

The Tusker Tribune

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Goldendoodles Make Terrific Pets



**By Lauren Rosenblum
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever wondered about getting a pet? Maybe a dog? Are you having a tough time deciding what breed you should get? If so, then I recommend getting a goldendoodle!

I have a goldendoodle and I can confirm that they are the best dog breed ever. First of all, they are super cute and have a lot of fur; they are cuddly and they make a great household pet. They help you when you're upset, they reduce stress and are very trainable.



Goldendoodles are very gentle around other pets and humans, especially children, making them very friendly. Goldendoodles are hyper allergic because they shed less, so if you're worried about being allergic to your new puppy, you don't have to be anymore!

Goldendoodles love to play. They are very active. They enjoy being outside and being active, like taking walks and running. They are also very healthy dogs that live up to 10-15 years.

In conclusion, if you're looking for a dog, then you should get a goldendoodle.

Never Too Late to Celebrate National Strawberry Day



**By Ashley Hobby
Tusker Tribune Staff
When is National Strawberry Day?**

National Strawberry Day takes place on February 27. This fruit has been around for thousands of years.

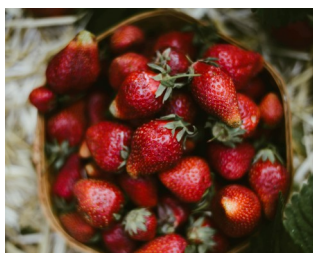
Although they were around for thousands of years, they weren't brought to gardens till the 14th century. The French were the first to bring it to their gardens. Then, in the 1750s, it was brought to North America.

How did the French find this fruit?

The French would take wild strawberries and slowly introduce them into their gardens. By the 16th century, the population of strawberries started spreading all through Europe.

How to celebrate National Strawberry Day

You can celebrate this holiday by eating



some dishes with strawberries. You can also celebrate by going to a strawberry festival. At strawberry festivals there are tons of things you can do. One thing is you can go strawberry picking where you can pick out the strawberries you like. You can also watch or play in a strawberry eating contest. This sounds fun!!!!

Other events are strawberry jam making, strawberry themed games and crafts, live music and so much more!!

Lastly, strawberries have so many cool facts. For example, strawberries are one of the first fruits to ripen during spring. I never knew that till now!! Also, an average strawberry has over **200 seeds**. That's a lot of seeds! Lastly, a strawberry's flavor can be influenced by weather and how ripe it is when its harvested. I hope you learned more about National Strawberry Day!

Why Do We Observe Daylight Savings Time?



**By Charlotte Frankie
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever wondered why we change the clocks back or forward one hour every spring and autumn, in a practice we call Daylight Savings Time, or DST? Well, it was actually the idea of Benjamin Franklin in 1784.

Franklin's idea was more of a joke than a serious proposal. Franklin suggested it in a sarcas-



tic statement when urging the people of Paris to wake up earlier to save on candles. Despite his humorous intentions, he sparked an idea that wouldn't come into full swing until years later.

More than a century later into the future, a scientist from New Zealand, George Hudson, presented a more serious proposition: shifting the clocks to make use of summer's extended daylight.

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Capital City Freeze Volleyball Tournament Was Terrific!



By Giuliana DeMartino
Tusker Tribune Staff

Over winter break, I went to the Capital City Freeze Tournament in Lancaster, Pennsylvania at Spooky Nook Sports Center. It was incredibly fun to compete in. It took place Saturday February 22 to Sunday February 23.



On Sunday, each team was placed into a pool (a group of teams playing each other in volleyball). You can either be in gold, silver, bronze A or bronze B

There were many divisions, such as 12 girls, 13 girls, 14 girls, 15 girls, 16 girls, 17 girls, 18 girls, and 18 national/ American. My team played eight games and won two of them. We placed 11th place out of 14th. The facility was very nice; there was a food court, an arcade and many volleyball courts to play on.



A popular tradition in volleyball is "clipping" other people's hair (putting clothes pins in each other's hair) and decorating backpacks with decorated clothing pins. I got a few cutely decorated clips, and it was very fun clipping other people.

Overall, the tournament was very fun, and my team and I made lots of memories hope to play again next year.

Weekly Whimsical Bird Facts (Issue 2)



By Robert Jarrett
Tusker Tribune Staff

Moluccan Dwarf Kingfisher

A small kingfisher with an orange bill, peach-colored underparts, a speckled blue head, and deep blue upperparts with an fluorescent blue stripe running down them. Also notice the white neck mark and the orange spots above the bill.



Juveniles are darker above, with dark base to bill. Found alone or in pairs in forest understory within the lowlands and foothills, sometimes beside forest streams.

It's differentiated from Common and Azure Kingfishers by its smaller size and orange bill. It gives a shrill, single drawn-out "tseeeet" call. These interesting little fellows are found in North Maluku, between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Their diet consists of dragonflies and other insects.

Little Spotted Kiwi

This is New Zealand's smallest kiwi species. It's light grayish brown with white spotting along the length of the body. It's restricted to offshore predator-free island sanctuaries and to the mainland Zealandia sanctuary in Wellington.

More often heard than seen, its call includes loud sniffing as it forages for invertebrates.

Males produces a series of burry, rising high-pitched whistles. Females have a lower ascending burry whistle.



Both sexes repeat their call many times, often duetting. This bird could be confused with a Weka by voice and shape. However, you can look for the kiwi's much longer bill and lack of tail, and listen for its call. Their diet consists mostly of small invertebrates, but they also eat small fruit and leaves.

Daylight Savings Time

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But it was the proposal made by Englishman William Willet in 1907 that caught people's attention most in the UK, leading to the first Daylight Saving Bill presented in the house of commons, an elected body to represent constituencies in the UK, in 1908.

Despite this, DST was not made official until World War I, where it was used as a strategy to conserve coal. Germany and its allies of World War I, were the first to introduce DST in 1916, followed closely by Britain, and many other European countries.

Today, we do Daylight Savings Time differently. The time of year that we switch the clocks

has changed throughout the years. It used to begin at the end of April, going to the end of October. Then in 1986, the start was moved to the first week in April, but the end time stayed the same.

In 2025, DST begins on the first Sunday in March, this year being March 9th, and ends on the first Sunday in November, which this year is November 2nd.

There have been a lot of arguments about Daylight Savings Time in recent years. Some think we should just get rid of it. Doctors have proven that constantly changing clocks can be disruptive to our health, and sleep schedule. They also prefer to wake up in the light. Others think we should just keep it for good. They like being able to drive home by the light. What's your opinion?

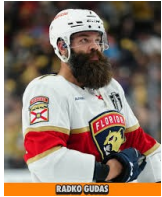
Check Out These Weird Hockey Traditions!



By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

There are many traditions that have been followed for a long time in the world of sports. Some can be a little weird, too. But none can come close to some weird traditions in the hockey world.

From refusing to step on the team logo in the locker room, to throwing beer after goals in “Smashville,” these are some of the strangest ice hockey traditions.



Playoff Beards

This is one of the most iconic hockey traditions and one that has spread outside of hockey alone. It started during the Islanders dynasty in 1980. It's when a player stops shaving for good luck the moment their team enters the playoffs and then shaves when their team is either eliminated or they win the Stanley Cup. Some teams even do “Beard-a-thons” to raise money for charity.

Octopus Throwing

Another well-known tradition in the hockey world, and also one of the oldest, octopus throwing started in 1952. A fan threw an octopus onto the ice during a Detroit Red Wings game. Back then, teams needed to win eight games in a round to ad-



vance to the next round and ultimately win the Stanley Cup – one for every tentacle.

The tradition stuck, and to this day, fans still throw octopuses on the ice. Except now, octopuses aren't thrown every game. It delayed games, so the NHL had to regulate the amount of octopuses thrown. They are still thrown for big games and playoff games, though.

Rat Trick

According to legend, in 1995, Florida Panthers player Scott Mellanby killed a rat that ran into the locker room before a game. He scored two goals that game, and one fan called it a “Rat Trick.”



Eventually, Panthers fans started throwing plastic rats on the ice after a player scored two goals. The NHL eventually had to limit this as this also delayed games, but that doesn't stop the fans from throwing rats during the playoffs.

These are just a few of many weird hockey traditions. Sidney Crosby eats the same PB&J sandwich before games. Wayne Gretzky used baby powder on his stick! What superstitious traditions do you have?

The Four Nations Faceoff Recap



By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

The week of February 17th just wrapped up an exciting event that not many people know of – the Four Nations Face-Off. What is it? You're about to find out.

What It Is

The Four Nations Face-Off is a Round-Robin international ice hockey tournament between four countries (hence the name). They are Canada, Finland, Sweden, and the USA. Starting on the 12th of February, the tournament ran until the 20th. The players on the teams are all from the National Hockey League, as are the coaches. The games are held at the Bell Center in Montreal, and at TD Garden in Boston.

The Games

The Four Nations Face-Off kicked off with Canada playing Sweden. Canada won 4-3 in overtime. The USA played Finland the next day and destroyed them 6-1. The brothers Matthew and Brady Tkachuk both got two goals.

On Saturday the 15th, Finland and Sweden went against each other. But the best game so far had to be USA vs Canada. To show the rivalry between these two countries, there were three fights



in the first nine seconds of the game, with the Tkachuk brothers both getting their own fight. The final score was 3-1, USA won.

The Round-Robin part of the Four Nations finished with Canada beating Finland 5-3. Nathan MacKinnon scored two goals for Team Canada, and Mikael Granlund scored two for Team Finland.

The Championship

Since the US and Canada had the best records (2-0-1-0 and 1-1-1-0 respectively), they were the ones to qualify for the championship game. This time around, things were different. The game ended at 1-1 at the end of the first period, 2-2 at the end of the second, and the same at the end of the third, meaning the game would go to sudden-death overtime. And it was a classic, with none other than Connor McDavid, who had been quiet the whole game, scoring the game winning goal for Team Canada. Not very good for all the USA fans out there.

However, Canada is one of the best teams in world when it comes to hockey. Everyone knew it would not be easy for the USA. So let's make this game a learning experience, use it to fuel us for the next international tournament, and let's go USA for the IIHF World Championships!

The Planet Parade Occurs TODAY!



By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff
Today, February 28th, 2025, an astronomical phenomenon will occur, one that hasn't happened since last April. But what is it? And how can you see it?

What Is It?

The Planet Parade is when multiple planets arrange in a line across the night sky. This one will be extra special, though, because all seven planets will be visible from Earth, even if not with the naked eye.

What Planets Are in It?

There are five planets that you should look out for during the night of the parade and throughout the month in general. They are Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn.

According to [NASA](#):

- Mercury will be right above the horizon and will look somewhat bright.
- Venus will be very bright in the west throughout the month.



out the month.

- Mars is distinguishable by its fiery orange color. It is high in the east during evening, and it will be the last planet to set (a few hours before sunrise in the west).
- Jupiter will be big and bright in the evening just overhead.
- Saturn will be slightly faint and increasingly low in the west right after sunset.

But then, what about Uranus and Neptune, you might ask? Well, the truth is, this isn't

truly a *seven*-planet parade. Only five of the seven other planets in the solar system can be seen with the naked eye.

Seeing Uranus needs excellent eyesight, so not everyone can view it without binoculars or a telescope. It is impossible to see Neptune without the use of a telescope or binoculars.

So, although this might only be a five-planet parade to the naked eye, enjoy what you can because this won't happen again until around August 29th, 2025. Happy planet watching!

Turning Your Passions into Service Hours



By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

National Junior Honor Society applications are due in under a month, and everyone is scrambling to get their 15 service hours. I wanted to do something that I enjoyed doing a lot and was good at to earn my hours. And that's when I got the best idea.

How It Started

The idea to help my hockey coach with the 8U (Mites) and 10U (Squirts) teams started back in November, but I wasn't sure when I would be able to do that. That is, until January, when it was announced that every Tuesday, there would be three vs three games for an hour and a half during the months of January and February. I saw my chance and decided to



take it.

What I do

Every Tuesday, I get on the ice at 5:00 to set up the nets for the three vs three games and divide the ice into three sections. My coach then splits the six teams among the three areas, and he starts the 15-minute timer.

My job is to be the referee, dropping pucks for faceoffs, throwing a new puck in if it goes out of our area or if a goal is scored, and fixing the nets if they are moved.

I chose this to get my service hours because I really love hockey, and I have many friends on the 10U teams.

How are you getting your service hours this year?

Reporter/sContributors

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Charlotte Frankie
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Robert Jarrett
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Noah Samuel

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Tusker Tribune Website:

<https://sms.somersschools.org/student-life/activities/tusker-tribune-newspaper>

The Trip that Became a Bad Decision—Chapter 2



By Ian Dempsey
Tusker Tribune Staff

For some context, the last article I wrote I put the first chapter of a story I made with my friend, Andrew. This is the second chapter. Chapter 1 appeared in the 1/31/25 issue of the Tusker Tribune.

As we started taxiing, I found out I was sitting next to a Youtuber. Great. Now I must listen to HIM my entire flight.

As we finally lined up on the runway, I prayed that I would be able to fall asleep, considering it was now almost 7:10 PM. As we took off, I looked out the window and saw a Concorde, weird considering they aren't used in commercial flight anymore. After the safety announcement I finally started to doze off when the Youtuber next to me started screaming, "HEY GUYS! WELCOME TO XXLITTLEJIMSSXX YOUTUBE CHANNEL. TODAY I AM GOING TO PLAY SCREAMING BABY NOISES ON MY



PHONE FOR THE ENTIRE FLIGHT".

I was screaming to myself in my head that I can't last an entire flight listening to this. I was relieved to find out that the Youtuber fell asleep and his phone died, so no more baby noises but when he wakes up, he might charge it again.

I saw the cabin crew coming with the snack trolley, so I asked for pretzels. If I hadn't told you, I am afraid of flying so to calm myself down, I ate my pretzels while I

thought about how much fun I will have in Morocco.

Once I calmed down a bit, I looked out the window and what I saw was "absolutely breathtaking". All I saw were clouds—just clouds, only clouds, everywhere were clouds. I got annoyed with my own head, so I tried to fall asleep again. I fell asleep easily because it was already close to midnight, and as the flight was long, I thought I might as well get some sleep.

SMS STARs: February 2025

Grade 6:



Lauren Lindsay

Grade 7:



Jasenia Faulkner

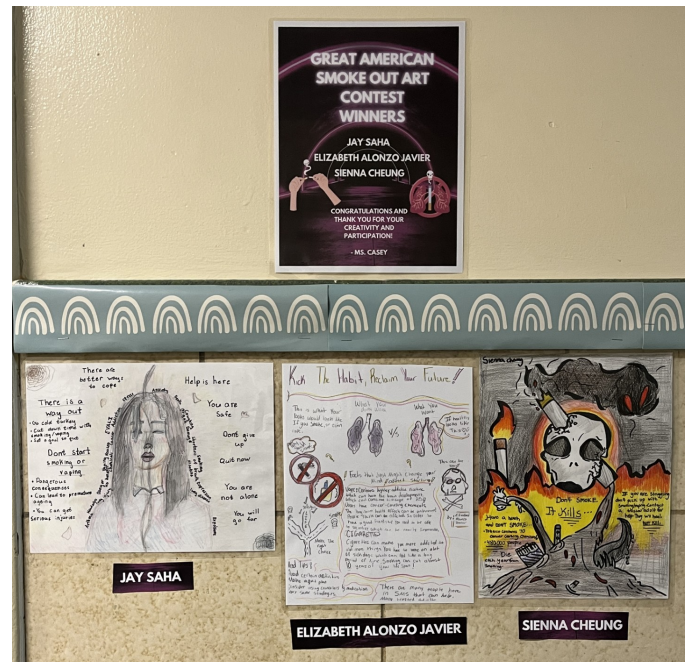


Brock Spears



Olivia Ernst

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!



Seen outside Student Assistance Counselor Mrs. Casey's office—a rather graphic display of the perils of vaping. These three posters are the winners of the Great American Smokeout Contest