

300 Hillvue Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Carson Chronicle



Harriet Tubman

By: Ashalina Arisha

The night is cold, your dress thin, your head throbbing. All you know is to follow the North Star, to take refuge in secret coded places, a network of people called the Underground Railroad. You rack your brain for in-



formation about where to go, what to do. You don't have much time, you are on the run. Imagine having a chance to be free after years of oppression, but having to leave those you love in order to do so. Your mother, your husband, your fellow friends, all left behind. But you choose

to escape, and you make the best of it.

Harriet Tubman was born a slave in Maryland's Dorchester County around 1820. She was an important conductor in the Underground Railroad, a network of people who helped slaves escape. Harriet's name was actually Aramita Ross, but she married John Tubman and took his name, and her mother's name, Harriet. She was constantly

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Dates of Interest:

- 4/17-4/18—No School
- 4/21-4/5/2—PSSA Testing
- 5/20—No School
- 5/26—Memorial Day
- 6/6—LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

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By: Brooke Fackler

Our Carson Middle School Science Bowl teams placed 4th at the Western PA Science Bowl Competition held at CCAC South campus on Saturday, March 1st! The two teams competing

Science Bowl Teams!

were:

- Team 1: (4th Place)
Suhan Singhal, captain, Alya Mittal, Hannah Lin, Elijah Blake, and Erian Chen.
 - Team 2 (Quarterfinalists)
Brooke Fackler, captain, Caleb Choe, Hayden Otey, Sophia Yu, and Alissa Mitts.
- Both teams encountered many different science and

Math questions during this fast paced, 18 minute timed event. After the time was up, teams would report to a different room to take on their next competition. There were teams from twenty-four schools competing to represent Western PA at the National competition in Washington D.C. Marshall Middle won the

competition and everyone will be rooting them on to bring the trophy back to NA!

Because Team 1 placed 4th, they won \$300 for CMS!

Great job to both teams and their sponsor, Mrs. Morris!



WALK WITH CMS BEST BUDDIES



This year, CMS Best Buddies will be participating in the Friendship Walk at Highmark Stadium on April 27th. The CMS Best Buddies would love to have you join us!

The Best Buddies Friendship Walk is the leading event in the country supporting inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

MISSION

Best Buddies International is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment,

leadership development, inclusive living, and family support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

WHO WE SERVE

Best Buddies serves individuals with IDD and their families. The IDD community includes, but is not limited to, people with Down syndrome, autism, Fragile X, Williams syndrome, and other undiagnosed disabilities.

PROGRAMS

Best Buddies is the largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation of the 200 million people worldwide with intellec-

tual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Our programs empower people with IDD to form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure jobs, improve communication and advocacy skills, and live independently, while also offering support for their families.

Event Information:

Sunday, April 27, 2025

Check-in: 9:30 AM

Opening Ceremonies:
11:00 AM

Walk: 11:30 AM

Celebrate Until: 1:00 PM

Location:
Highmark Stadium

510 W Station Square Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

If you would like to join us, please click the link below. It will take you to the Carson Middle School Team Page.

Let's try to make the CMS Buddies Team the largest at the event!! Everyone is welcome, kids, parents, grandparents, and friends!

[Join the Carson Middle School Team](#)



AN ASTEROID IS HEADED FOR EARTH!

By: Chetan Yarlagadda

Today, we're going to talk about something exciting (and a little bit scary) – an asteroid that's coming toward Earth! Don't panic, though. It's not going to hit us anytime soon. In fact, it's still eight years away! But this asteroid is really big, and scien-

tists are watching it closely to make sure we're all safe.

What is an Asteroid?

Before we talk about the asteroid, let's start with the basics. An asteroid is just a big rock flying through space. Most asteroids stay in a place

called the "asteroid belt," which is between Mars and Jupiter. But some asteroids come closer to Earth, and when that happens, scientists make sure they keep an eye on them. Some asteroids are really small, like the size of a car, and others are HUGE, like the size of a

mountain! The asteroid we're talking about is huge and is headed toward our planet.

The Asteroid Coming Our Way

The asteroid's name is 2024 YR4, and scientists first saw it in 2024. Even

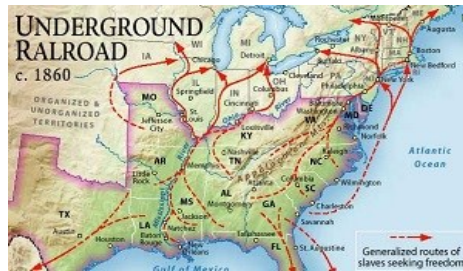
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Tubman

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whipped and punished by her 'masters', and suffered a traumatic head injury when she was thirteen. When this happened, an overseer threw a weight at another slave, and she jumped in the way. She escaped alone and found freedom in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She helped about more than 300 slaves escape to freedom like she did.

All alone, on the run, without any company, you feel scared, and alone. You are running on your own knowledge and intellect. You received a white note with two safe places to stay. You feel guilty for leaving your family and friends alone in the horrible circumstances you were born in. The journey is hard. The only way to escape is to completely trust the people part of the network. You hide in sheds, barns, basements, even tight closets. The uncertainty is nerve-racking. You make it with little food, crossing rivers, running, and making temporary friends you'll nev-



er see again. They might be punished for helping you, but they don't care. They do what's right, and you forever owe them. You finally catch a breath of relief when you find freedom in Philadelphia.

Harriet made it to Pennsylvania in 1894. She had to be independent, always on high alert. As a woman, she was never underestimated by her

friends. She proved her worth. In Philadelphia, she earned what she could as a domestic worker. She was a strong woman, pushing through without knowing how her family was doing. She built a stable life there, and decided to contribute to the Underground Railroad. She made connections with other abolitionists.

You start to get used to the life of helping other slaves. You send the abolitionists notes, cryptic messages of expecting company. You make many friends, learn about the lives they want to escape. Your head

throbs, your vision blurs from time to time from that injury you suffered at thirteen. You don't regret jumping in the way though. Every day, hope of seeing your family extinguishes, but helping others keeps you going.

Between 1850 and 1860, Tubman returned to the Eastern Shore of Maryland 13 times and freed more than 70 family and friends so that they could be free together. They settled in Auburn, New York in 1857.

Your heart leaps in your throat. You see your family, stumbling along. Immediately, you run towards them. This is your most risky task yet; to free them safely. You are proud to show them how much you've accomplished. "I've never lost a single passenger," you tell them. The journey's suspense doesn't get to you. They all make it safely. You feel at peace.

Harriet meets a good life long friend, abolitionist John Brown. During a raid, he is taken by an army unit, put on trial. He is later arrested for helping the slaves, and hanged. Harriet was not able to attend due to illness.

You feel ill. Your head throbs more than before, and you know you don't have much time left. You remember John Brown. You decide his attempt will not go to waste. You dedicate the rest of your days to freeing slaves.

In 1861, a civil war broke out over the issue of slaves. Harriet took advantage of this and became a spy. She gathered a group of slaves interested in becoming spies. Tubman helped Colonel James Montgomery coordinate the Combahee River Raid in South Carolina, which aimed to "harass whites and rescue freed slaves". The raid was successful, and they were able to free 750 more slaves. To date, Tubman is recognized as the first woman in US history to both plan and lead a military raid. She later moved in with her family and spent her days doing what she does best; bringing justice to her community. Her injury turned out to be narcolepsy, and she died in 1913, at the age of 91.

Her last words were, "I go away to prepare a place for you, that where I am you also may be." She was laid to rest at Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn.



CMS SPRING SPORTS—Get in the GAME!

By: Leo Schanbacher

The 2025 spring season is here, and here's your one-stop shop guide to all the sports happening this season!

Baseball and Softball

Baseball and Softball are here, and we get to watch our Tigers in action this spring! Both teams will be showing off their pitching, fielding, and hitting skills. Softball follows the same rules as baseball but with an underhand pitching style. Get ready for some exciting games as both teams aim for victories this year!

Lacrosse

Lacrosse is an exciting sport where players use the head of a lacrosse stick to carry, pass,

catch, and shoot the ball into the goal. This season, lacrosse will be available in both boys' and girls' teams, giving everyone a chance to get in on the action!

Rowing

Rowing is the sport of racing boats using oars, which are attached to the boat with rowlocks. This sets rowing apart from paddling sports, where paddles aren't connected to the boat. The rowing team is co-ed, meaning both boys and girls will be competing together, making it a thrilling sport to watch!

Girls Flag Football

Girls Flag Football takes the traditional American football game and puts a twist on it. Instead of tackling, players pull a flag to down their oppo-

nent. This sport is currently for girls only, and it's going to be a lot of fun to watch this spring! For more info, check out the fall issue's feature: "Girls Flag Football Gets Anonymous Vote."

Boys Tennis

In tennis, players use rackets to hit a hollow rubber ball covered in felt over or around a net into their opponent's court. The goal is to maneuver the ball so the opponent can't return it. This sport is exclusively for boys this season, and it's going to be an exciting ride!

Track and Field

Track and Field combines running, jumping, and throwing events in one sport. It's a co-ed sport, but each event is separated by boys and

girls. Whether you're a sprinter, jumper, or thrower, there's an event for everyone in Track and Field!

Boys Volleyball

Last but not least, Boys Volleyball is back this season! Volleyball is a team sport where two teams of six players each try to score by grounding the ball on the other team's court. This sport is for boys only, so get ready for some high-flying action and intense competition!

Now that you've got the scoop on all the spring sports, it's time to cheer on the Tigers and enjoy the season!

The New Hunger Games Book

By: Sophia Cuevas

Happy Hunger Games and May the odds be ever in your favor!

The Hunger Games book series are back in action because on March 14th one of our favorite authors, Suzanne Collins, is going to publish another prequel book in the Hunger games trilogy, The Sunrise on the Reaping. This prequel will show the backstory of



Haymitch Abernathy, one of the original characters in the trilogy. In the trilogy Haymitch is described as a heavy drinker, sarcastic, and sometimes aloof, but yet a strategically brilliant character.

In this new book we can further learn about Haymitch's past and what led him to his trauma related addiction to alcohol. In the second book, we get a sneak-peek on

Haymitch's games. On July 4th, 16 year old Haymitch was picked to compete in the 50th Hunger Games .

The 50th hunger games was the second Quarter Quell. The Quarter Quell comes around every 25 years and each quarter quell they add an extra twist to the games; Ex. On the 25th hunger games each district would vote on who entered into the games instead of being Reaped on July 4th.

The 50th Quarter Quell twist was that there

would be double the amount of children reaped. This increased the chances of being picked. Haymitch got picked and a girl named Maysilee Donner, who became Haymitch's ally. There are still so many mysteries behind Haymitch's past but this new book will hopefully be a roller coaster of emotions and answers to those mysteries.

Make sure to fasten on your mocking jay pin, load up your arrows, and get ready to read!



Asteroid

(Continued from page 2)

though it's still eight years away, they're already studying it. Why? Because it's really big—about 300 feet (that's like two football fields put together!). If it were to hit Earth (which isn't going to happen), it could cause a lot of damage. But here's the good news: it's not going to hit us. The asteroid will safely pass by Earth in 2032.

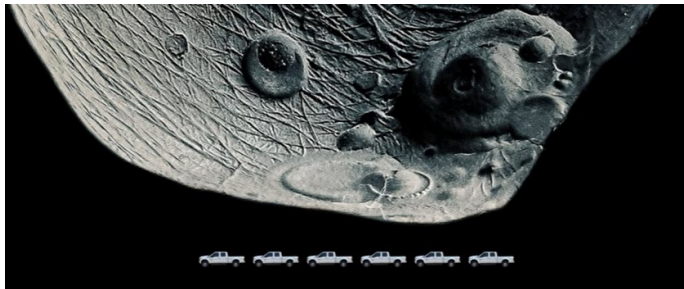
Scientists noticed the asteroid because it's coming pretty close to Earth.

It's moving really fast,

too—about 20,000 miles per hour! That's super fast. But even though it's coming close, there's no reason to worry. The chance of it hitting Earth is so small that we don't have to be concerned at all.

What Will Happen in 2032?

In 2032, asteroid 2024 YR4 will pass by Earth safely. It will be far



[Click the picture for more information about 2024YR4](#)

enough away that nothing will happen. It will be about 87 million miles away from Earth. To put that in perspective, the moon is only about 238,855 miles away from Earth! So even though the asteroid might sound close, it will be very far away, and we won't feel a thing.



Even though we don't need to worry about it hitting Earth, scientists are still studying it. They're using

special computer programs to figure out what might happen if the asteroid did hit. They're also checking out other asteroids that might come close to Earth in the future. It's part of their job to make sure we know about any space rocks that could be a problem, even if the chance of them hitting us is super small.

Why Are Asteroids Important?

You might be wondering, "Why should we care about this asteroid if it's not going to hit us?" Well, asteroids are important for a couple of reasons. First, they can teach us a lot about how our solar system was made. Asteroids are like old space rocks that haven't changed much since the solar system started billions of years ago. By studying them, scientists can learn more about how planets and moons were created.

Second, it's important to understand asteroids because, in the future, we might need to protect ourselves from one. Even though 2024 YR4 isn't a threat, other asteroids could come closer or even collide with Earth one day. If that happens, scientists are already working on ways to protect our planet. They're looking into using rockets or special spacecraft to push an asteroid out of the way if it gets too close.

What Can We Do About It?

Right now, there's no

need to worry about asteroid 2024 YR4. But scientists are always watching the sky to track asteroids and other objects in space. If an asteroid ever comes too close, scientists might work with leaders from around the world to figure out how to protect us.

One idea they have is to send a spacecraft to gently nudge the asteroid and change its path. This would make sure the asteroid misses Earth without breaking it apart. Scientists are studying this idea, and it could be a way to protect the planet in the future.

Conclusion

Asteroid 2024 YR4 might sound a little scary, but there's no reason to worry. It's not going to hit Earth, and we have plenty of time to keep studying it. Scientists will continue watching it for the next eight years, and if anything changes, we'll know about it.

So, the next time you look up at the stars, just remember: there are some asteroids out there, but scientists are making sure we stay safe. Keep being curious about space, because it's pretty amazing!

Until next time,
Your Space Dude



A FANCY FOXES, LAVISH LIZARDS AND OTHER EXOTIC ANIMALS

By: Elise Marinelli

Woof. A dog barks from across the street.

Meow. A cat purrs from behind the window.

Chitter. Unheard, a hamster talks to his caged friend.

65 million homes own a dog, and 46.5 million own a cat. But what about the 6.1 million people that own a bird? Or the 2.2 million homes that own a horse? The numbers are significantly smaller, for these are exotic pets.

Exotic pets are different from the normal cat or dog. They are rare,

more difficult to find or buy, and are normally wild creatures. For example, the parrot is a wild creature that you may find in many tropical countries, but in the present day, it is a rare exotic pet.

Have you ever heard of the fennec fox? It is a small fox located in North Africa. It is an adorable fox, and even though it is naturally wild, it is a pet.

Since these animals were once wild creatures, a question has emerged for this article: should exotic animals

like the fennec fox be considered a pet? "[People should be allowed to have an exotic pet] because if you are allergic to household pets like dogs or cats there is always another option [exotic pets] that can make you stand out from others," says Lucca Pallota, a 6th grader at CMS. Lucca's point is

valid, but some, like Rebecca Lin in 6th grade, disagree.

Rebecca said, "I feel like you should only have an exotic animal if you know all of its needs so that it doesn't turn on you."



My opinion? Exotic animals should not be pets. If they were once wild animals, they have the ability to survive on their own. Let them be and stick to the more common pets, such as dogs and cats. Since dogs and cats have never been truly wild, it is much easier to care for them and bond with them.

What do you think? Should exotic animals be pets? If you had an exotic pet, what would it be?



April Fools Day!

April Fools' Day, celebrated on April 1st each year, is a day dedicated to practical jokes, hoaxes, and lighthearted pranks. The tradition is observed globally, with individuals, media outlets, and businesses all getting involved in pulling off humorous and often absurd stunts. While the origins of the holiday remain somewhat



mysterious, it is widely believed to have roots in ancient festivals, such as the Roman "Hilaria," which involved playful behaviors, or the change in calendar systems when France switched from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in the 16th century. Those who continued to cele-

brate the new year on April 1st were often the targets of ridicule and practical jokes.

On April Fools' Day, pranks range from simple tricks, like telling a friend that their shoelaces are untied, to elaborate hoaxes involving fake news stories or staged events. Media outlets, in particular, are known for publishing outland-

ish reports, such as "discoveries" of alien life or bizarre technological innovations, only to reveal at the end of the day that the story was a hoax. Some of the most memorable pranks have come from major com-

panies, which use the occasion to introduce fake products or launch absurd marketing campaigns, delighting in the confusion they spark.



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What Spring Brings

Spring is a season of renewal and growth, often considered one of the most vibrant and beautiful times of the year. As the cold grip of winter begins to loosen, the days grow longer, and the weather gradually warms up, nature begins to awaken from its slumber. Trees start to sprout fresh leaves, flowers bloom in a riot of colors, and the air is filled with the scent of new life. This transformation is a signal of change, marking a fresh start both in the natural world and in human activities.

For many, spring symbolizes hope and new beginnings. It's a time for personal growth, a chance to shake off the

winter blues, and to embrace the energy and optimism that the season brings. People often partake in activities like spring cleaning, a ritual that involves organizing and refreshing their living spaces, both physically and mentally. The fresh start isn't just confined to homes—gardens and farms are planted

with new crops, as the soil becomes rich with possibilities for the upcoming season. This sense of rejuvenation is mirrored in the way people approach their lives, often setting new goals or pursuing creative endeavors as the season encourages forward momentum.

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The arrival of spring also brings a variety of outdoor activities

that were limited during the colder months. With the return of warmer temperatures, people take to parks, beaches, and hiking trails to enjoy the natural world around them. It's a time for outdoor sports, picnics, barbecues, and community events, as families and friends gather to bask in the sunlight. Spring festivals and holidays, like Easter and the celebration of the vernal equinox, often center around the themes of fertility, rebirth, and harmony with nature, which reflect the deep connection humans have with the earth during this time.

Animals, too, are partic-

ularly active in spring. Many species give birth during this season, and the sight of baby animals—whether lambs, calves, or chicks—reminds us of the cyclical nature of life. Birds return from migration, filling the air with songs, while insects like bees and butterflies begin to buzz around, pollinating flowers and ensuring the cycle of life continues. The resurgence of animal life serves as a powerful reminder of the interconnectedness of all living things and the importance of environmental conservation to sustain these natural rhythms.



Despite the occasional storms, spring remains a time of optimism, as the promise of summer lies just

around the corner, and the world seems full of potential.

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One of the key elements of April Fools' Day is its emphasis on humor and harmlessness. The spirit of the day is about light-hearted fun and not about causing harm or distress. A good prank is one that brings laughter to everyone involved, including the person being pranked. It's a time to break away



from the usual routine, enjoy a bit of silliness, and embrace the playful nature of the day. In many cultures, April Fools' Day is a moment to bond with friends and family over shared jokes and to create funny memories together.

Despite its widespread popularity, April Fools' Day can some-

times lead to confusion

or frustration if pranks go too far. While most people understand the nature of the holiday, some may not

appreciate being the butt of a joke, especially if it's elaborate or goes on for too long. As with all forms of humor, it's important to know where the line is between fun and disrespect. When done right,



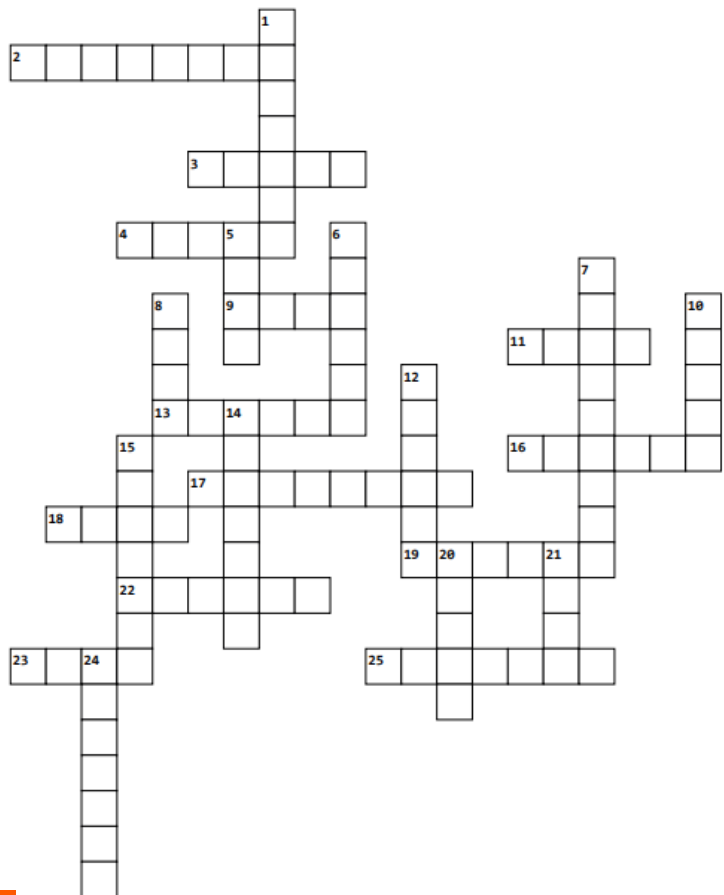
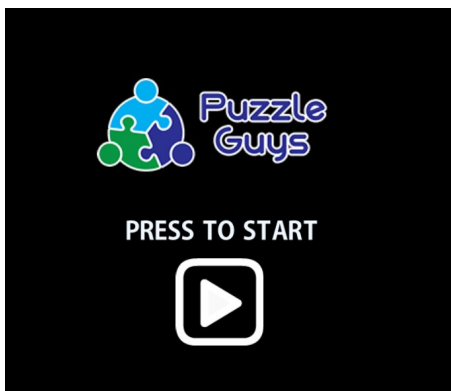
though, April Fools' Day remains a beloved tradition, bringing laughter and amusement to people across the world.



FUN PAGE!



Each of the games shown below are linked so you can play them online.



Across

2. A yellow spring flower
3. Month when spring begins
4. Animal symbolizing fertility and spring
9. Often planted in gardens during spring
11. Flown in the spring breeze
13. Gentle spring wind
16. Often prepared and planted in spring
17. More of this as spring progresses
18. Amphibian that becomes active in spring
19. Tree known for its spring blossoms
22. Young plant growth in spring
23. More visible after spring rain
25. Popular spring activity

Down

1. Common in spring due to pollen
5. Birds build these in spring
6. Result of spring showers
7. Insect that emerges in spring
8. Young animal often associated with spring
10. Color associated with spring's new growth
12. Outdoor meal popular in spring
14. Day when day and night are of equal length in the spring
15. Flowers opening during spring
20. Birds and insects do this in spring
21. Frequent spring weather
24. Spring symbolizes this

