



Halloween Has a Fascinating History

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

How was Halloween originally celebrated?

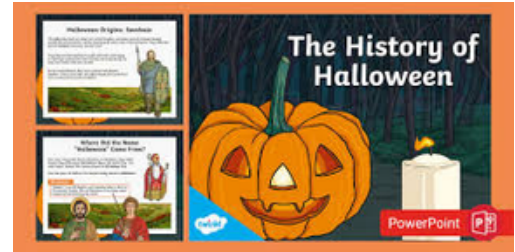
The Celts celebrated *Samhain*, a festival marking the end of the harvest season and the start of winter. This festival later transformed into modern Halloween with customs like costumes and bonfires.

At Samhain, the division between this world and the other world was believed to be at its thinnest, allowing spirits to pass through. The Celtic family's ancestors were honored and invited home while harmful spirits were warded off. Many Celtic people wore costumes and masks to disguise themselves as dangerous spirits and thus avoid harm, giving origin to the practice of dressing up today.

The implications of missing such an event were immense as failure to recognize them was said to result in illness, death or terrible luck. Early texts suggest that participation in Samhain was mandatory for the ancient Celts.

It was also believed that fairies and nature spirits needed to be helped in their crossing to ensure that people and livestock survived the winter. Some of these fairies were said to be taller than humans, possessing the ability to do magic and speak things into existence rather than the meek and minuscule fairies depicted in cartoons, however some were different.

Large bonfires and feasts played a large part in the festivities as bonfires were deemed to have protective and cleansing powers and involved several rituals. A place was set at the head of the table of the ancestors. This was thought to not only ensure the fertility of the land, but secure good luck for ancestral lineages.



Just in Time: Halloween Costume Recommendations

By William Mifsud
Tusker Tribune Staff

Ahhh. . . Halloween. You know it, you love it, it's... HALLOWEEN! The one day every year where you can get LOADS of candy. Also, it's the best time to scare your friends with funny and spooky pranks, like jumping out of nowhere with a scary mask on.

Another cool thing about Halloween is that you can dress up in costumes--like a ghost, a dog, or even more Halloween-related, a creepy clown! You even might have, like, I don't know, like a basketful of candy!

Some Halloween costume recommendations from me would be a ghost, a candy bar (that is if you want to) a funny one . . . pizza! Maybe a baseball player, your favorite TV character, maybe even a squirrel.

But I also recommend, if you dress up as a squirrel, make sure no dogs see you. If they do, they'll be chasing you until you get in the car and go home. So quick warning: don't dress up as a squirrel. If any dogs chase you, you'd regret it. Immediately.



They Haven't Forgotten About Last Year (Part 2)

By Evan Mallamud
Tusker Tribune Staff

The first installment of this story was published in the 9/26 issue of the Tusker Tribune.

When I get to science, we talk about chemicals and lab safety. CRASH! A glass beaker nearly misses me. A side eye shoots my way. Burning through the back of my head. Another glimpse of my best friend. The teacher pretended they didn't see what happened, but I knew they knew. RING!

I get to math, and we talk about classroom expectations. I dropped my pencil on the floor. The math teacher happens to be my best friend's mom. She picks up the pencil, plops it on my desk and gives me a dirty look. She grabs the phone from the wall and says to me, "I didn't expect to do this on the first day of school honey." She says stuff to the principal and tells me to go to the office. Dirty looks from the lady at the front desk and the Assistant Principal shot my way.

This was going to be a long year.

To be continued . . .



Fall Fun Starts at Stuarts Farm

By William Mifsud
Tusker Tribune Staff

Stuarts Farm started in the year 1828. At first, it started out as a small cattle farm, which then became an agricultural farm, with many activities like apple and peach picking, and for a more seasonal activity, chopping down Christmas trees. (I recommend you find your tree and buy it on Christmas Eve, so it doesn't go off to Christmas tree heaven.)

It is a safe place for visitors and people who go to school. It is also said to be Westchester's oldest farm still in business. It also gives a peek into Westchester's agricultural heritage.

The preservation is a testament to the commitment of all people who live in Stuart's Farm. The community also maintains a connection to their agricultural roots. Also, at Stuart's Farm, you can get yummy treats, such as apple cider donuts. It is also a nice place to unwind and relax after a rough day. It also helps you if you are looking for nice, juicy, and fat pumpkins.



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The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

SMS STAR Awards for September

Grade 6

Gianna Salerno

Grade 7:

Soren Santiago

Mason Zimdahl

Logan Smith

Grade 8:

Amelia Marcus

Sofia Conner

Tessa Sullivan

Ryan McDonough



A STAR award stands for STudents who Are Role models. The above listed students have been caught doing something that deserves the STAR recognition for this month! Great job to all of our Stars – keep up the positive behavior. It makes our school a better place!

The Story Behind Christopher Columbus' Journey

By Eli Mundis

Tusker Tribune Staff

This weekend, we get an extra day off on the weekend. But why is that? Well, the reason is because we celebrate Columbus Day, which is a national holiday.

The holiday originated from when Columbus sailed across the Atlantic Ocean with three ships: the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa María. These three ships sailed for around 50 days before landing in modern day Bahamas, which Columbus originally thought to be Japan.

The reason for sailing across the Atlantic Ocean was because Columbus wanted to set up some spice trade routes in Asia, and since he thought the earth was spherical, He thought he could sail west through the Atlantic instead of east through the Southern Ocean. He was right on that part, but he severely underestimated the size of the Earth, showing why he thought the Bahamas were Japan.

After landing in the Bahamas, Columbus then started a colony, before being noticed by the Guanahani, a tribe living on the island. After leaving, he made his way to Haiti and Hispaniola, before capturing some natives, and heading back to tell the king and queen who funded his mission, King Ferdinand II of Aragon and Queen Isabelle I of Castille.

Although not successful, he discovered a new continent and, after many more journeys, led the rest of Europe to colonize the Americas. He was commended and a holiday was put in his name. It wasn't good for everyone, though, as the natives who had made their way 10s of thousands of years earlier were to have been captured, killed, or fled away from the new arrivals.

Overall, Columbus Day is a day that symbolizes a new era for the world and development in culture and geography.



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The Top Five Most Popular Halloween Candies

By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff

There are many things that are exciting about Halloween, like dressing up as anything you want and getting candy. So, here are the top 5 most popular Halloween candies based on October 2024 sales and fun facts about them!

Coming in at number 5 are **Snickers**. Did you know that the very first Snickers bar was named after a horse, and the first Snickers bar was produced in Chicago and was sold for five cents?

Coming in at number 4 are **Kit Kats**. The name “Kit Kats” originated in the 1700s. They were originally supposed to go with a cup of tea and Japan has more than 200 flavors of them.

The 3rd most popular Halloween candy are **Peanut M&Ms**, and number 2 are **Regular M&Ms**. M&Ms were created by Forrest Mars Sr. in 1941. They are the first candy to go into space, and in New York City, there is an M&M store where you can personalize your own M&Ms to buy.

Coming in at the number 1, the most popular Halloween candy is **Reese's Peanut Butter Cups**. In my opinion, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups are the best candy in general. Did you know that Reese's were first introduced in 1928, and the founder was Harry Burner Reese? Reese's are also the top-selling candy brand worldwide! Now while you're trick or treating, you can see how many of these popular candies you receive!



What's Your Water? Tap or Bottled?

By Eli Mundis
Tusker Tribune Staff

It's a classic debate, so without further ado, let's dive in!

Tap: Tap water is defined as water that comes directly from a sink, without any filtration after it comes out.

Bottled: Bottled water is sold by companies, usually sourcing the water from springs or reserves.

For each category, I will give one point to the corresponding choice. Let's start!

Health: Both have sides that are unhealthy and healthy. Tap water has a higher chance of having bacteria, since it is filtered less than bottled water. On the other hand, microplastics from the bottle seep into the water, making it less healthy to drink. Overall, I think tap water is healthier, since there are more regulations around the filter.

Convenience: Tap water is usually installed in most homes, meaning you can access it easily. Meanwhile, bottled water is sold in stores, which might not be in your area. I think tap water takes another point for that reason.

Price: If it is not installed in your house already, tap water can cost thousands of dollars to have access. Most bottled water is cheap, at around \$1-\$6 per pint.

Environment: This category is self-explanatory, as bottled water causes pollution due to plastic being thrown out. Tap water is recyclable, so the fourth point goes to tap.

Uses: Tap water can be used for many other things other than drinking, such as cooking, cleaning, and watering plants. Bottled water can be used for only drinking, so the last point goes to tap water.

Overall, tap water won 4-1.



Science Comes to Life in Mr. Dell's and Mrs. Acampora's Classroom



**By William Mifsud
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Mr. Dell and Mrs. Acampora's Science class is AMAZING! You get to do all these cool experiments with your friends, like for example: (just like I did) You see how long the fire on a candle lasts inside a jar and a wine bottle. Or seeing how air pressure affects a can (it was a gas can, though) and the can gets crushed by air pressure, even though there is ZERO air inside the can.

Air pressure is amazing! If you were hiking to the very top of a mountain, like Turkey Mountain, the more you go up, the more air pressure is put on you. You also get to use a website called "Weatherbug" to see the weather. We write the information about the weather down in our notebooks, then go outside to see if the website was accurate.

You also go on a website called "Wordwall" to see how much you have learned in science. Science class is very fun. And if you always wanted to learn science, give science class a try!

Chew on This: Seattle Has A Gum Wall

**By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff**

How did the Gum Wall in Seattle start? The Gum Wall is a local landmark located in Post Alley, just below Pike Place Market in downtown Seattle.

It started in the early 1990s when people waiting in line for shows at a nearby theater began sticking chewing gum to the wall. Over time, the wall became completely covered in layers of colorful chewed gum.

In November 2015, the wall underwent its first major cleaning in 20 years, during which workers removed an estimated 2,350 pounds (1,060 kg) of gum. However, within days, people began sticking gum back onto the wall, and it quickly regained its status as a sticking, colorful testament to Seattle.

Fun facts about the Gum Wall

- The theater was called "Post Alley Market Theater" but now it is called "Unexpected Productions Market Theater".
- Some people added pennies to their gum, and later, some individuals would take the pennies but leave the gum, spurring more people to contribute.



Bad Bunny Hops into the Super Bowl

By RJ Hall
Tusker Tribune Staff

Recently, the NFL has announced that Latin artist Bad Bunny will be performing for the half time show at Super Bowl LX (60) and this has faced extremely mixed reactions from fans of the NFL and Bad Bunny.

The fans of Bad Bunny are very excited to see him perform. With lots of fame coming from his most recent album *DeBÍ TiRAR Más FOTOS*, it's no shock that he's performing for the Super Bowl. He's making history as one of the most famous and successful Latinos on the Super Bowl halftime stage. He appeared as a guest in the 2020 Super Bowl LV, but this time he returns to the stage as the main act.

His recent 31-show residency in Puerto Rico was a source of pride for Puerto Ricans and many Latinos who flocked to El Choli stadium and generated over \$380 million. And with this announcement, Puerto Ricans will be even more proud of him, themselves, and their island.

On the contrary, many people are upset at the reveal of his performance. People are complaining that his songs aren't in English and that they can't understand them. Many people are saying that they'll go so far as to not watch the Super Bowl. A lot of the people who dislike him claim that he's anti-American, even though Puerto Rico is a United States territory, and he is an American citizen.

Another reason why these fans are upset is because they're worried that people are coming/watching for the concert and not for the football.



The Full NYCFC Experience

By Alex Gomez
Tusker Tribune Staff

On Saturday, I went to Yankee stadium. But not to watch the Yankees. I watched the New York City FC game. NYCFC is a soccer team that represents NY. They play in Yankee stadium because they don't have their own stadium. But in 2027, they will have one.

When we entered the stadium, they gave us big blue hands that you can wave around. Before the game started, we first went to the Grand Hall to get some free stuff. Since it is "Kids Day", they have a lot of giveaways. Also, since we have been members for a long time, we registered, and they also gave us gifts. We got shirts, glasses, bags, and more.

Then there was a line for prizes on a wheel. When it was my family's turn, we all got hats. As members, we got more gifts. We got a scarf, an NYCFC mask, and a mysterious box. When we opened it, there were the 10-year anniversary memorabilia including a pigeon pin with the number ten, and a card that said "NYCFC member" and that came with an NYCFC lanyard. With our hands full, we finally went to get food. We got chicken tenders and a hot dog.

The first goal went to NYCFC because the other team fouled an NYCFC player and we got a penalty kick. The second goal was also because of a penalty because they handballed it in the box. Going into the game, NYCFC were the underdogs because Charlot was 3rd place and NYCFC was 5th place. In the end, NYCFC won 2-0 against the team Charlot. That was my experience at the NYCFC game.



154 Years Ago Today was the Great Chicago Fire

By Kaylee Jeon
Tusker Tribune Staff

Today, October 10th, is the day when the Great Chicago Fire was finally put out. This fire was one of the most disastrous fire disasters and caused nearly \$200 million worth of damage to the city of Chicago.

This fire was rumored to have started when a cow knocked over a lantern in a barn. Later, a reporter claimed to have made up the accusation and that the accusation was false. Researchers think this fire was caused by a fragmenting comet. While other fires in the United States have showed a higher number of death counts, this particular fire is still called a very devastating fire. This is because the fire is said to have racked up to almost \$200 million damage to the city, and this city was one of the largest and industrialized cities in the United States at that time.

The fire started on October 8th at night and easily spread throughout the big city because of the dry, parched weather, and because of the congested streets. Many of the buildings were made of easily flammable materials like wood.

The Chicago firefighters had been busy with another fire the day before, so they and their materials were already exhausted. The fire started on the city's west side, and a southwest wind blew the flames through the city. Misled fire supplies got to the site too late, enabling the flames to spread further. The fire was finally put out on October 10, 1871. The aftermath of the fire was devastating. It claimed approximately 300 lives, burned down 17,450 buildings, (around 3.5 square miles) and roughly 100,000 people became homeless in the span of 3 days. 1/3 of the city went up in flames and was destroyed.

Although the result was a disaster, the quick and adapting city rebuilt quickly because they were already a center of industrialization. By 1880, the city was back to normal with a growing population of half a million. Now Chicago is a massive city full of life and tall skyscrapers.

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6th Grade Band: Quick Learners

By Eli Mundis
Tusker Tribune Staff

The 6th Grade Band, taught by Ms. Malara, is off to a great start this year. So far, they have pieced together their first song; *Concerto for Crash Cymbal* and are making a good start on their second; *Mechanical Monsters*.

Band is not just about learning songs. It's about igniting a fire in one's passion for music. It is about setting up the future for talented musicians. That is why band is important.

"We learned about two different scales, the treble clef, and the base clef, and we learned about the fermata, which is a musical term used to show when the conductor holds the note," said Andrew Pucci, a musician in the band.

In the band, the kids learn about music by practicing interactive puzzles, such as the EdPuzzle, which takes one step at a time. So, will you join the band?



Labubu Popularity Can Lead to Fake Ones

By Nicole Marinho
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you heard of Labubus? If not, let me tell you! Labubus are one of the most trending things right now. You can buy real Labubus from their official website, PopMart, but it is almost impossible unless you are lucky. A few months ago, when the PopMart used to restock them, the site would crash.

Labubus comes in three different series. The three series are Excited Macarons, Have A Seat, and Big into Energy. The Excited Macarons are the classic standing Labubus and are my personal favorite. The Have a Seat collection is the Labubu that sits. The Big into Energy series are colorful Labubus, with many colors and their nails are painted, and they have names of feelings.

People mostly collect Labubus to resell them for an absurd amount or get the secret and show off. There is also a crisis of a certain Labubu called the 24k Gold Labubu that is taking over many social media platforms. Labubus are gaining popularity worldwide and are in super high demand. Some colors in certain series are not produced that much in the US, which makes it even more popular.

There are so many fake Labubus out there that people started calling them "Lafufus". Some fake Labubus are starting to get more exact and harder to tell so here is one last tip. If you look at the back of the box and see a barcode, then you most likely have a real Labubu. In conclusion, Labubus are one of the most trending things worldwide. They are so popular that I even have one!



Kids Start Search for their Mom

By Ava Vala
Tusker Tribune Staff

Do you like mysteries? Lore! Sad moments? Well this the story for you ! It's about these four kids flying on a plane with their mom (her name is Beth) the plane starts acting up and it crashes to the ground. They try looking for their mom but she is nowhere to be seen!

Where did she
go?

The plane rattled as a woman screamed.

"It's okay, you're okay" a girl around 13 said to her little sister. "Everyone huddle around me," she said with fear in her voice.

Her brother asked, "Will mom save the people on this plane?" He shivers.

Her four year old sister piped up, "I bet momma will save us! Why wouldn't she? I mean, I don't think she hates us," with a scent of fear in her voice

"Kyli, Michael and Sara will be fine,I promise, and no what if's!" Hazel said bravely, even though the plane was rocking more violently.

The plane flew down to many trees below. It crashed to the ground and it started to burn with fury.

"Follow me! Put your shirts over your mouth and nose!" Hazel rounded up her siblings and pushed her way to the front of the plane to find her mother but she wasn't there.

A Concise History of Coffee

By Roman Casimir
Tusker Tribune Staff

Coffee is the second most popular drink in the world, but have you ever wondered how it got to be that way? Today we will take a deep dive into the origins of coffee, and how it came to be so popular. Even though the history of coffee is long and convoluted, I have condensed it into this short(ish) newspaper article.

Starting in the 800s, we find wild coffee plants first recorded in the Kaffa region of Ethiopia. Yemen is where the drink first got developed, during the 1400s. Muslims used it to concentrate during prayers in the night. From Yemen, coffee got spread to other middle east countries, like Turkey and Egypt.

In Europe, coffee appeared from trades through the Mediterranean Sea around 1550. Coffee houses, what are basically cafes, were established in western Europe by the late 1600s, especially in the Netherlands, England, and Germany.

Up to the end of the 1600s, Yemen was the only coffee supplier for the world. As people started developing a taste for it, it soon escaped Arabian soils, and into land far away.

Heading to America, we get coffee seeds sent from Europe in 1720. From those seeds sprouted 18,620 coffee trees. Those allowed trade of coffee to Caribbean islands. One of those Caribbean islands, Saint-Domingue, became the world's largest coffee supplier, supplying half of the world's coffee by 1788.

By 1852, Brazil took the crown from Saint-Domingue as the world's largest coffee supplier. It's held that title ever since.

The 1950s roll around and bring several new competitors to Brazil: Colombia, Ivory coast, Ethiopia and Vietnam being major ones. Right before the change of the millennia, Vietnam took the number 2 spot from Columbia in 1999.

In the current day, coffee is one of the most popular beverages in the world, and it ties into many different cultures.

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