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Forerunners Club—Race to Keep the Faith



By Elizabeth Alonzo Javier
Tusker Tribune Staff

Do you ever feel lost, alone, or scared of what lies ahead? The Forerunner Club is a place where students and teachers can share their faith and encourage one another. A “forerunner” is someone who comes before a greater event: someone who prepares others.

The Forerunner Club is prepared for YOU to join! Every year my church encourages kids ages 10 and up. It's called Youth Night, a night where kids ages 10 and up come together to a church and have a big assembly about faith and beliefs, a night to praise your beliefs.



This event is bilingual. I have been to many of these events and highly recommend them if interested. At SMS, people will be available at the Forerunners Club every Wednesday. Forerunners started on Wednesday March 19, 2025. This is a club that is recommended for students to join to support the club. This club was started by Aleah Joy Goslin and Mr. Wilbert, a science teacher who helped with starting the club. This club is for people to share their beliefs and religion, to meet new friends and to potentially hand over the club for welcoming 7th graders in 2026 when we graduate. The goal of this club is to make everyone feel welcomed and heard.

The club meets every Wednesday in room 315 from 3:15- 4:00. There are late buses to take after. Please join us.

COVID Still Affects Us Five Years On



By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Wow, can't you believe it was five years ago that we experienced COVID! It feels like it was just “yesterday”. Today, I'm going to be talking about how it felt during that time.

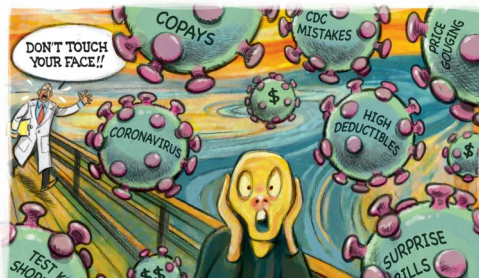
I was only seven years old when COVID hit. I remember a lot of things, like wearing mask (that was the worst thing I have experienced when I was 7 years old . . .)

OK, besides that, I remember we had to have Zoom meetings to do schoolwork, I also remember we had to stay at home all day and when I was 7, I was really annoyed. Like, there's nothing

to do at home (except sleep). But, in my opinion, all the things we had to go through were . . . not that bad. Yes, I know you guys may think I'm crazy but it honestly wasn't bad having Zoom meetings to learn because I honestly thought I had enough time to work and I got to work at my own pace, which really helped me!

Now you're going to have to hear me out—the worst part about this was not being able to see anyone! It was just honestly bad because sometimes, you can't even interact with your family “6 feet away”.

This is all I remember from COVID now. What do you remember from COVID? Do you remember the same things I remember or do you remember more things?



A Little Pi Day Trivia

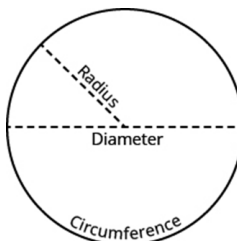


By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

Friday, March 14th was Pi Day, and it got the whole school (especially the math teachers) celebrating. But what is Pi, and why does it have a day? You're about to find out.

What is Pi?

To understand Pi, you first need to know a little bit about circles. The perimeter



of a circle has a fancy name: the circumference. The distance from one point on a circle going across the circle through the center of the circle is called the diameter. The circumference divided by the diameter of the circle will always result in a never-ending number, Pi.

The symbol for Pi (π) comes from the Greek letter π .

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No Place for Hate Supports Be a Friend Project for Hunter



**By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The Be a Friend Project allows students from across America to send letters of encouragement to kids who are being bullied. Right now, you can send letters to Hunter. Hunter was bullied so much he felt scared to go to school, so much so that he is now home-schooled. His school didn't even do anything about the bullying.



Hunter likes taking his dog, Lulu, for walks, Pokémon cards, designing things on the computer, making music, and playing video games. He also enjoys collecting figurines, riding his bike, and doing taekwondo. If you write a letter to Hunter,

give it to Mrs. Kurchack and Mrs. Morrison in room 213. You can decorate the letters with dogs and turtles because those are Hunter's favorite animals.

If you would prefer to make a digital letter, you can email it to Friend-Mail@beafriendproject.org.

Here are some pictures of the No Place for Hate club making cards for Hunter:



Source:

- "Introducing Hunter (10) from Texas as March 2025 Freind Mail Recipient." *Be a Freind Project*. February 28, 2025. Accessed March 26, 2025. <https://www.beafriendproject.org/post/hunter>

Get Ready for April Fools' Day!



**By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff**

April Fools' day is April 1st! One of my favorite days! Though I usually forget about it, it's so fun to hear about all the amazing pranks going on!

It's been celebrated for centuries, but it's true origin is unknown. Some historians even believe it began in 1582 when France switched their calendar to the Gregorian calendar. This made the new year start on January 1st and continued to celebrate it through April 1st. For some reason the news didn't spread well, and a lot of people failed to realize this. People who didn't get the news were then used as the butt of jokes and were called "April fools."



Though this story does kind of make sense, again there is no true origin story and there are many more theories historians have. Regardless, April Fools' is super fun to pull pranks on family and friends! Like for example, in 1985, an author named George Plimpton tricked readers into believing a story about a rookie pitcher named Sidd Finch being able to throw a fastball over 168 miles per hour!

No matter if you do a prank as big as George Plimpton did or even if you just trick a friend by telling them their shoelaces are untied, April Fools' is a super fun holiday, and I can't wait to celebrate it on Tuesday! (Well, maybe not celebrate it since I always forget, but hearing about peoples amazing pranks is always just as fun!)

March Into Spring (At Least Toward the End)



**By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The first day of spring was March 20! Finally, shorts and t-shirt weather! March is an interesting month—it starts off so cold and gloomy but towards the end, you start to get into that summer spirit!

Some people don't like winter ending, but spring is one of my favorite seasons—second to summer, of course! Some people say spring is the rebirth of nature. It's when there is

more animal activity than ever! Though snow is pretty, spring is filled with flowers and beautiful leaves and my personal favorite, the weather!



While again, not as good as summer, spring has wonderful weather! It also is the start of spring sports, like track & field, softball, baseball, soccer, golf, and basketball! What do you guys think? Are you excited the cold, frosty weather is coming to an end and pumped about the rebirth of nature and even some sports? Or are you going to miss the beautiful snow (and snow days of course!)

A Tribute to Summer—The Best Season



By Leandra Ibrahim
Tusker Tribune Staff

Summer is the best season of the year for so many different reasons! It's a time for warm weather, no school, memories with friends and family, and so much fun overall!

Unlike winter, when you have to wear endless layers of clothing, including jackets, scarves, gloves, hats and many more just to keep you warm, summer lets you wear shorts, flip flops and sunglasses. The long sunny days give you a chance to play outside, swim in a pool with friends or family and also enjoy fun adventures.

Another very great thing about summer is no school. No more homework, no more tests, or waking up early! Instead, you can sleep in, go on vacations, or just relax at home. Many families take trips to the beach, amusement parks, or other fun places that you might prefer.

Did you know that the longest summer break in the world is in Italy, where students get 3



months off? That is definitely a lot of time for fun.

Another reason that summer is the best, is because of all the delicious food! Ice cream, popsicles, watermelon, and barbecues are summer favorites. People also enjoy picnics and cookouts with family and friends.

A fun fact is that July is actually National Ice Cream Day! And the most popular ice cream flavor in the United States is vanilla. Summer is also filled with fun and enjoyable activities such as swimming, hiking, biking and camping.

Many kids go to summer camp, where they can try new things, meet new people, try new sports, and enjoy being outside in the wonderful weather. Did you know that the longest lasting summer camp session lasts for eight weeks? That's two whole months for all kinds of fun activities!

With warm weather, no school, and exciting activities, summer is definitely the best season of the year. No matter what you choose to do with this long and nice break, summer is a time to enjoy life and make unforgettable memories!

The Trip That Became a Bad Decision—Chapter 4



By Ian Dempsey
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: This is the fourth chapter in a story series written by Ian Dempsey.

I panicked for bit but then I got myself together. I am trapped in a nightmare and that's it. Anything bad is just part of the nightmare.

I remember last time I had this nightmare, I only woke up when the plane "crashed", so now all I have to do is wait for the crash and then I wake up. Simple!

I decided I might as well make it fun by trying to "survive" the crash. First things first—I Could try finding a parachute. And then I realized that everybody was gone. I was confused so I went



to the flight attendants but they were gone, too. I tried going to the cockpit and then I saw the pilots! Thank God that someone is still here but when I went up to them, I realized that something was

very, very wrong. Both of their faces were frozen in a state of fear. It looked like they were screaming, but why? And then I looked outside, I saw grass. It looked like we were in a nosedive and we were about to hit the ground. I needed to know what was going on so I decided to go outside.

Right before I stepped out, I noticed we were floating, and then it clicked—everything else was frozen in time and I was the only one who could move. As soon as I touched the ground, I passed out. When I woke up, It was the entire thing all over again.

Pi

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Pi Facts

- The first three digits of Pi are 3.14, which is why it's celebrated on March 14th. (3/14)
- 70,000 digits of Pi have been memorized!
- March 14th is not only Pi Day, but also Albert Einstein's birthday.
- Pi Day is recognized by the U.S. House of Representatives.

So now you know a little bit about Pi, and Pi Day. How many digits of Pi can you memorize? If you need a little help, here is a video for the first 100 digits: [The Pi Song - Asap-SCIENCE](#)

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NHL Playoff Preview



By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

With all teams having less than 15 games to play before the end of the season, the race to qualify for the Stanley Cup Playoffs looks pretty tight. Here's a review of the top three teams in each West conference division so far, as well as possible playoff contenders.

Central Division Winnipeg Jets



The Jets have been a favorite to win the Cup all season long – and it's no wonder. They're backed by one of the greatest goaltenders right now, Connor Hellebuyck. Add in a couple of quality goal-scorers, and you have a real threat to the conference.

Dallas Stars

The Stars have been on a constant, on-the-fly rebuild, but what they've accomplished after the trade deadline looks pretty good. Bringing in a little extra offense can't hurt, can it? That's probably the reason why they are second in the West.



Colorado Avalanche

To keep on the topic of mid-season rebuilds, the Avs were probably the most active team in the league at the deadline. They've brought in Hurricanes forward Martin Necas, Islanders veteran Brock Nelson, and Sharks goaltender Mackenzie Blackwood, not to mention others like Charlie Coyle, Ryan Lindgren, and Jimmy Vesey. With all this added roster depth, it's no wonder they're a solid spot as third in the Central division.



Pacific Division Vegas Golden Knights

A team that originally was not predicted to go very far, the Knights have now slid into 1st place in the Pacific, thanks to the incredible skills of Jack Eichel, Tomas Hertl, and Alex Pietrangelo. Add in a Shea Theodore who will most likely return to the playoffs from injury, and you have a menacing looking team to play in the first playoff round.

Los Angeles Kings

There's nothing special about Los Angeles. The Royals are consistently in either the second or third place in the Pacific. Surprisingly, until you consider Quinton Byfield and Drew Doughty, plus the top five goaltender Darcy Kuemper. Not so surprisingly after all. And maybe a little special.



Edmonton Oilers

The Oilers, however, are quite the opposite of the Kings when it comes to special. With world class talents such as Connor McDavid, Leon Draisaitl, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Zach Hyman, Darnell Nurse, goalie Stuart Skinner – you get the idea. They're a pretty scary team to play in the first round of the playoffs. And that's the exact story for the Kings, because just like them, the Oilers are always in 2nd or 3rd place, making the two teams play each other in the first round.



So that wraps up the summary of the top three teams in the Central and Pacific divisions of the NHL's Western Conference, and make sure to stay tuned for next week's Part 2 about the East!

Is Bird Flu Making Breakfast Expensive?



By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

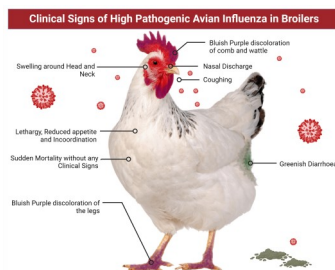
Have you noticed egg prices going up at the store? You might even have noticed stores being completely out of stock of eggs. This is because of a virus called avian influenza, commonly known as the Bird Flu. But what is Bird Flu? Well, you are about to find out.

What is Bird Flu?

The Bird Flu is caused by the avian influenza A virus. Luckily for us humans, it cannot be spread between people, only between birds. One specific type of bird flu, the H5 Bird Flu, is causing major problems worldwide, and in the US with poultry and dairy cows. In some rare cases, humans have gotten infected with the H5 subtype.

Risks and Prevention

Currently, the risk of getting H5 Bird Flu is



low, so there is no need to worry about getting the virus. The main factor for getting Bird Flu is exposure to sick or dead infected animals. Consuming undercooked poultry such as chicken, duck, turkey, or their eggs could possibly spread the disease, as well as drinking unpasteurized milk.

If you see an animal that could possibly be infected, make sure you keep your distance. Make sure all beef, chicken, and eggs are cooked to a tem-

perature that is safe to eat, and make sure milk and milk products are pasteurized (they almost always are).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the avian flu is an issue that is killing chicken, cows, and wild birds everywhere. For now, the biggest effect it has had on humans is driving up egg prices. Let's hope that the Bird Flu doesn't mutate and start harming humans.