This holiday is celebrated on December 2nd and the holiday is celebrated mostly in Mexico and other Spanish speaking countries. Las Posadas is celebrated because of the journey of Mary and Joseph to find shelter.

Have you heard of the holiday St. Nicolas Day? St. Nicolas day celebrates St. Nicolas who sold and gave away everything he owned



to the poor. St. Nicolas day is celebrated in Northern Europe on December 6th. Did you know that St. Nicolas Day and Christmas are two different holidays?

That brings me to the holiday Christmas! Most people know about the holiday Christmas and that Christmas is celebrated on December 25th. The Birth of Baby Jesus is why we celebrate Christmas!

The final Holiday is Hanukkah! The holiday Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days and eight nights. Hanukkah is celebrated because of the miracle of oil that lasted eight nights. Did you know Hanukkah starts on the same day as Christmas all the way till January 2nd?

I hope everyone has a happy holidays and there are many more interesting cool holidays all around the world! Thank you for reading!

Fun Festive Things to do in the Holiday Season



**By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Since the holidays are so close, here are some fun activities that will keep you entertained all break long.

Sledding, making a snowman, skiing and snowboarding are activities you can do outside if it snows. Things that you can do when there's no snow and you want to stay inside are decorating your home or room, baking cookies and watching holiday movies.

Some great holiday movies to watch are Home Alone, Elf, The Polar Express and the Grinch movies.



Some more activities are making gifts, going holiday shopping, making a gingerbread house, wrapping presents, going to Rockefeller Center to see the Christmas tree, making hot chocolate, making paper snowflakes, decorating your front door, doing secret Santa, making custom ornaments, and opening an advent calendar. Some sweet treats that are festive and fun to make are holiday cookies, holiday cakes, and gingerbread flavored desserts. These are some fun activities that will keep you entertained this holiday season.

New Year's Traditions!



**By Caitlin Goodwin
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Everybody thinks that New Year's is about staying up late and watching the ball drop. But little did you know there is so much more to New Year's than you think.

In Spain, they eat 12 grapes in 12 seconds. This tradition dates back to 1909. They do this to bring prosperity and good fortune and the reason they eat 12 is because it represents each month of that year.

Another tradition takes place in Japan. In Japan, they ring bells 108 times. This is a Buddhist tradition called Joya No Kane. The ritual symbolizes purification.

In Greece they hang onions on the front door



that symbolizes the coming year's growth. It also hangs there to ward off the evil spirits and brings good luck to the household.

In Denmark, people smash plates against their friends' doors. You may ask why they do this. Well they do this because it is a way of saying thank you and good luck in the coming year.

In the Czech Republic, they cut open apples to predict the fate of those present. The shape of the apple seeds is supposed to bring good fortune.

And last but certainly not least, good old U.S.A, In U.S.A, it is a tradition to drink champagne. They do that to kick off the new year with abundance. I hope you know all about New year's traditions around the world



Musical performances were seemingly everywhere as SMS chorus, bell choir and orchestra groups spread the holiday spirit both off and on campus.

<https://youtu.be/SpNyeal4mw>



NANOWRIMO: A Softball Odyssey



**By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Editor's Note: This is a NANOWRIMO excerpt from a story that is close to 7000 words long. It's printed in the Tusker Tribune to demonstrate the writing capabilities of 8th graders who go through the month-long unit of writing a novel in 8th grade ELA.

It was a cool and breezy Sunday. Perfect day for a softball game. I was playing third base. The 4th girl in the lineup was up. We were winning by 1. Bases loaded. Two outs. Last inning.

All of a sudden, she hit a deep fly ball into the left center. The left and center fielders (Aubrey and Emma), chasing after the ball. Emma dives for it! Everyone is holding their breath to see if she caught it or not. She holds up her glove, and there it is. She caught it! She was the best player on the team, and we all knew it.

Everyone's jumping up and down. We just won our 3rd tournament!

Our coach said, "What a great way to keep the streak going, girls!" It was our 3rd tournament in a row that we won this fall.

Later that day, I was lying on my floor, admiring the trophy we got. It was gold, and there was a girl standing with her bat in one hand, and the glove with the ball inside of it in the other. Then my dad came into my room and said, "Great job today honey, I'm very proud of you!"

"Thanks dad" I replied.

I got out of bed and put my trophy on my desk. I went into the shower. I was very dirty from sliding and diving in the games! After I got out of the shower, I ate dinner, and went straight to bed. I was exhausted after such a fun and exciting day!

The next morning, when I got to school, everybody was talking about our big win on Sunday! Lots of people were saying "good job on the win yesterday". The people on the announcements even congratulated us!

When I got home, I was doing my homework. My dad came up to my room and said, "You have practice in an hour. When you're finished with what you're doing, go get dressed."

So, when I finished doing my homework, I went upstairs and got changed. I was wearing my red practice shirt, blue pants, red socks, and a red belt. Then I got into the car, and my dad drove me to practice.

At practice, we started with our normal warm up and started throwing. I threw with Emma. Our coach (John), had us go to our positions in the field that we play, and he hit us ground balls as worked on double plays and situations in the

field. When we were doing base-running, Emma's ankle kept bothering her, so coach John told her to go get a drink of water and rest it. Hopefully, she will be ok for the tournament this weekend! After baserunning, we set up all of the nets and softballs we needed for hitting.

After baserunning, we set up all the nets and softballs we needed for hitting. Daniella was pitching and we were hitting off of her. Our other teammates were either in the field getting the balls that were hit or swinging the bat because they were up next. Once everyone went, there was still seven minutes left, so we split up and did a quick relay race! Then, after two hours of softball, my mom picked me up to go home. When I got home, I went straight up to my room to take a shower. Finally, I went to bed because I was exhausted from practice.

The next morning, I got up and went to school. I had a math and social studies test that I studied before my mom drove me to school. I had the math test first period. It was surprisingly easy.

I think I got a 100% on it. On the other hand, my social studies test was hard, and I was not feeling too confident about what I got. Once I submitted it, I took a deep breath and looked to see what I got on it. 80%. Not too bad. It was a really hard test!

"What did you get?"

"80%, what about you?"

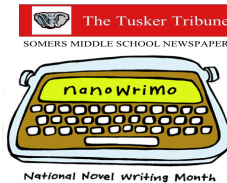
"87%"

"Nice!"

When the bell rang, Daniella was at my locker waiting for me. "Go quickly, we have to get the back seat on the bus!"

"Ok, I am almost done," I responded.

Once I got home, I did my homework and then headed to go practice hitting. We had a tournament this weekend and I wanted to do well! An hour later, my dad came home and went out to the backyard to see me hit a little. Finally, one hour and 45 minutes later, I went inside. It felt like my legs were wet spaghetti noodles. For dinner, we had steak with mashed potatoes and salad. After dinner, the softball group chat was on a call, so I decided to join!



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Overworked Women Who Fought in the American Revolution



By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff

When you think of influential people from the American Revolution, people like George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Alexander Hamilton are probably the first people who come to mind. But there are many more women who fought in the revolution than you might think. Often in history, men take credit for work that was done by women, which is why it is important to learn about women in history.

Sybil Ludington

Sybil Ludington was born in 1761. When she was 16, her father received a message that Danbury, Connecticut was being attacked by the British and they were stealing weapons and supplies. Sybil's father, who was a colonel, had to get his men so they could defend other towns against the British. But the soldiers were spread out around the area and needed to be recruited. So, Sybil rode through the rain and the dark for around 40 miles (around three times more than Paul Revere's Midnight Ride). When Sybil got



back home, many of the men were ready to fight. Even though the army was too late to fight for Danbury, the troops were able to drive the British away to Long Island Sound.

Martha Washington

Martha Washington and other women collected money to help soldiers. She also visited hospitals, knitted for the soldiers, and helped write George Washington's letters. Martha stayed with George in camps or close by for around half of the revolution. During Valley Forge, one of the harshest winters the American army has faced, Martha boosted the spirits of soldiers and comforted the sick and wounded.



Esther de Berdt Reed

Esther de Berdt Reed worked with the Ladies' Association of Philadelphia and the Daughters of Liberty, which were both organizations that supported the Continental Army. She encouraged women to donate to soldiers in the revolution instead of buying fancy clothing and raised over \$7,000, which today is the

equivalent to \$30,000.

The Daughters of Liberty

The Daughters of Liberty was an all-women organization that did boycotts and supported the Sons of Liberty. (The Sons of Liberty were a group of protesting rebels.) One of the ways they boycotted was by making their own fabric instead of buying from the British. Sam Adams, a member of the Sons of Liberty, said, "With ladies on our side, we can make every Tory tremble." (Tories were colonists who were loyal to England)



Mary Ludwig Hays (aka Molly Pitcher)

Mary Ludwig Hays's husband was a soldier for the Continental army. She went with her husband to war and washed clothes and sheets, like many other soldier's wives. Mary Ludwig Hays is known as Molly Pitcher because she carried pitchers of water for cleaning. Molly's husband, William, was wounded at the Battle of Monmouth, so Molly took his place using artillery. She also brought water to soldiers at Monmouth. (It was very hot during the battle, so they needed it a lot.)



Conclusion

In conclusion, there are many women who supported the American Revolution, but men are talked about more in school and history books. It is very important to highlight important women throughout history, even if it is not Women's History Month. I hope reading this has encouraged you to do your own research on women throughout history.

Sources:

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