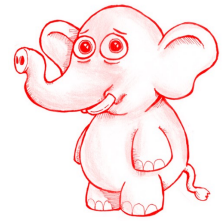


The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



Volume 2, Issue 5

<http://somersschools.org/domain/995>

Winter 2016

Cheer On SMS Special Olympics!!



By Taylor Faust
Tusker Tribune
Staff Writer

I volunteer for the Somers Special Olympics team. Either on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, we meet from 3:00-5:00 after school. Right now, the team is playing soccer which is a lot of fun but there will be other sports too, like floor hockey, basketball and more!

If you have a free day and there's a practice going on, you should come down to the gym and help. It's a lot of fun!

Most games are home games in our own gym. There are bleachers to sit on and cheer on



the team. When you go around school, you should see signs when the Special Olympics games are and you should come cheer because we need more people to come and cheer!

The kids who are a part of Special Olympics work really hard and would love some support from their fellow Somers students. Special Olympics is so much fun! It's a great way to get to know other kids and

if you need community hours!

High School Students can come to volunteer too! Can't wait to see you all at the next game!!!!

“Uranium” (Chapter 1)

Editor's Note: Somers Middle School Eighth Graders have been writing novels during the school year for the NaNoWriMo program. The name is short for National Novel Writing Month. Nitin Seshadri, a Tusker Tribune Staffer, will be presenting his NaNoWriMo entry chapter by chapter in the Tusker Tribune. The prologue to his novel, “Uranium”, appears today.

By Nitin Seshadri

Tusker Tribune Staff Writer



Beep...beep...beep...

Derek woke up on a bed, in a dingy room with four white walls and a humming fluorescent light.

"Where am I?" he questioned the wall.

"I thought you would know. You're the genius here," a chorus of familiar voices said.

Andrew? Derek thought. He looked to his left and saw a row of beds. On them were Andrew, and his twin sister Andrea.

"Did you notice the heart rate monitors and IV tubes here?" they said. Andrew gestured toward one. Derek hadn't noticed it. Usually he would notice things like that. Derek wondered

what was going on. He was in a hospital after a potentially fatal asteroid hit the earth. However, he had no memory of what had happened between those two events. How much time had passed between the two events?

As Derek pondered his thoughts, a nurse walked in with a tray full of medical instruments and a stethoscope hanging around her neck. Maybe there had been a major fire and he was injured. Derek looked at himself. He was in perfect shape. He had all his limbs and there were no sign of cuts or bruises.

"I see you have woken up finally, Derek. You are in the hospital," she said in a soothing voice.

"Why are there no windows in this room?" Derek asked.

"We're underground. After the asteroid hit, the uranium leveled everyone in the area, including you three. We dosed you with the right potassium pills, and thank God, you survived."

Continued on page 2

Uranium Chapter 1 from Page 1

Everyone said "Whoa."

"It's been a month since the asteroid hit," the nurse said matter-of-factly.

"Anything else we should know?" asked Andrea.

"Well, first of all, don't go out that door over there," the nurse motioned to a door across the wall from the beds.

"Why?" Derek asked. "What if I went out there?"

"It leads aboveground. If you go above ground, the radiation can kill you faster than you can say 'split peas'. We've locked the door with a chain to keep you safe from any intruders outside. That's just for your protection. We are not trying to imprison you here."

"Those doors over there"—she motioned to two brown wooden doors with boy and girl signs on them to the left of the Aboveground door—"those are the bathrooms. There are boys and girls' bathrooms, and each bathroom has multiple stalls so you don't fight. The faucets and showers use ultrasonic beams to clean your hands, as water has now become a luxury with the asteroid and everything."

"What about that door over there?" Andrea asked.

"I was going to talk about that. That door marked Employees only—don't ever go in there. My colleagues and I will be coming out from

there three times a day to serve you healthy, balanced vegetarian meals. Got it?"

Everyone nodded in approval.

"Almost forgot. Yes, you are allowed to use those couches over there"—she pointed to some dirty green couches which were probably from a tag sale—"to relax, chat or do whatever you want. My suggestion is that you run or walk around the perimeter of the room for some exercise. I'll be back with your dinner in a couple hours."

Derek examined the drab room. It had unimpressive white walls, three dirty green couches, a plastic coffee table, and a small desk at the wall with a chair. The desk had an old-looking computer sitting on it. Derek got up, walked over to the desk, and booted it up. It didn't work. Derek shut it down and walked over to Andrea, who was trying to find her phone.

"What happened to my phone?" she asked Andrew.

"I don't know. Mine's gone too," he replied.

"We took them away. The radiation from a cell phone can damage your body. As in, you just survived an asteroid impact. We don't need you to die," the nurse, who was still there, explained.

"How long until I get my phone again?" Andrea asked.

"You won't need it. The Internet doesn't work. You won't be able to use Facebook, Instagram, or whatever 'social networks' you Earthlings use," said the nurse as she walked out. "I'll be back with your dinner in a few moments."

Derek sat down on the couch and began to recollect what had happened. *The asteroid had hit, he knew that, then what happened? What happened that he ended up here?* He didn't know.

Just then, the nurse returned through the Employees Only door as if she was a tornado. The door closed with an excessively loud thud as she served dinner to the three kids.

"Enjoy your dinner!" she chirped as she left. Derek looked down at his plate. On it were some malformed salad greens, some (probably rotten) tomatoes, ranch dressing that smelled like moldy cheese, and a cup of yogurt that had a particularly pungent smell. It was not a dinner fit for humans. Derek, concluding that this was the only food available at this time, quickly shoveled the gruel down and hoped that his stomach wouldn't get upset the next morning and that he wouldn't get diarrhea.

"Ugh! This food SUCKS! Who would even call this healthy?" exclaimed Andrea in a fit of rage.

"I don't know. This is probably the only food they have with that asteroid and everything," Derek replied.

"I guess so. Wonder where this crap even comes from. They—at the very, very least—should try to give us food that isn't rotten!" pondered Andrew.

And with that, they all turned off their lights and went to bed. Derek laid awake in bed and wondered if this was a dream. The sad fact of the matter: it wasn't. That asteroid had really hit and leveled a good chunk of the country, if not the world. At least he thought so.



Winter Fun at the Bronx Zoo!



By Alexander Dahling
Tusker Tribune Staff
Writer

Have you ever been to the Bronx Zoo in the Winter? Right now the zoo has two new tiger cubs that were born just a few months ago. The cubs are named



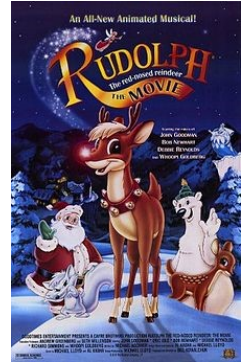
Nadia and Azul. You can see them and their Mom at the Tiger Mountain exhibit.

There are also many baby gorillas at the zoo who like to put on a show for visitors.



They love it when people come to see them. They swing from tree branches and enjoy munching on celery stalks and bananas.

During the winter, the zoo is much less crowded and you can see all the animal exhibits up close. The zoo is open year-round and I recommend that everyone go visit during the holidays so you can see the new holiday 4D movie, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.



The Witch Hunter Series

by Virginia Boecker



By Nick Cirillo
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

A world of medieval magic, where witches are burned at the stake. Tracked down by elite killers known as witch hunters, they cannot escape. But as witch hunter Elizabeth Grey will soon discover, there is more to these killings than meets the eye.

The Witch Hunter is a book by Virginia Boecker in which Elizabeth Grey is captured by the very witches and wizards she so despises. But they don't seem to be evil people, and when Nicholas, the leader of the Reformist movement of magicians, is cursed and dying, with only a healer John to keep him alive, Elizabeth makes it her mission to find and destroy the

curse tablet and save all that is magic...

But all is not well. Overthrown by the former leader of the witch hunters, Blackwell, King Malcolm is sent into prison while Blackwell raises an army of the very magic he "hated," or rather, *controlled*. Elizabeth is hunted down for the stigma she no longer has — a magic rune to heal her every wound, transferred to John. But, among a war, an outbreak of magic, and the eternal sacrifice of death, can Elizabeth really end all that she has

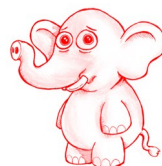
started? Find out in the deadly adventure of books *The Witch Hunter* and *The King Slayer* and novellas *The Healer* and *The Chase* by Virginia Boecker.



The Tusker Tribune is published online and is featured weekly on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from

Somers Middle School
250 Route 202
Somers, NY, USA.

Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at DPappas@somersschools.org



The Tusker Tribune Staff

Nitin Seshadri

Nick Cirillo

Alexander Dahling

Taylor Faust

Natalie Maher

Eli Yates

Ray Mandel-Mueller

Homemade Peppermint Bark



**By Natalie Maher
Tusker Tribune Staff
Writer**

In spirit of the holiday season, here is a recipe on how to create our own peppermint bark.



peppermint bark

What you'll need-

1. One cup (crushed) candy canes
 2. White chocolate or milk (which ever you prefer)
 3. (optional) peppermint flavoring.
- First, you'll want to place your candy canes into a bag and crush them up into large chunks.
 - Next, melt your chocolate.
 - Fold the crushed candy canes into the melted chocolate.
 - Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper and lastly, pour the mixture onto a cookie sheet.
 - Let sit in the refrigerator for 45 minutes to an hour.
 - Then break into pieces (like peanut brittle).

Concert is Great Debut For New Band Teacher



**By Ray Mandel-Mueller
Tusker Tribune Staff
Writer**

The band concert last week was the first in this school for many, including the new band teacher, Ms. Malara. The sixth grade band played first, then the jazz band, then the seventh and eighth grade band.

The sixth grade band played first, playing Quantum Mission, Flight of the Banshee, Prehistoric Suite movements one, two, and four, and Bells. Bells is a percussion feature, and the entire band played well.

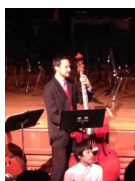
The jazz band played second, playing the songs Jamming With Charlie and Jingle Bell Rock. There were six soloists, Brandon Armstrong, Gianna Rotunno, Robert Davidson, Nate Marcus, Matthew Kushner, and Anthony Tucci. The jazz band also had the help of Mr. Maino, the orchestra teacher, Mr. Reynolds, the high school band teacher, and Mr. Myint, the middle school band teacher. "Jingle Bell Rock" was a favorite of the audience. Then,

after a bit of a wait while the percussion moved the marimba and snare drums, the seventh and eighth grade band played.

The seventh and eighth grade band played three songs. The songs were Happy, Angels in the Bleak Midwinter, and Spirit of New Orleans. The lead song "Happy" made the audience tap their toes. Also, "Angles in the Bleak Midwinter" was based off of a poem by Christina Rossetti. The seventh and eighth grade band played quite well.

All in all, the concert was a hit. Almost all of the seats were full. A total of nine songs were played. Mrs. Malara's conducting was energetic and vivacious. Everyone worked diligently to make a successful evening. Bravo, Ms. Malara!

**PHOTOS By Lily
Mandel-Mueller**



SPORTS UPDATE by Eli Yates



LeBron James' Milestone

Earlier this week when the Cavs played the Hornets, LeBron James got his 7,000th assist, which isn't the most assists. Mo Cheeks holds the most assists with 7,392. But last year, LeBron broke Scottie Pippen's record and now holds the record for forwards. Not did LeBron get 7,000 assists LeBron became the only player ever in history to get 27,000 points and 7,000 assists.

Army (Finally) Beats Navy

On Saturday Army played Navy and for

the first time in 15 years!!! The frustration is over Army fans!!! At the end of the game, the score was 21-17 Army.

Timbers vs Sounders

This past weekend the Portland Timbers played the Seattle Sounders in the MLS Cups finals. Both teams could not score in regulation, so they went into penalty shots. It came down to Sounders' center back, Roman Torres, who lined up, shot, and made it! Sounders won 1-0! The Seattle Sounders have only been in the MLS for 8 seasons, including this one.