



Greek Independence Day March 25 Celebrates Rebirth of Democracy

By Lauren Rosenblum
Tusker Tribune Staff

Greek Independence Day is celebrated annually on March 25th. It is a national holiday in Greece.

It marks the start of the Greek War of Independence, which was fought against the Ottoman Empire in 1821. The war lasted for nearly a decade, from 1821-1829.

The Greeks celebrate with parades and traditions with major military parades in Athens. Students do parades all across the country. Blue and white flags fly above houses and businesses. This day is a major holiday to celebrate the freedom of Hellenic identity.

Some common traditions that people do on Greek Independence Day is eating bakaliaros skordalia, which is fried salted cod with garlic potato dip. There are also nationwide colorful school parades to celebrate this day. They wave the Greek flag during these parades. Church services are also held to double the celebration.

It is a tradition to eat fish on Greek Independence Day since March 25th falls on the Orthodox Lent fasting period.

St. Patrick's Day Tradition Goes Back to the Fourth Century

By Lauren Rosenblum
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever wondered about the history of Saint Patrick's Day? Well, Saint Patrick was born in Britain in the 4th century. He was 16 when he got kidnapped and got kidnapped at that age. He was brought to Ireland as a slave. He escaped from being a slave when he was 22, about 6 years after being kidnapped and brought to Ireland to be a slave.

After he escaped, he returned around 432 AD, and he wanted to convert the Irish to Christianity. St. Patrick's Day originated as a religious feast, and it features parades. It is a tradition of the Irish culture. The shamrock is all the way back from the early 1700s. It symbolizes the Holy Trinity. Four leaf clovers symbolize luck. The four leaf clover is very rare to find.

While the shamrock and four leaf clovers are related, they are both popular, separate symbols of good luck.



Passover Involves Many Ancient Rituals and Symbols

**By Lauren Rosenblum
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Passover is a major Jewish holiday. It begins at sundown on Wednesday, April 1st and ends at nightfall on Thursday, April 9th. People eat a Seder during Passover. It is a central, traditional meal families eat for the first two nights.

During Passover, you can't eat chametz. Chametz is any food product that contains wheat, barley, rye, or oats. Main foods that you are not supposed to eat include bread. You also cannot eat crackers. You also can't eat processed foods like pasta, cakes, cookies, and soy sauce, because you can't eat grains on Passover also.

The only grain you can eat on Passover is called matzah. It is unleavened. You can't have foods with malt, food starch, and also glucose, which may contain grains in them also.

On Passover you also have to find the afikomen, which is a piece of matzah that is which is hidden during the Seder ceremony.



Why Are There Two Easters Most Years?



**By Lauren Rosenblum
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever wondered about the difference between Western Easter and Eastern Easter?

Western Easter is Sunday, April 5th. It is celebrated by Roman Catholics, Protestants, Methodists, Episcopalians and other Western Christian faiths. It is always celebrated on the first Sunday, after the first full moon that follows the vernal equinox. It lasts from April 5th to April 12th.

Traditions people do to celebrate Western Easter is that there are often church services held, people get together with their families, and people decorate eggs.

Eastern Easter is the highest holy day for Orthodox Christians. It usually occurs between April 4th and May 8th. This year in 2026, it falls on April 12th. Traditions celebrated for Eastern Easter include midnight church services on Easter eve Saturday. People also dye eggs red to symbolize the blood of Christ.

What's the difference between Western Easter and Eastern Easter? Western Easter uses the Gregorian calendar, which is more modern, while Eastern Easter uses the older Julian calendar. Eastern Easter is also required to fall on a day after a Jewish holiday called Passover.

Daylight Saving Time: More Light, Fewer ZZZZZZ's



**By Natalie Chery
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Did you know that losing one hour of sleep can cause the loss of your own life? Apparently, about twenty - eight people each year since 2010 have lost their lives because of Daylight Saving Time.

It all started in the middle of World War 1, March 31, 1918. Fuel was needed for the steady creation of weapons for the military to use in war combat. The U.S. was especially in need because of extensive use of military and industrial operations (for trading, exporting, and battle). At first, they were able to manage coal and oil as fuel, but eventually they needed a more efficient and sufficient amount of fuel for making their weapons.

An agency had a proposal that would ripple into modern day America. The agency's proposal was for daylight saving to happen. To be exact, the idea was that if daytime lasted longer, people would go outside more, which would conserve energy that could be used by the government. The idea became a success, as there was little need for artificial lighting.

Over time, the idea of daylight saving did not disappear after the war ended. Instead, it slowly became more organized and widely used across the country. Different states, cities, and towns had their own times for changing their clocks, which made things confusing for businesses, transportation, and everyday schedules. Because of this confusion, the government eventually created a national system that had specific dates for when clocks would move forward and backward each year. This made the process easier for everyone to follow.

Today, daylight saving time is still practiced in most parts of the United States. Modern clocks in America will now automatically follow the daylight savings process by either repeating an hour or skipping an hour. Sadly, due to the abrupt change in time, drowsiness occurs in almost everyone, which has caused car accidents due to people getting drowsy at the wheel. Even coffee can't give you enough energy during this time, so it is good to make sure that you are getting a bunch of rest and not just relying on temporary energy boosters.

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St. Patrick's Day: More Than Wearing Green and Shamrocks

By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

Saint Patrick's Day is on Tuesday, March 17th this year, as it is every year. And although everyone celebrates by eating corned beef, and wearing green clothing, there's actually a lot more history behind the holiday commemorating Ireland's Patron Saint. Keep reading to learn more on this incredible holiday.

History of St. Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick's Day, or the Feast of Saint Patrick, is an official Christian feast day that started in the early 17th century. It marks the arrival of both St. Patrick and Christianity in Ireland and has evolved into a celebration of Irish culture and heritage in general.

St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, as well as in the Canadian provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador for government employees. It is widely celebrated informally in many countries, however, including Russia, Scotland, Australia, the UK, and the United States.

The Legend of Saint Patrick

It is widely believed that St. Patrick was a 5th century Christian missionary and bishop. He was born into a wealthy family in Roman Britain; his father was a deacon, and his grandfather a Christian priest. According to the Declaration – something supposedly written by St. Patrick himself – St. Patrick was kidnapped at 16 years old and was taken to Gaelic Ireland by Irish raiders. He spent six years there working as a shepherd, and it was during that time that St. Patrick converted to Christianity.

The Declaration says that God told St. Patrick a ship would take him home if he escaped to the coast, and when he made it home, St. Patrick became a priest. Tradition holds that he returned to the Emerald Isle and spent many years evangelizing in the north part of Ireland, where he converted thousands of pagan Irish to Christianity. St. Patrick died on March 17th, and he was buried at Downpatrick, Northern Ireland.

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

St. Patrick's Day celebrations usually include parades, traditional Irish music festivals, and wearing green clothing. Shamrocks are a central Irish symbol as it is believed that St. Patrick used a shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity when he was preaching in Ireland. Parades started in North America in the 18th century and spread to Ireland in the 1900's. The Chicago River is dyed green every year, and has been since 1962, when sewer workers had the idea to turn the river green for Saint Patrick's Day. This inspired the White House to dye its fountains green as well! Over 300 sites in 50 countries around the world are lit up green for St. Patrick's Day, including the Sydney Opera House, Empire State Building, and the Colosseum.

St. Patrick's Day is more than just a day to wear green or enjoy festive food. It began as a religious feast honoring the life and work of Saint Patrick, a missionary who played an important role in bringing Christianity to Ireland. Over time, the holiday grew into a worldwide celebration of Irish culture, history, and traditions. Whether through parades, music, or iconic green landmarks, St. Patrick's Day reminds people around the world of Ireland's lasting cultural influence and the remarkable story behind the holiday. (Fun fact: corned beef isn't Irish – it's just a dish that the Irish made after immigrating to the US)!



If You Get Pinched on March 17, Well, That's Part of the Holiday!

By Maisie Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff

Tuesday, March 14th is a day where it suddenly becomes socially acceptable to pinch someone for not wearing green. If you do not know what I'm talking about yet, it's Saint Patrick's Day!

Saint Patrick's Day celebrates the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick. He is known for bringing Christianity to Ireland in the 5th century. The holiday started as a religious feast day that honored his life and remembered the day he died. Over time, it turned into a worldwide celebration of Irish culture, traditions, and history.

Today, people celebrate Saint Patrick's Day in many fun ways. One of the most popular traditions, especially for kids, is building leprechaun traps. According to Irish folklore, leprechauns are small, mischievous creatures that guard pots of gold at the end of rainbows. The idea behind the trap is that the leprechaun will try to steal the "gold" placed inside. However, the stories say that leprechauns are very clever and almost impossible to catch. Instead of getting trapped, they usually escape and leave behind signs that they were there.

Sometimes the leprechaun will play tricks around the house. People say they might move furniture, leave tiny footprints, knock things over, or even turn the toilet water green. Kids often wake up excited to see if a leprechaun visited during the night and what kind of silly prank it might have left behind. Most leprechaun traps are homemade. Kids often build them using things like shoeboxes, paper, string, glitter, and fake gold coins.

Making the trap can be just as fun as hoping to catch the leprechaun. Some stores also sell kits that help you build your own trap if you do not want to make one completely from scratch. There are even cereal boxes, like Lucky Charms, that sometimes have trap designs printed on the back so kids can cut them out and build them.

Another big part of Saint Patrick's Day is celebrating Irish culture through parades and festivals. Many cities across the United States hold Saint Patrick's Day parades that people can attend. These parades often include colorful floats, marching bands, and performers. At these events, people celebrate Irish culture by listening to traditional Irish music and watching Irish dancers perform in bright costumes.

Overall, I think Saint Patrick's Day is a fun holiday that everyone can celebrate in their own way. Whether you are building a leprechaun trap, going to a parade, learning about Irish culture, or just wearing green, it is a great way to celebrate. So have a great Tuesday, and remember to wear green!



Girls' Education Worldwide Needs Greater Attention

By Angela Cristofano
Tusker Tribune Staff

Around the world, more than 119 million girls are out of school. Education is a human right, yet so many girls around the world are denied of this opportunity in countries like Brazil, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Afghanistan.

Every day, these girls have to face barriers to education caused by poverty, cultural norms and practices, poor infrastructure, violence, and fragility. These barriers limit their opportunities, show inequality, and limit their abilities to make a difference in the world. Educating girls and women drives employment and reduces poverty. It also helps lead to improved lives, self-sustaining communities, global stability, and economic growth. Without this education, girls cannot become employed and help support their family because they do not have the knowledge or skills to get a job and work.

Lots of girls are forced to stay home to help their mothers and act as caregivers instead of being in school for learning and socializing. As girls progressively get older, their education decreases. Girls in low-income countries drop out at particularly high school rates. Studies show that gender discrimination most often causes girls to leave school around the ages of 7-12.

Thankfully, there are some organizations to help support this issue. UNICEF, Malala fund, and World Bank are all examples of organizations that support a strong, fair, and accessible education system to ensure everyone has a chance to learn and develop skills needed for a productive life. According to World Bank, limited educational opportunities for girls, and barriers to completing 12 years of education cost trillions of dollars, in lost lifetime productivity and earnings.

We should consider ourselves lucky to have the opportunity to go to school every day, but we should not have to because everyone, no matter your gender or social class, deserves to have an education because it is a basic human right.



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER





Celebrating ‘The Emerald Isle’

By Angela Cristofano
Tusker Tribune Staff

The next holiday coming up is filled with green, gold, leprechauns, and four-leaf clovers. Saint Patrick’s Day is celebrated annually on March 17th, and is a cultural, fun, and religious holiday that has been around for hundreds and hundreds of years.

Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at age 16. He later escaped but returned to Ireland and is credited with spreading Christianity among its people. Saint Patrick’s Day honors Ireland’s patron saint, named after the holiday. March 17th is the anniversary of his death.

Saint Patrick’s Day began in Ireland around the ninth or tenth century A.D. However, many of Saint Patrick’s Day’s holiday traditions started in America in the 1600s and 1700s. Today, people of all backgrounds celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day. Popular Saint Patrick’s Day recipes include Irish soda bread, corned beef, cabbage and champ, or mashed potatoes made with green onions, butter, and milk.

In the United States, people often wear green on Saint Patrick’s Day to honor Irish heritage. It is a tradition that grew from the association of the Emerald Isle, as well as the color of a shamrock. A famous and iconic landmark named the Chicago River is dyed green every year for Saint Patrick’s Day to represent Chicago’s deep Irish heritage. As Irish immigrants spread across the United States, the other states decided to develop their own traditions. They started dyeing the river green in 1962, when city pollution-control workers used dyes to trace illegal sewage discharges and realized that the green dye might provide a fun and unique way to celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day. That year, they released about 100 pounds of green vegetable dye into the river. It was enough to keep the river green for a whole week! They will be dyeing the river green on March 14th like every other year. Do not forget to wear green on Tuesday!

Source:

- <https://www.history.com/articles/history-of-st-patricks-day#How-St.-Patrick's-Day-Is-Celebrated-Around-the-World>

These Dumplings Should NOT be in your Soup!

By Evie Bahr
Tusker Tribune Staff

The new trending squishy dumplings have quickly become one of the most talked-about toy crazes on social media, especially on social media like TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube.

These small dumpling-shaped toys are made from soft, flexible foam or gel materials that slowly expand after being squeezed, giving them a satisfying “squish” effect that people find both fun and relaxing. Videos of people squeezing the dumplings, doing unboxings, or collecting different styles have gone viral online, helping the trend spread across the internet.

The toys are often sold in mystery packages, meaning buyers don’t know which dumpling design they will get until they open the box, which adds excitement and encourages people to keep buying more in hopes of finding rare or special versions.

Another reason for their popularity is their connection to the broader trend of sensory and stress-relief toys. Many people use squishy toys to help relieve anxiety, stay focused, or simply relax, making them popular among students, office workers, and collectors alike. Their cute design, often inspired by Asian dumplings and kawaii-style aesthetics, also makes them visually appealing and easy to share in photos and videos.

In addition, they are inexpensive compared to many other trending collectibles, which makes them accessible to a wide audience. Because of their affordability, collectible nature, and satisfying texture, squishy dumplings have become more than just toys—they have turned into a viral social media trend and a fun way for people to relax, collect, and participate in internet culture at the same time.



Is SeaWorld Good or Bad?

By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

SeaWorld is a famous marine park where people can see animals like dolphins, whales, sea lions, and penguins. Many people enjoy visiting SeaWorld because they can learn about ocean animals and watch exciting shows.

However, some people think SeaWorld is bad because they believe the animals are not treated fairly. Other people think SeaWorld is good because it teaches people about the ocean and helps rescue animals. Because of this, SeaWorld has become a topic that many people debate about.

One reason people think SeaWorld is bad is because the animals are kept in tanks instead of the wild ocean. In the wild, animals like orcas and dolphins can swim many miles every day. At SeaWorld, the tanks are much smaller than the ocean, so the animals do not have as much space to move around. Some people also think it is unfair that animals perform tricks in shows for entertainment. They believe these animals should live freely in the ocean instead of being trained to perform for crowds. In addition, some animal activists say that living in captivity can make certain animals stressed or unhappy.

However, there are also reasons why some people think SeaWorld is good. One important reason is that SeaWorld rescues injured or sick marine animals. Sometimes, animals are found on beaches or in the ocean hurt by boats, pollution, or fishing gear. SeaWorld has rescue teams and veterinarians who take care of these animals and help them recover. When possible, the animals are released back into the wild. This rescue work helps protect marine life.

Another reason people support SeaWorld is because it teaches people about ocean animals and conservation. When visitors see animals up close, they may learn why the ocean is important and why it should be protected. SeaWorld also helps fund research about marine animals and how to keep them safe in the wild.

In conclusion, SeaWorld has both positive and negative sides. Some people believe keeping animals in tanks is unfair and stressful for them. Others believe SeaWorld helps animals by rescuing them and teaching people about ocean life. Because of this, many people think it is important for places like SeaWorld to keep improving how they care for animals while still helping educate the public about protecting the ocean.



A Sincere Story Summarizing Spring's Sprung (Maybe?)

By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff

Winter is finally almost over, and Spring is just around the corner! The temperature is increasing along with the hope for summer to come.

Honestly, even though it's still technically Winter, most of the 8th graders were wearing shorts on Monday (including me.) I cannot wait to trade my Uggs for sandals and go from rosy cheeks from the cold to sunburned cheeks from the sun!

Already there have been major changes, like daylight savings! I am still recovering from losing an hour of sleep but the beautiful sunset at 7 pm makes up for it! Though I will miss snow days, who would prefer a single snow day over months of break?

But let's not skip over Spring, the most underrated season. It's perfect--you can wear sweatshirts and sweatpants one day and then a tank top with a skirt the next day! Winter definitely feels like the longest season, but finally I can say Spring is coming!



Get Ready for Spring With This Word Search!

By Weston Volpe, Tusker Tribune Staff

Spring Days

F D R C J E M M W K D F Z G V
F S E N O T S V L P C L Q R V
L R P E O S A W N Z R N G A X
O B J B E G I N N I N G I S S
W Q U Y K P Q A G N K W U S I
E O F T Y S I S C W F P F I J
R C B B T T B C U B L A D B W
S A H L S E Z R N D Y R Q E H
H Y B I O K R C E I H K B A A
R G W Q R O S F D E C S I S T
A B R R S P M O L I Z R R T C
I B I E F U N I D I W E D E H
N Q V P E O N K N O E R S R H
L T Q S E N H N W G Y S J S I
X S U N N Y A H Y F T F C G M

Butterflies

Beginning

Blooming

Rain

Flowers

Easter

Picnic

Park

Green

Breeze

Grass

BBQ

Birds

Sunny

Sunny

Chirp

Hatch

'Hair's' a Good Debate: Heatless Curls or Curling Iron?



By Evie Bahr
Tusker Tribune Staff

When it comes to styling hair, many people debate whether heatless curls or a curling iron is the better option. Both can create beautiful curls, but they have different pros and cons. The choice often depends on a person's hair type, schedule, and how much they care about protecting their hair from damage.

People who are a fan of heatless curls argue that avoiding heat is the biggest benefit. Methods such as braiding damp hair, wrapping hair around a robe belt, or using foam rollers allow curls to form overnight without exposing hair to high temperatures. Because there is no heat involved, the risk of dryness, breakage, and long-term damage is much lower. This makes heatless techniques special for people with fragile or already damaged hair.

Another advantage is convenience. Once the hair is wrapped or braided, it can simply be left alone while sleeping, and the curls are ready in the morning with not a lot of effort.

On the other hand, curling irons are popular because they are fast and predictable. With a curling iron, someone can style their hair in just a few minutes and control the exact shape and size of each curl. This is especially useful when getting ready quickly for school, work, or an event. Curling irons also tend to create more defined and longer-lasting curls, especially when used with styling products like hairspray or heat protectant.

In the end, neither method is perfect for everyone. Heatless curls are healthier for hair and easy to maintain overnight, while curling irons provide quicker and more precise results. The "better" option ultimately depends on personal priorities—whether someone values hair health and patience or speed and styling control. Many people even switch between both methods depending on the situation.

Everyone is Getting Psyched for Spring!

By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

Over the past few days, the weather has been extremely warm, and most people are wondering about the same question. Is spring coming?

Well, the first official day of spring is actually March 20th. Which is pretty soon. But on Groundhog Day, the most popular groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, saw his shadow which means according to the superstition, we will have six more weeks of winter.

Personally, I believe more that spring officially starts on March 20th rather than Groundhog Day. Especially because of the warm weather. But the real question is, is the wonderful weather here to stay? Or is it just a sudden and short heat wave?

According to the Weather App, for week of Monday March 16th to Friday, March 20th, the weather seems to hover around near the 40s, which is about 20 degrees lower than this week's average temperature.

Despite that, I believe that spring is coming soon.



Enhypen Blazing a Trail of Accomplishments

By Shelley Asencio Velasquez
Tusker Tribune Staff

Enhypen is a South Korean boy band under BE: LIFT Labs. Enhypen has a total of seven members named Jungwon, Heeseung, Jay, Jake, Sunoo, and Ni-Ki. All of them were finalists of a reality survival show named I-Land.

I-Land first aired on June of 2020 with twenty-three contestants. In the show, I-Land's twelve trainees were in the I-Land building while the remaining would go to the smaller building called Ground.

In the survival show, both buildings have exactly seven days to learn a new song and choreography. Based on how they did, each trainee get a score of their own and a group score, based on their group score it would define how many trainees would go to ground.

Now when the trainees in I-Land go to Ground, Ground members would fill in the spot of the trainees that were sent to Ground. There was a part two of it where they eliminated eleven trainees for part two where after each performance, the voting would be done by the actual trainees, producers, and global viewers.

The first music video Enhypen made was released on November 20th, 2020. With their first album and music video, Enhypen set a record for the fastest Rookie of the Year to win with a total of 12 days. Enhypen has over a 130 awards and 19 music show wins.

They have recently won an important Daesang. They were wanting to achieve its grand prize award from MAMA AWARDS getting "VISA Fans' Choice of the Year." This is a great accomplishment. Enhypen achieved a goal they wanted to achieve.

Another add on there is D AWARDS where Enhypen is the K-pop group with the most awards on their show. Enhypen recently dropped an album named, 'THE SIN: VANISH' and goes to No.1 on the Top Album Sales Chart. Enhypen has many hit songs like Drunk-Dazed, XO, Knife and so many more.

In addition, Enhypen broke a record on the most live-streamed performance at Coachella on the Sahara Stage and were praised for their live, strong stable vocals and choreography. Unfortunately, with all these great accomplishments and rising globally, Heeseung the oldest member in the group, has left Enhypen to have a solo career under the same company.



Daylight Saving Time is NOT Just for Farmers

By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you wondered why you might have been extra tired or confused lately? It's most likely that this is because of daylight saving time. On Sunday at 1:00 am, we sprang forward, meaning that one minute after 12:59 am, it transitioned to 2:00 am.

Some people might not like that the clock sprang forward an hour because it doesn't get light out until about 7:00, instead of 6:00, and they might have to go to school or work at that time. Some people also might like daylight saving because at night, it doesn't get dark out as early.

Now, if you're wondering why daylight saving time is a thing, then I can explain it for you. Most people believe that it happens because farmers need more time in the afternoons to work, but that is actually not the reason. The reason is because people will have more time in the afternoon to enjoy the sunlight. Also, it helps conserve energy and it lets more natural light and heating happen.

Thank you for reading!





Hiding the Plush, Continued

By William Mifsud
Tusker Tribune Staff

NOTE: This is a continuation of a story that was published in the 2/27/26 Tusker Tribune. A link to that issue is here: <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1772379239/so-mersschoolsorg/s7fahuyqteobh7ms4zdy/2-27-26-1TuskerTribune.pdf>

"As I was saying," Mr. Greenwood said to the class, "plushes are not allowed in this class, so if you have any ideas of bringing one, I suggest talking to Mr. Plush Head." The students groaned in disagreement.

"No? That's fine. That's okay . . . if you want to hurt his feelings," Mr. Greenwood said. "He's a real talker! Why, we go back many years ago!"

I thought to myself: *Is this a good idea, listening to it? Probably. I don't wanna be in the Shame Corner again. Ugh.*

"This plush head is--never mind--we're gonna head to the lesson now." All the students groaned.

"Do you--I'm talking to all of you--want to go to the Shame Corner?" Mr. Greenwood asked. The whole class went silent. "That's what I thought," Mr. Greenwood said. "As I was going to say . . . we are going to learn about the Mesopotamians and their society. First, you might have heard this term before, their writing system was called 'cuneiform.' Has anyone heard of that term before? Hands high if yes." Nobody raised their hands. Except me. "Ah, Daniel," Mr. Greenwood said, "why don't you come up here and tell the class what this 'cuneiform' is!"

I came up. Eddie gave a thumbs up. He mouthed, "You got this, man" to me. I mouthed, "Thank you" back to him. I got up next to Mr. Greenwood. "Since we don't have enough time, I would appreciate it if you could hurry up and explain, Daniel." I nodded.

"Cuneiform was the way the ancient Mesopotamians wrote. They used jagged edges and symbols as letters."

"Very good, Daniel!" Mr. Greenwood said. The 3rd bell rang. "Go," Mr. Greenwood said. "I have some more students I gotta deal with and they make me wish I never got this job."

I left. Time for Art! I hope you enjoyed it! Stay tuned next week (if we have school) for Part 7.

Some States Allow Pet Fennec Foxes

By William Mifsud
Tusker Tribune Staff

You know them, you love them, they're Fennec Foxes! They live in North Africa, Siani, the Sahara, and other places.

If you don't know what they are, here's a quick detailed lesson about them: They have big ears, helping them hear prey from far distances, they can dig very fast, and their fur helps them keep cool during hot mornings and warm during cold nights.

Anyway, on to the main topic: Are they right for you? If you want to know why I'm asking if they are right for you, it's because they can be kept as pets. Sadly, these adorable little critters are illegal in New York State, but they can be kept in some other places in the U.S, but you'd need a permit. You can keep them in Nevada without a permit, and the climate there is appropriate for the Fennec. Also, you can keep them in other places but with something special. I will list one place (please don't laugh) which is Ohio! (I had to)

They run around your house a lot, and they LOVE to dig, which could be bad for your house. If I could have one, I'd say yes because they're cute. But if you want to see one, I'd recommend going to the Maritime Aquarium or the zoo. Sadly, they'd be asleep, and they won't be as active since they're nocturnal animals. But I think they look VERY cute when they're sleeping, but if you could interact with them, it is just adorable.

Click on this link. It's a GIF that made me so happy:

<https://media1.tenor.com/m/JMFSuXQiQ8IAAAAd/jepmaw.gif>



The Detention That Never Ends--a Three-Part Story

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

PART 1

Author's Note: This is not real. It's a fiction story.

On a cold rainy day, I was walking to my 4th period class, I was so energetic since lunch was just before this period, I love lunch. I get to hang out with friends, eat, and just talk. I entered my classroom . . . and it was my least favorite class--science.

My friend, Lilly, and I were talking about this very funny topic during lunch, so once we got eye contact, we started to laugh, and we could not control it. Soon Mrs. Armstrong comes up to us and says, "This is not funny!"

Lilly starts mocking, and mimics Mrs. Armstrong, thinkin she would not hear until, "Lilly, and Olivia, I told you this isn't funny," she says while writting something on two pink paper slips that read: "DENTETION, 3:15."

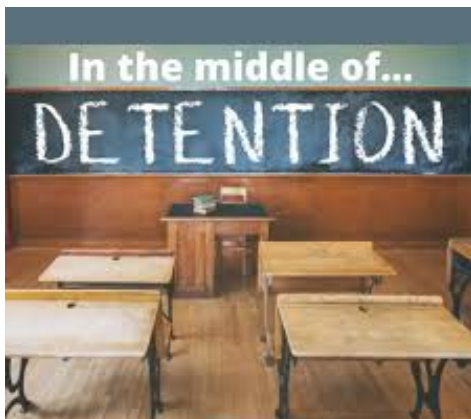
I look over to Lilly with an angry expression. "Look what you started. I guess I will see you there. But just so you know, I don't like what you just did. My mom is going to get mad at me!"

At the end of the day, Lily and I were walking over to room 111, where DENTENTION happens. We pushed the door right open, and then we see the principal. "Sit down girls" the principal says with his arms folded. The room was dim, and it was really awkward to be in there.

I chose to sit in the desk where is closest to the window. I loved window seats, I got to see nature, but instead of nature, I saw that the sky was not blue. It was grey, and that did not help me at all, since it does not help me to know what time it is.

An hour late has passed by. I go over to the principal. "When do we leave? It's been like an hour, and I though detention was always an hour?"

"When detention is over you may leave."



PART 2

Lily and I both have confused, and worried looks on our faces and we looked around the room. And soon the poster started to peel off, the paper on the principal's desk started to fall off his desk. And nothing was normal at all with this classroom.

But soon Lilly decided to leave. "I'm leaving this classroom; it's been more than an hour!" Lilly says with an annoyed face,

The principal locks eyes with Lilly and says . . . "You can try, but there's no escape."

When Lilly heard that, she didn't care. She just ran to the door, went over to the doorknob. And she turned it. The door opened, but she looked over to where the hallways were. And all she saw was Locker 215, Locker 214, and Locker 215 again. It was a long hallway; it looked like it never ended, but the girls never knew that there was no ending to that hallway.

Soon Lilly stepped back into the classroom. Her heart was pounding; she found it difficult to breathe, but she just sat back down.

The principal nodded and said, "Told you."

But when she sat back down, her desk was different; it did not look normal, it did not look like my desk. It was just something off about Lily's desk. Lilly looks back at the clock and realizes the clock has never changed, so she started doing the impossible, running out of the classroom. Lilly tried to find a staff member but just couldn't. There was no one to be found, seen, anything. Even the classrooms did not have furniture. She runs back to the classroom where detention was. And it's like that detention, was never going to end. It was like a trap.

Lilly runs back over to the classroom and finds out that I am gone.

Part 3 is on Page 14.

PART 3--Detention

From Page 13

A few seconds later, she noticed something odd. I was gone, so she could not ask for help, couldn't talk. Nothing. Instead, she looks at her desk and notices a notebook on her desk. She opened the notebook; every page was blank, except the last page--it said . . . "Write what you feel like you're missing." on the last page on the notebook, with a little drawing of a key. Lily's through tightened.

Her stomach dropped.

Her stomach started to hurt.

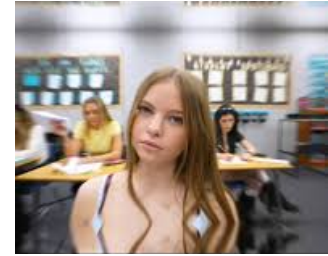
And her heart was pounding.

Her hand was shaking as she took the pencil.

And soon she wrote, "The key?"

Then the lights started to turn on, the sky was not grey anymore. It was dark blue since it was already 6:00 PM. She looked up over to the clock, and realized that the second hand of the clock was finally working. 3:20 ticked. 3:21, the clock ticked.

Lily finally realized she was trapped in detention.



French Bulldogs Make Terrific Pets



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**By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff**

French Bulldogs are friendly companion dogs known for their "bat ears" and playful personalities. They resemble English Bulldogs but are half the size.

French Bulldogs have been the most popular dog breed in the United States for three consecutive years. They have large square-shaped heads and heavy wrinkles above their very short noses.

French Bulldogs can have be medium or small in size and weigh between 16 and 28 pounds. They have a muscular body and a smooth coat. Their coat colors range from standard brindle, fawn, and white to exotic shades like lilac, blue, and chocolate. They also can have dark brown, blue, green, or hazel colored eyes.

French Bulldogs originated in Nottingham, England where people began to selectively breed a smaller toy version of English Bulldogs as a lap pet. Many breeders then crossed the English Channel during the Industrial Revolution, taking the small bulldogs with them to France. French Bulldogs are an amazing dog breed if you want a loving dog that gets along with other animals and people!

Source:

- <https://frenchbulldogclub.org/breeding-information/>

It's Not So Much The Prediction, as the Fun and Tradition of It

By Natalie Chery
Tusker Tribune Staff

Did you know that Punxsutawney Phil's predictions are often less accurate than a coin flip? If his predictions are that inaccurate, then why do we still continue to practice Groundhog Day?

Well, it all started way back when in the 1700s, when German folklore was making its way into Pennsylvania. Many of the Germans believed that on February 2nd, if a hibernating groundhog or badger saw its shadow, a longer winter was destined. Of course this is just folklore, but it is obvious that this superstition was brought into the United States and is now practiced every year.

Then, a lot later, Punxsutawney Phil and Groundhog Day were founded in 1887. In 1887, on February 2nd, the first ceremony for Groundhog Day was held. The first ceremony was not all that fun, though. The first ceremony consisted of a group of the local men gathering around the groundhog early in the morning to check if it saw its shadow. At the time, the event was mostly just a small local tradition. The group of men who organized the celebration were members of a hunting club in the town. They would travel to a small hill called Gobbler's Knob, where the ceremony still takes place today. There they would wait for the groundhog to appear from its burrow. Once it came out, everyone would check to see if the sun was out and if the groundhog would see its shadow. If the groundhog saw its shadow and went back into its burrow, people believed that there would be six more weeks of winter. If it did not see its shadow, people believed that spring would come early.

Over time, the ceremony began to attract more attention. What started as a small local group activity slowly turned into a much larger ceremony. People from nearby towns began visiting Punxsutawney Phil to watch the event, and newspapers started writing about the weirdly interesting tradition. Eventually, the groundhog used for the ceremony became known as Punxsutawney Phil, and he became the official weather prediction groundhog.

Today, thousands of people come together every year on February 2nd to watch Phil make his prediction. And even though his predictions are often not very accurate, the tradition continues because it is fun, unique, and now a part of American culture. Groundhog Day has become less about predicting the weather and more about celebrating a cool and fun tradition, and as long as its fun, accuracy doesn't matter!

