

The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

62



Issue Number 21

<https://www.somersschools.org/Page/11489>

SPRING 2025

World Down Syndrome Day Observed Today



By Elizabeth Alonzo Javier
Tusker Tribune Staff

World Down Syndrome Day is usually celebrated on March 21st.

World Down Syndrome day started in 2011. The date was chosen to represent the triplication of the 21st chromosome, which is the cause of Down Syndrome.

The main goal of Down Syndrome Day is to help people understand and support those with Down Syndrome. People with Down Syndrome can live healthy and active lives. People with Down Syndrome can work with the right kind of support. The colors to represent Down Syndrome Awareness are **blue** and **yellow**.

The theme of wearing odd socks was created



to also raise awareness because chromosomes are shaped like socks! Ways to celebrate World Down Syndrome day is to wear as already stated; crazy socks and blue and yellow. It's great to encourage people to speak up about Down Syndrome or even share facts to inform people about down syndrome. People can also participate in the 21 Challenges. A challenge includes activities like 21-hour silences, exercise bike riding, and 21 days without a favorite thing. You can perform random acts of kindness. You can even just learn about Down Syndrome and teach your family or friends about Down Syndrome. Supporting the Down Syndrome community is a lot, but even the little things can mean a lot.

I hope everyone wore blue and white and odd socks today!

'Only' Three More Weeks Until Spring Break



By Leandra Ibrahim
Tusker Tribune Staff

Spring Break is one of the most exciting times of the year for students. After months of school, and a seven-week gap between it and winter break, it's a chance to have fun and enjoy the warmer weather.

For many people, it's a time to travel, visit family, or just relax at home, which is also great. No matter how you spend it, spring break is a great way to recharge to get back to school and finish the school year strong.

The tradition of spring break dates back to



ancient Greece, where students would take time off to celebrate the arrival of spring, and the warmer, sunny weather that comes with it.

In the United States, spring break became more popular in the 1930s when college students started traveling to warmer places, like Florida, for vacation. Today, millions of people take advantage of the break and go on trips. Some of the most popular spring break areas include Miami, Cancun, Florida, and the Bahamas.

However, not everyone travels. Many students enjoy staying home, hanging out with friends or catching up on sleep!

Continued on Page 2

National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Observed This Week



By Elizabeth Alonzo Javier
Tusker Tribune Staff

On March 20th, National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day brings many groups across the United States together to increase education and provide support in communities nationwide.

Over 1.1 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV/AIDS and one in seven don't know they have them. Nearly 39,000 people were diagnosed with HIV in 2017; 1% were among the American Indian and Alaska Native populations.

What is HIV/AIDS? HIV (human immuno-



deficiency virus) is a virus that damages the immune system, and AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) is the most advanced stage of HIV infection.

How do we observe Native HIV/AIDS?? Well, the best thing to do to find out is to get tested.

Some symptoms are fever or night sweats, swollen lymph glands in the neck, armpits, or groin, diarrhea that lasts more than a week, sores in the mouth, anus, or genitals, skin rashes or bumps, unexplained tiredness, and rapid weight loss.

Continued on Page 2

National Health Care Rights Day Tomorrow



By Elizabeth Alonzo Javier
Tusker Tribune Staff

National Health Care Rights Day, observed on March 22, is a day dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of accessible, affordable, and equitable healthcare for all individuals.

It aims to highlight the fundamental right to health care and advocate for policies and systems that ensure people can access necessary medical services without facing discrimination or financial barriers.

The day also serves as a reminder to continue pushing for reforms in the healthcare system that protect individuals, ensuring that their right



The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER



to health care is upheld regardless of status, race, or background.

Many events, campaigns, and educational initiatives are held on this day to promote discussions about health care rights and the need for improvement in healthcare access worldwide. It helps remind people that everyone should be able to see a doctor or get medicine when they need it, no matter who they are or how much money they have.

Why Is It Important? Think about when you get sick or hurt. Take a moment to think about how this changed the U.S. As a 7th grade student I highly suggest that we should all be grateful for this day.

Volleyball Combines Valuable Skills, Along with Fun



By Leandra Ibrahimi
Tusker Tribune Staff

Volleyball is one of the most fun and exciting sports to play and watch. It's a fast-paced game, which requires a lot of focus, communication, and teamwork.

The game is played with two teams, six players from each team on opposite sides of the court. The goal is to score points by sending the ball over the net to the opposing team's side of the court without them returning it, or the other team getting the ball out of the court. Players use their arms and hands to pass, set, or hit the ball. They try to keep it from touching the ground on their side of the court.

Each team only gets three touches per side, not including blocks. Volleyball is a very popular sport around the world. It was created in 1895 by a guy named William G. Morgan, who wanted to make a game that included parts and elements of

tennis, basketball, and handball. At first, the game was called "Mintonette," but after the first game was played, they changed it to volleyball, because of how the ball "volleyed" back and forth.

Did you know that volleyball became an Olympic sport in 1964? It's a very exciting event to watch during the Summer Olympics. In volleyball, players use different techniques such as, passing, serving, spiking, blocking, setting, and more, to help their team win. A volley happens when players hit the ball back and forth.

A very interesting part of the game to watch is when someone dives to save the ball, which is when they dive to the ground to keep the ball from touching the floor.

Volleyball is also great for building skills. It helps improve strength, agility, and coordination. The best part about volleyball is that anyone can enjoy it, whether you are on a beach, in a gym, or in your backyard. No matter where you play, volleyball brings people together for a fun and friendly competition.



HIV

From Page 1

HIV testing involves antibody, antigen/antibody, and nucleic acid tests.

Antibodies tests can detect HIV 23 to 90 days after exposure,

Antigen/antibody tests can detect HIV 18 to 45 days after exposure, Nucleic acid tests can detect HIV 10 to 33 days after exposure.

You can take an HIV test at a clinic, using a home testing kit, or using a rapid test. Everyone should be aware of HIV/AIDS.

Spring Break

From Page 1

A fun fact about spring break is that it doesn't happen at the same time everywhere. There's a pretty large range from when different schools celebrate spring break. Most schools celebrate it in the months of March and April. Even if you don't go on vacation at this time, there are still plenty of things you could do! You could find a new hobby, you could also try spending more time outside. And if you are more of an indoor person, you could watch movies with friends and family.

No matter what you choose to do during spring break, this is a time to relax, have fun, and take a nice break from schoolwork. Whether you travel somewhere exciting or just enjoy time at home, it's a great way to enjoy the season and make memories before coming back to school.

What is 'Hatsune Miku Day'?



By Gemma Krissoff
and Ava Miritello
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: The initials in parentheses show which person wrote each paragraph in this story.

(AM) Hatsune Miku is an adored voicebank all over the world. Miku was developed and distributed by Crypton Future Media and has been used to make over 100,000 songs worldwide. Miku has been used for a variety of song genres, like upbeat songs, rock, and rap.

The history of Hatsune Miku

(GK) Hatsune Miku was developed by Crypton Future Media in 2007. Her backstory is that she's from a dystopian future that doesn't have music, which is why her name means "first sound from the future" in Japanese.

Fun Facts About Hatsune Miku

- (AM) 3/9 is Miku day because in Japanese, three is pronounced "mi" or "San" and nine is pronounced "Ku" or "Kyu". That means 3/9 is pronounced "Miku" or "Sankyu", which sounds like "thank you" in English!
- (AM) Miku has collaborated with many people and businesses! This year, it was announced that Miku was having a collab with McDonalds! Sadly, the Collab is only with McDonalds in Japan.



- (AM) This might not be exactly about Miku, but there is a popular game called Project Sekai: Colorful Stage, which features a variety of Vocaloid's! It can be downloaded on Apple or Android.

- (GK) Hatsune Miku has no confirmed race or nationality, so many people draw her as if she were from their country or state.

• (GK) Someone unofficially married Hatsune Miku. Akihiko Kondo had a small wedding ceremony with a Hatsune Miku plushie in 2018.

• (GK) Hatsune Miku has concerts called Miku Expo using holograms. Last year, she had 3 tours: one in North America, one

in Europe, and one in Australia and New Zealand.

Sources:

- March 9, 2025. Retrieved March 10, 2025. *Gregoria, Chris.* <https://www.cbr.com/mcdonalds-hatsune-miku-video-reveal/>
- March 1, 2018. Retrieved March 10, 2025. <https://www.dictionary.com/e/fictional-characters/hatsune-miku/>
- April 24, 2022. Retrieved March 11, 2025. *Dooley, Ben and Ueno, Hisako.* <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/24/business/akihiko-kondo-fictional-character-relationships.html>
- <https://mikuexpo.com/about>
- March 7, 2017. retrieved March 11, 2025

The Trip that Became a Bad Decision—Chapter 3



By Ian Dempsey
Tusker Tribune Staff
Editor's Note: This is the fourth chapter in a story written by Ian Dempsey.

I just wanted to get out of this **nightmare**.

I thought it would never end. It was the fourth time already and I needed to think of a way to escape it. I thought for hours and tried each one. Nothing works. Now I had one thing left to try and I think this would have to work. The plan? **Survive**. How I will execute this plan? No idea,

I thought about things until I had a list that I wrote down on a piece of paper that I found in my pocket and decided to try the first thing: Parachute,

I searched the entire cabin for one but I found nothing. But right before I checked the cockpit, a flight attendant stopped me.

"You can't be up here sweetie," she said.

"B- b-b- I have to," I said.



"No no no. I'm sorry but you are not allowed to be up here," she said.

"I really must—it's VERY urgent!"

BANG! I see a wing of the plane fly off. "See what I mean?" I said,

"YOU'RE A TERRORIST!" she said.

Oh no, I'm dead.

Reporters/Contributors

Ian Dempsey
Leandra Ibrahim
Elizabeth Alonzo Javier
Gemma Krissoff
Ava Miritello
Olivia Pelhank

The Tusker Tribune is the online Somers Middle School Student Newspaper. It is published weekly (except during school vacations) on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from:

Somers Middle School
250 Route 202
Somers, NY, USA.

Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail

Advisor Dean Pappas at:

DPappas@somersschools.org.

Tusker Tribune Website:

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

Seals are Celebrated in March



By Olivia Pehank
Tusker Tribune Staff

March—named after Mars, the Roman god of War—has some interesting national holidays. Well, every month does.

On March 22 there are 12 holidays. Some are World Water Day, Walk on the Sand Day, As You as You Feel Day, International and National Goof Off Day, and my person favorite, International Seal Day.

Seals are wonderful creatures. They have a vital role in marine ecosystems. They are also known for being playful and for being able to



adapt. Some seals even live in the Arctic and Antarctic. Seals are pinnipeds, which means “fin-footed” in Latin.

National Seal Day is a day set to raise awareness about seal conservation, learn more about the creatures, and to appreciate them for what they do. Zoos and aquariums hold special events on this day, and it's been a national holiday since 1982. The U.S congress declared it a national holiday to try and stop cruelty.

Anyway, to conclude, March is filled with fun and important national holidays, including national seal day. I can't wait for Saturday!

It's Never a Bad Time to Think About Ice Cream



By Leandra Ibrahim
Tusker Tribune Staff

Ice cream is one of the most popular and delicious treats in the world. It's the perfect treat for a hot summer day, birthday parties, or just when you feel like you want something sweet and yummy.

There are so many flavors to choose from, and some special places have the most interesting and unique flavors that you can't find everywhere. Ice cream is loved by kids and adults. Whether it's in a normal cone, a waffle cone, a cup or a sundae, ice cream always brings a smile to everyone's face. Did you know that ice cream dates back to the 4th century of B.C.E.? The ancient Chinese made a version of ice cream by mixing milk with rice and then freezing it.

The ice cream we know today started in Europe in the 1600s, and it became really popular in the United States in the 1700s. In fact, George



Washington was known to love ice cream and spent a lot of money on it during his presidency.

A fun fact is that vanilla ice cream is the most popular ice cream flavor in the United States, and actually the whole world! But, there are some pretty crazy flavors out there too. In Japan, there is sweet potato ice cream, green tea ice cream, and even squid flavored ice cream! In the United States, places sometimes have bacon, or pickle flavored ice cream.

People are always trying to come up with crazy new ice cream flavors. Another cool fact is that July is National Ice Cream Month in the United States. It was declared by President Ronald Reagan in 1984 to celebrate the joys of ice cream and its positive impact.

Did you know that Americans eat over 20 pounds of ice cream per person each year? That is definitely a lot of scoops! Ice cream is a fun treat that brings people together, whether you're enjoying a cone on a sunny day or having a sundae with friends. With endless flavors and toppings, it's im-

What Do You Think 'Belonging' Means?



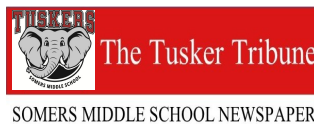
By Elizabeth Alonzo Javier
Tusker Tribune Staff

Let's start with a question . . . why do people desire the need to belong?

Think for a moment . . . people desire the need to belong because they don't want to be a “loner”.

A loner can be referred to a person who does not fit in or does not have a group. People have groups based on status, stereotypes and hobbies.

For example, a chameleon blends in but if it does blend in, it disappears, and trust me, nobody wants to be the left out “chameleon”. In this day and age, nobody wants



to be that one different kid who gets treated like the plague or the cheese touch.

I am going to refer to the book Wonder. I read this book in 5th grade and watched the movie. It almost brought me to tears and the only time I get brought to tears is when something scares me badly!!!

Anyway, that's not the point! The book Wonder got me thinking. I would not want to be treated like Auggie (the main character in a book). Just imagine yourself being that different kid who everyone avoids touching. And if they do “accidentally” touch you, they run to the sink and quickly wash it off.

I think that's why people have the desire to belong. What do you think??