



The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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‘Pie the Way’, it was PI Day Last Friday . . .



By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

Last Saturday the 14th was Pi Day, and it got the whole school celebrating. But what is Pi, and why does it have a day? Here's all you need to know about this special number.

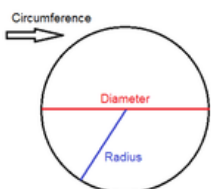
To understand Pi, you first need to know a little bit about circles. The perimeter of a circle has a fancy name: the circumference. The distance from one point on a circle going across the circle through the center of the circle is called the diameter. The circumference divided by the diameter of the circle will always result in a never-ending number, Pi. The symbol for Pi (π) comes from the Greek letter, pi.

The first three digits of Pi are 3.14, which is why it's celebrated on March 14th (3/14). Fun fact: Pi Day is recognized by the U.S. House of Representatives and also happens to be Albert Einstein's birthday. Last week, we also had teachers from each grade get pied in the face during lunch!

So now you know a little bit about Pi, and Pi Day. How many digits of Pi do you think you can memorize? If you need a little help, here is a video for the first 100 digits:



The PI Song



*Photos by
Bethany
Buckle and
Mrs.
Astrologo*

World Down Syndrome Day Emphasizes Inclusion

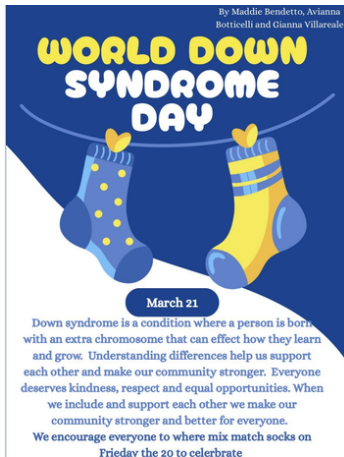
By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

Each year on March 21, people around the world come together to recognize World Down Syndrome Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness and promoting inclusion for individuals with Down Syndrome. The date, 3/21, symbolizes the third copy of the 21st chromosome, which causes Down Syndrome.

Down Syndrome is a genetic condition that affects learning and development, but individuals with Down syndrome can still lead the same lives as everyone else as students, athletes, and artists. Advocates emphasize the importance of breaking stereotypes and ensuring access to education, healthcare, and employment.

Communities, schools, and organizations mark the day with events that celebrate diversity and encourage acceptance. A popular tradition is wearing mismatched socks to show support, as chromosomes' shapes closely resemble that of socks. Small actions help spark larger discussions about respect, understanding, and equal opportunities.

World Down Syndrome Day is not only about awareness but also about action. It reminds society to create inclusive environments where everyone is valued and supported. By promoting kindness and inclusion, communities can help ensure that people with Down Syndrome have the same opportunities to thrive as anyone else. Hopefully everybody wears their mismatched socks tomorrow to show support!



A Prolific Poet for Both Children and Adults

By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff

Lucille Clifton was an African American poet who published over 30 volumes of poetry and books for children and adults. Lucille Clifton was born on June 27th, 1936, in Depew, New York, a small town outside of Buffalo. Her mother Thelma Moore Sayles was a launderer and a poet. She sparked Lucille's passion for writing at a young age. Her father, Samuel L. Sayles, was a steel mill worker who taught Lucille the value of hard work and perseverance.

At just 16 years old Lucille attended Howard University in Washington D.C, where she majored in drama. After graduating from Howard University, Lucille worked as a teacher and mentor in Baltimore, Maryland, helping young students find their passion for writing. She published her first volume of poetry "Good Times" in 1969. The poems in this collection were inspired by her life as a mother of six children and her experiences being an African American woman in the U.S. The New York Times recognized this collection as one of 1969's best books.

Lucille released two more collections of poetry, "Good News About the Earth" in 1972 and "An Ordinary Women" in 1974. Clifton was the first author to have two books of poetry chosen as finalists for the Pulitzer Prize, "Good Women: Poems and a Memoir, 1969-1980 and Next: New Poems. Lucille Clifton was also appointed as the state of Maryland's poet laureate from 1974-1985 and was the first African American women to hold this position. Lucille Clifton transformed American poetry and literature, and her legacy continues to inspire generations of readers and writers around the world.



Sources:

- <https://poets.org/poet/lucille-clifton>

Greeks Gear Up for Independence Day Celebration

By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

Next Wednesday, March 25th, Greeks all around the world will be commemorating Greek Independence Day. This national holiday in Greece marks the start of Greece's fight for freedom from the Ottoman Empire in 1821 while celebrating Greek culture and tradition simultaneously.

Historical Background

From 1453 to 1821, nearly 400 years, Greece was ruled by the Ottoman Empire. During this period Greece's political independence was lost. Greek culture and language survived largely through the Greek Orthodox Church and local communities. However, many Greeks began forming secret groups that were looking to revolt against the Empire and claim liberty.

Start of the Revolution

According to Greek tradition, Germanos III of Patras, a bishop, raised the Greek flag at a Peloponnese monastery and blessed the uprising. Although historians argue on the exact date of this, it is widely believed to be on March 25, 1821. Both brave leaders and ordinary citizens rose up against the Ottoman Empire's control, fueled by a desire for freedom and the preservation of Greek culture and Orthodox Christian faith. The Greek struggle gained sympathy throughout Europe and America, and after years of struggle, Greece was officially recognized as an independent state in 1830.

Religious Significance and Celebration

March 25 was also chosen as it coincides with a major religious holiday in Greece: The Feast of the Annunciation. This makes the holiday the perfect blend of Greece's spiritual heritage and its fight for independence. Churches across the country hold special services, cities and towns host parades, speeches, and cultural events. In Athens, the military parade in Syntagma Square is a central attraction, honoring Greece's past while also showcasing modern Greek pride.

Worldwide Tradition

Greek Independence Day is not only a celebration of liberty but also a reflection on national resilience and unity. Across the globe, Greek communities gather to honor their roots with music, dance, and food, keeping alive the memory of those who fought for freedom. Overall, it's a day that honors the past, celebrated culture, and inspires pride. Here in SMS, Mr. Pappas just might have some delicious Greek cookies for you to enjoy in room 304 (while supplies last)!



March 25 is Independence Day For Greeks Far and Wide



Note: Mr. Pappas will be celebrating Greek Independence Day on Wednesday, March 25 with Greek music, Greek cookies and a Greek Trivia Kahoot. Feel free to stop by room 304 for an authentic Greek butter cookie (while supplies last) and a Greek-American flag lapel pin you may wear with pride!

He is also running a special Greek Independence Day WIN 7 Enrichment on March 26



**By Scarlett Ritson
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Greek Independence Day was a key point in ancient Greek history, as it was March 25, 204 years ago, that Greeks freed themselves from the shackles of the Ottoman Empire, the empire that ruled them for 400 years. Greece wanted its own independence from the Ottoman Empire because they were restrictive with the country's religious rights, and many Greeks just wanted to govern themselves again so that they could freely celebrate the religion of their choice.

The great revolution started in February 1821, and ended in 1832, on, of course, March 25. It is also a widely celebrated holiday in Greece that can be celebrated in Greek Orthodox Churches, but what exactly does it celebrate? The Annunciation to the Theotokos, which is when the Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary in the night and tells her she will bear the son of God in birth. In short, an angel that serves God comes to Mary and tells her she will have Jesus as her baby.

"Freedom or Death!", was the motto during the revolution, and, for some extra information to surprise your parents and friends, this became the national motto for Greece, symbolizing their independence and what they would give up to have freedom. Even so, their efforts were not needed, as they experienced early success and won most of the wars, losing minimal resources. One of their great achievements was capturing Athens in June 1822. Yet the fighting continued. Throughout all this, they were successful until 1827 . . .

In 1827, the Ottomans infiltrated the Greek camp and took their resources, captured Athens, and left the Greeks at a great disadvantage. Just as soon as the Greeks seemed ready to submit defeat, a letter from Great Britain came, signed by the rulers of Great Britain, France, and Russia. They agreed to help them, though in very different ways; France supplied military forces via underground passageways. Russia was more so a neutral force, as was Britain, but the difference was Russia wished for the Athens to turn themselves in, which, of course, would not happen. And Britain wished for the Greeks to turn themselves in, which, of course, also would not happen.

A few years passed, everything seemed to be turning up—for the Greeks, at least—and as the Athenians seemed to be ready to submit, something sealed the blow. Prince Otto of Bavaria was crowned prince of Greece on June 18, 1833. He was originally elected as the first official royalty of the independent kingdom of Greece. Elected, not by the Greeks though, or, in governmental terms, a democracy, nor by blood. These factors probably would have mattered, and were definitely taken into consideration, but the rulers of Russia, France, and Britain elected him.

Prince Otto was not only the 'keeper of peace' between the Ottoman Empire and the newly formed Greek state, but also the sanctuary that the torn-apart kingdom needed.

So, now that you know what you know about Greece. Think once more about the motto, "Freedom or Death." And a quick fun fact for you; the motto "Freedom or Death" in Greek is 'Ελευθερία ή Θάνατος', or 'Eleftheria i Thanatos'. Pronounced: [eh-lef-the-REE-ah—ee—tha-NAH-tos]

Next time you see your friends, make sure you impress them by saying Ελευθερία ή Θάνατος!!! (Also, just so you know, they might be a little bit weirded out).

Ginsberg 's Supreme Court Legacy Endures

By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever heard of “The Notorious RBG?” Chances are, you haven't. But RBG wasn't a rapper, although she may sound like one. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was the second ever female Supreme Court Justice, and the first Jewish woman to hold the position.

Early Life

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1933. She was a studious and curious student throughout her early life and was actively involved in her Jewish community. After high school, she attended Cornell University, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in arts. She married Martin D. Ginsburg and moved with him to Oklahoma. About a year later, she enrolled and attended Harvard Law School, where she was one of nine women in a class of around 500 men! When her husband took a job in NYC, she was denied a request to complete her third year towards a Harvard Law degree at Columbia University, so she transferred to Columbia and earned her degree in law, tying for the first in her class as well.

Early Career

At first, Ginsburg had difficulty finding employment as a woman in what was normally a “man's job.” After working in Sweden for two years, she returned to the United States later and worked as a professor at Rutgers University starting 1963 until 1972. For the rest of the 1970's, she taught at Columbia, as well as founded the Women's Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union, in which she became the general counsel. She was known for her strategic approach to women's rights, where she chose plaintiffs carefully and targeted specific laws which she would tackle and build upon in later cases.

Government Career and Legacy

In 1980, Ginsburg was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the US Court of Appeals. She held the position for 13 years; her time on the Court was ended when President Bill Clinton nominated her to the US Supreme Court and she was confirmed by the Senate in 1993. During her time on the Supreme Court, she became known for her careful reasoning, clear writing, and strong defense of civil liberties. She argued for equal rights, reproductive freedom, voting rights, and protections against workplace discrimination. Beyond her legal accomplishments, RBG became a cultural icon. She earned the nickname “The Notorious RBG” and was celebrated for her resilience, dedication, and sense of justice. Even outside the courtroom, she inspired millions through speeches, interviews, and public appearances.

Ginsburg served on the Supreme Court until her passing in 2020, leaving behind a legacy of equality, fairness, and empowerment. She continues to be remembered as one of the most influential legal minds in American history, and her work is especially celebrated during Women's History Month.





If You're Bored, There's Always a World Record You Could Try to Break

By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever wondered what the craziest things people have done to get into a world record book? I was reading about records from Guinness World Records, and some of them are really surprising.

One of the most famous record holders is Usain Bolt. He ran the 100-meter race in only 9.58 seconds. That is so fast that most people can barely run across a playground in that time! People call him the fastest man in the world.

Another amazing record is the tallest person who ever lived, Robert Wadlow. He grew to about 8 feet 11 inches tall. That is taller than most doorways.

There are also funny records. One man balanced many spoons on his face and broke a record for it. Someone else set a record for the most T-shirts worn at one time. I think that would feel very weird.

My favorite kind of records are animal records. The cheetah is known as the fastest land animal. It can run super fast when chasing prey. Some dogs even have records for jumping the highest or catching the most frisbees.

World records show that people and animals can do amazing things. Some records are about speed, some about size, and some are just interesting. Reading about them makes me wonder if someday I could try to break a record, too.



Why is Everyone Obsessed With Nee Dohs?

By Emily Gardella
Tusker Tribune Staff

You might've seen most of your classmates or friends playing with a Nee Doh lately and wondered why everybody has them.

In case you don't know what a Nee Doh is, it is a brand of stress balls and squishies that has gone viral and has become very popular in our school, too. There are many reasons why people love Nee Dohs and I'll guide you through them.

One of the main reasons why people love Nee Dohs is because there are so many different Nee Dohs that they sell. This is good because people love to collect them and have a variety to play with. A few examples of the many Nee Dohs are ice cubes, cats, fuzz balls, popsicles, pigs, and ice cream.

Another reason people like Nee Dohs is because they are so satisfying and fun to play with. This is a good feature because some stress balls look very cool and have many varieties, but they aren't fun to play with, and they get boring after a few minutes.

In conclusion, Nee Dohs are satisfying to play with, very popular, and a personal favorite.



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A Sport that Started With Two Fruit Buckets and a Soccer Ball

By Leandra Ibrahim
Tusker Tribune Staff

Although basketball is one of the most popular sports worldwide, it all started in a gym in 1891 as a simple game. Basketball was invented by James Naismith, who was a gym teacher and wanted to come up with a fun, indoor activity for his students. The game was played in Massachusetts and James Naismith set up two fruit baskets and the players used a soccer ball to try and score.

The first basketball games were much slower, and there was no dribbling allowed. It was like handball, in which you are supposed to get the ball across the court by passing to other players. This sport was enjoyed by all his students and started to spread to other schools and colleges. It became popular throughout the United States and it gained support and participation.

Professional basketball teams started to grow in the early 20th century. In 1946, the NBA was founded and it became the most famous basketball league globally, 50 years after the first basketball was made. The three-point line was added in 1979, and the shot clock was added in 1954. Basketball became a sport in the Olympics and the sport spread to women, too, when the WNBA was founded in 1996. This allowed females to play the sport professionally and get worldwide recognition for their teamwork, skills and determination. Lisa Leslie was the first woman to slam dunk in a WNBA game in 2002. Diana Taurasi scored over 9,000 points, which makes her the highest scoring female in the WNBA.

Steph Curry holds the title of being the best three-point shooter of all time, and LeBron James is the highest scoring male in the NBA. From a very simple game played with fruit baskets and soccer balls, basketball has made its way to the top of all sports with many players, watchers and supporters.



Golden Retrievers are Just Doggone Cute

By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff



Golden Retrievers are very intelligent and gentle companions. They are the 3rd most popular dog breeds in the United States after French Bulldogs and Labrador Retrievers and are considered one of the most popular breeds in the world. They have very soft coats that come in various shades of golden like dark golden, golden, and light golden.

Purebred Golden Retrievers typically have dark brown to medium brown eyes. They are medium to large sized dogs with males standing 23 to 24 inches tall and weighing 65 to 75 pounds, while females are 21.5 to 22.5 inches tall and weigh 55 to 65 pounds.

Golden Retrievers originated in the Scottish Highlands during the mid to late 19th century. They are generally friendly to other dogs and get along with other animals with training. They make an amazing family dog. They love to be involved in everything and enjoy being outside. Golden Retrievers is a playful dog breed that is the perfect pet for anyone!

Sources:

- <https://www.purina.co.uk/find-a-pet/dog-breeds/golden-retriever>

For Paralympic Athlete Dani Aravich, Preparation is Everything

By Natalie Chery
Tusker Tribune Staff

Dani Aravich is an American athlete who competes in the winter and summer Paralympics. For winter Paralympics, the events she mainly competes in are Nordic skiing events and biathlons. For summer Paralympics, she competes in track and field events.

Dani Aravich needs to do vigorous training to stay for the Paralympics, even going as far as skipping the 2024 Paris Paralympics to prepare for the 2026 Milano Cortina Paralympics.

When training for the Paralympics, Dani Aravich focuses on the easy factors that will help her compete in the long run. Her goal is to see continual improvements as she continues her journey with training. Her main goal is to get the perfect amount of sleep; she calls it her “golden sleep.” “Sleep is such an important tool, and I can really tell a huge difference when I’m sleeping well at night compared to nights when I go to bed later,” she said. She also spends time training her consistency with shooting. The way her coach describes her work in training is, “We’re putting coins in our piggy banks and they’re adding up, you know, day after day.”

She also practices skiing and she goes to the gym to prepare, but aside from the slopes and gym, her schedule is still busy.

Overall, Dani is a very passionate athlete. She trains vigorously and although she hasn’t received any paralympic medals yet, she is sure to with work and patience.



Anticipation of Spring Break is Almost Better Than the Break Itself

By Leandra Ibrahimi
Tusker Tribune Staff

Spring break is a long awaited time of year for students, teachers, and all adults worldwide. Every year, we get to trade all the time spent in classrooms and offices for our comfortable homes and adventurous vacations. Spring break is usually any time between March and April, but it’s different depending on the state and school district. Spring break is a time to be spent with your friends and family, doing things that make you and the people you love happy.

Spring break dates back to the early 20th century when college students began taking short mid-semester trips with friends and family to relax and give themselves a break. Popular places they went to were Florida and ski resorts. Early spring breaks were not busy and crowded the way they are nowadays. In the mid 1980s, movies, magazines, and TV shows started to popularize spring break. Destinations people visited the most were Miami, Daytona Beach, Cancun, Punta Cana and other tropical, warm areas that provided them with the rest they needed. Many also chose to go to concerts, and big, filled events during this time.

Due to the creation of spring break, tourism has increased, and hotels and restaurants have all benefitted a lot economically. These popular places from decades ago still welcome people from all over with new food and drinks, and great memories.

Some families choose to stay at their home, and sleep in during this period, preferring their comfy house and binge watching their favorite television programs; whether that is a movie, TV show, or another channel. Spring break is a time filled with freedom and choices; it all comes down to what kind of person you are, and what you feel best spending your time doing. Since spring break is less than three weeks away, I would recommend everyone starts planning! Goodluck!



Polaroid: Caught, Candid and Carefree



By Leandra Ibrahimi
Tusker Tribune Staff

Before photos on a smartphone, people would click, shake, wait and watch. They used Polaroid cameras to take their day to day pictures, but they have a long and interesting history.

In the 1940s, Edwin Land who was an American scientist, invented the Polaroid camera. His goal was to create a camera that quickly developed an image after shaking the paper.

The first Polaroid camera, which was the Model 95, invented in 1948, was a profound change in the world of picture taking. This became a huge innovation, because people were able to see their photos instantly. In the 1950s, Polaroid cameras became commonly used for parties, big or casual events, family photos and fun projects. Many people loved the Polaroid because they got immediate photos. Artists, celebrities and photographers all used the polaroid camera because it was timely efficient.

Polaroids were associated with fun, and nostalgia through movies and music. Since digital cameras and smartphones were invented, the popularity of Polaroid cameras quickly decreased. People moved on to the newer and more advanced technology. But slowly, they made an appearance again recently for similar reasons why they were first popular--nostalgia and fun. Polaroids are being used again nowadays by teenagers and adults, in scrapbooks, decorations and posts on social media. Some adults use them for the purpose of getting that wave of comfort and that feeling of bittersweetness when holding the Polaroid; a huge part of their experience growing up.

Although a long time has passed, polaroid cameras still manage to provide everyone with memories that they will look back on, because they grow and experience life through you. Polaroids prove that some things truly never lose their charm. That click, shake, wait and watch is a feeling most parents love to see their children doing, because they see the magic in that small image that has been passed down a generation.

It's Bass Catching Season!

By The Great Outdoorsman
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello and welcome back to The Great Outdoorsman. So I know I made an article about this earlier, but now that we're really getting into spawning season, I want to write about a topic.

Bass are breeding and making nests, I think it's time I talk about how to catch a spawning bass. Spawning bass are very aggressive and love to protect their eggs. Once bass starts spawning, the trick to catching the giant bass is spotting them on or near their beds. Use polarized sunglasses and slowly cruise through sheltered shadows looking for nests on firm bottoms such as sand and gravel, especially along sunny banks or near docks, waterfalls or other cover.

For bait, get a six inch tube, color pearl, Texas rigged with a 6/0 hook and 1/4 ounce bullet sinker. This oversized tube rouses the fish. Slip to within casting range of the bed, and when the big female faces away pitch the tube softly into her nest with a stout flipping rod with 20 LB fluorocarbon line. Lightly twitch the bait in place. Experiment until aggravates the bass, then keep it going till she inhales the bait.

I tried to do this method, it was fun, but I don't have all the equipment to do it. The source for this article is Field and Stream's The total fishing manual. Alright that's all we have for today I'll see you next time on The Great Outdoorsman.



Sneakers: 'Sole' Mates for Life



By Leandra Ibrahim
Tusker Tribune Staff

Today, sneakers are the most popular type of shoe in the world, but they have a long and interesting history. The first rubber-soled shoes were created in the late 1800s by Charles Goodyear. In 1839, Goodyear discovered *vulcanization*, which is a process that makes rubber stronger and longer lasting. After this discovery, other shoe companies started producing canvas shoes called “plimsolls”. They were simple shoes made for outdoor activities, sports, and just a casual day with friends.

Around 1917, rubber shoes became more popular amongst people of all ages. The rubber bottoms made the shoes very, very quiet; since the shoes were so silent, people could “sneak” around in them, which is why they were called “sneakers.” In 1916, a brand name Keds created one of the first mass-produced sneakers, and their sales absolutely skyrocketed. Keds became one of the most popular shoes in the United States.

Sneakers started becoming the new “need” in sports. All athletes owned a pair, whether it was the Keds of 1916, or the Converse of 1917. Later, in the 1970s-80s, sneakers were also looked at as a stylish fashion piece that could be customized and worn differently depending on the outfit. Bigger brands like Nike and Adidas started making cute and athletic shoes that got a lot of attention from kids and adults. Sneakers made such a profound change in sports and fashion, that people even collected them and traded them.

Even today, sneakers still get love from all people of all interests. Nowadays, it's common for shoe companies to collaborate with artists, musicians, athletes, and all kinds of celebrities. Sneakers are useable for almost any event, with all the styles, colors, brands and overall options! You can even find shoes with a specific purpose such as helping athletes jump higher, gripping the ground to prevent slipping.

Although sneakers were first designed as simple, half-athletic shoes, now there's so many different options for different needs.

Ragdoll Cats Good for First Time Cat Owners

By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff



Ragdoll cats are great for first time cat owners and are considered the most affectionate cat breed. They are often referred to as “puppy cats” because they follow their owners from room to room and act very similarly to dogs.

Ragdoll cats love to spend the day playing with their owner. They are large and very muscular with a broad chest, sturdy legs, short necks, and a semi-long to long haired coat. Traditional Ragdoll cats always have blue eyes ranging from icy blue to dark blue eyes while other varieties of Ragdoll cats like Mink Ragdolls have aqua-colored eyes.

Ragdoll cats come in three different coat patterns with four different colors including seal, chocolate, blue, lilac, red, and cream. Adult male Ragdoll cats weigh between 12-20 pounds while adult females' weight between 7.5-15 pounds. Ragdoll cats are very sociable, gentle, playful, and curious cats that are great for a relaxed home!

Sources:

- <https://www.purina.co.uk/find-a-pet/cat-breeds/ragdoll>

From Cowpox to COVID, Vaccines Have Changed Our Approach to Health

**By Leandra Ibrahim
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Observations of two common diseases, smallpox and cowpox, and a curious, determined scientist led to one of the most important inventions today that was a profound change in public health – the vaccine. In the late 1700s, Edward Jenner noticed something about the relationship between cowpox and smallpox. Those who got cowpox from milking cows never got the deadly disease, smallpox. He suspected that those who had one of them, never got the other.

In 1796, Jenner took a huge risk and decided to conduct an experiment to test his theory, by giving a young boy a small dose of cowpox. After that, Jenner realized the boy was immune to smallpox, and that was the first vaccine that led to many, many others.

In the 1800s, there were a lot of contagious diseases and illnesses being spread, so scientists had to make more vaccines to counteract these sicknesses. Polio resulted in the paralyzing of young children, and other diseases were even more deadly. Scientists used Jenner's experiment results – giving the body a safe version of the dangerous germ that could train the body to be immune to the illness.

In the 20th century, vaccinations ended up reducing and removing many diseases worldwide. Smallpox ended up being the first and only human disease to be completely eliminated. Nowadays, you can find vaccines that provide protection against a variety of germs and illnesses. There are annual flu vaccines, there are Covid19 vaccines, and many others. Vaccines are a way to protect ourselves, our families and friends, and our whole community. They slow or stop the spread of disease, and some teach our immune systems to learn how to fight sicknesses faster.

Millions of lives globally have been saved due to our modern day vaccine, and Edward Jenner's fascinating discovery that changed our world forever.



A Holiday of Culture and Religion

**By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff**

St Patrick's day is celebrated on March 17th. By the time you're reading this it has already passed, but still, here is the history of it.

Saint Patrick was a man from Britain who lived a long time ago. When he was a teen, he was kidnapped and taken to Ireland as a slave. Crazy, right? Later, he escaped, but he came back to Ireland to teach people about Christianity. On March 17th he died, and people celebrate him on that day. He used a shamrock, which is a small three leaf plant, so he could explain the Christian idea of the Trinity.

People wear green (and if not, you get pinched) on St Patrick's day to celebrate with parades, music and dancing. Today, it's not always about religion. It's also about celebrating the Irish culture.



The Wrong Bus Stop

PART 1

It was finally Friday, but it was Friday the 13th! I was on my way home, but I was so tired, I took a nap, since there were still about 20 or maybe more bus stops till my stop.

When I opened my eyes, the bus was not moving anymore, and I mean it. The engine was off, and inside the bus was completely quiet. I sat back up, and I looked around. Every seat was empty.

No students.

Nothing.

My heart started beating faster and faster. I was sure there had to be other students on the bus earlier. I stood up from my seat and walked over to the front of the bus. "Hello, anyone?"

No response.

Nothing.

I looked over at the bus driver's seat, and he was not there, not even his stuff he usually leaves on the bus. I ran over to the window, and all I saw was that we were parked in a random forest. The forest was completely dark, except that light coming from about 1000 feet away from where the bus was parked. But soon I noticed that there were no other buses parked; it was just this bus, the bus was on.

I also noticed that the bus doors were still closed . . . it was locked shut. but soon all of a sudden, I hear the bus engine make a quiet clicking sound. *Is this really happening, I have seen these kinds of things happen in horror movies!!*

My heart started pounding faster than it ever had before. But soon I heard it. Footsteps are coming toward the bus. To be exact, there were slow footsteps walking down the aisle behind me. I turned around slowly while my heart was pounding. At first, I saw nothing.

Nothing at all.

But soon one of the seats behind me creaked . . . like someone just sat down. But no one sat down.

At all.

And a deep voice whispered from the back of the bus. "You weren't supposed to wake up," this random person said from the back of the bus who almost looked identical to my bus driver.



By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff
Note: This is a fictional story.

PART 2

I froze.

My hands gripped the back of the nearest seat, I slowly turned towards the aisle behind me. "Hello?" I said, but my voice sounded small and shaky.

No one answered.

And I mean, no one.

The bus was silent again, that my voice echoed. It was really silent.

Maybe too silent.

Then another seat creaked. But this time it was closer to me. I stepped backwards toward the front of the bus. My heart started pounding again, but this time it was so loud. And I was pretty sure that whoever was behind me could hear it.

Suddenly the bus doors hissed, and slowly opened. The cold breeze at night, air rushed inside. For a second, I felt relieved. There was finally an escape.

I jumped down from the bus and ran across the dark parking lot toward that restaurant I spotted earlier. But as I got closer, I noticed something strange. The door to the restaurant was open. And inside . . . every table was empty.

Every chair was neatly pushed in.

Since it was about 7pm, I assumed people would be at this restaurant for dinner. The lights were on. And from somewhere in the back of the building . . . I heard the same slow footsteps again. And soon . . . "AHHHH!!!"

THE END