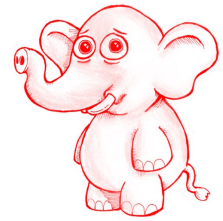


The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Winter 2017

New Year, New Resolutions!



**By Allison Zattola and
Skylher Reyes
Tusker Tribune Staff
Writers**

Most people on New Year's make a promise called a New Year's resolution. People do this because they set a goal that they want to achieve for the upcoming year.

We asked a few students about their New Year's resolution, what it is and how they are going to keep it. Daniel's New Year's Resolution is to stay fit and not get fat. He said he will keep it



This is what happens when you try to keep resolutions.

by running on the treadmill every day and eating healthy. A girl named Dylan said her New Year's resolution is to try to control his obsession with Zumiez (a specialty clothing store) and to try to read more. She will keep it by picking up a book everyday and shop less at Zumiez.

Another girl, Zoe, says her New Year's Resolution is to be nice to people. She is going to keep this by not yelling or getting mad at people.

This shows that people want to get better at things and that is a great way to start of the new year!!!!

Ghost Rider

A Roaring Review of a Flaming Film (Minor Spoilers Included)

**By Sara Vala
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer**

While this image may seem creepy and the reviews are at a 26% Rotten Tomato Rating, this has been by far, one of the best movies I've ever seen. The drama, thrill, and our good old friend Nicolas Cage, made all of this possible. Well, I can't keep you in suspense any longer. Here's the summary.....

Johnny Blaze and his father, Barton Blaze, have been doing motorcycle stunts ever since Johnny was a young boy. But this isn't Johnny's dream. His dream is to leave the carnival and live with his girlfriend, Roxanne Simpson. Johnny's dreams go astray, because of his new discovery of his father's declining health. One eerie night, a strange old man came to Johnny and made him a deal. He would cure his father of his sickness, in exchange for Johnny's soul. Just as he told him, the next morning, Barton Blaze was as good as new, until a few hours later, a motorcycle stunt cost him his life. The grief was too much for poor Johnny, and he left the carnival.



Many years later, Johnny's career is flying off the charts. He is now a professional stunt-man, breaking world records and risking his life every single jump. A few days later, the old man returns, with a job for him. This man still had Johnny's soul, because he was no ordinary man; he was the devil. The devil's son, Blackheart and three other fallen angels are looking for a contract, The Contract of San Venganza, which will turn Earth into Hell. There is only one person who can stop them; The Ghost Rider. And Johnny Blaze is next.

The Ghost Rider is a normal human during the day, but at night, during the presence of evil, he'll form. He turns into a flaming skeleton, and hunts down evil souls. He is resistant to gunfire, and has weapons no human has ever had.

Blaze learns to cope with this other side of him, as he is sent to hunt Blackheart down. In return, Johnny gets his soul back. But, "With Great power comes Great responsibility" (Ben Parker, Spider-man).

Continued on page 2



“Uranium” (Chapter 3)

A NaNoWriMo Story



By Nitin Seshadri
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

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. Chapter 3 of his novel, “Uranium”, appears today.

The next morning, a nurse barged in with lunch—whole-wheat pasta and bread that looked like a turd, complete with traces of mold. *So much for a “healthy” breakfast*, Derek thought as he (somehow) eagerly shoveled it down. He was hungry. Andrew and Andrea had been missing the entire day. And yesterday, they had went to sleep almost immediately after finishing their lunches. *Their food could have been drugged*, Derek thought.

"Your two buddies are...um...in the shower, so I'll just leave their lunches here. Okay?" the nurse said.

"Yeah, sure." Derek replied. *In the shower? All day? A blatant lie. They weren't even here when I woke up at 6:00!*

While he was eating lunch, it hit him. The nurses weren't really nurses. Why were they calling the people as Earthlings? If they called Derek, Andrew, and Andrea as Earthlings, who (or what) even were they? This probably wasn't a hospital—otherwise there would be many more people here.



These people were artificially cooping them up underground. In addition, they had probably taken Andrew and Andrea away for something that wasn't really a shower. Who knows what those people were doing to them? Torturing? Killing? Eating?

Derek pressed the red "Call Nurse" button on the wall. After a few minutes, the same nurse that had served him lunch walked in.

"Uh...hi?" Derek said, feigning a casual tone.

"How may I help you, *human*?" she said in a menacing, ominous tone. Derek knew that she was hiding something.

"Whoa. You don't need to be so nasty. Calm down."

"You"—she waved a finger at Derek—"you should know where those two irritating idiots Andrew and Andrea went. TELL ME NOW!" she yelled.

"I don't know!" Derek replied.

"Well, you will. After I eat you alive," the nurse said as she raised a knife to Derek's chest. "Tell me or you will die."

"Why should I? What kind of person would eat another person alive?"

"Well, I'm an alien. DEAL WITH IT! OR YOU WILL BECOME FOOD!" the alien said as it morphed into its native form. It looked like a great big green blob of Jello. "So you expect me to ask you to 'take me to your leader'? Fat chance. We are the leaders now! Humans will become our slaves!"

Continued on page 3

Ghost Rider

From page 1

Many critics found this movie to be “not very entertaining” and “The worst adaptation of a Marvel Comics hero yet”, but as a Marvel fan myself, I'd say the Ghost Rider has made my top 5 favorite Marvel Heroes.

It's amazing how well the CGI (Computer-Generated Imagery) worked to make the skull and flames look real. (By the way, for those of you who don't know the Rotten Tomato System, if a movie gets a 60% rotten tomato rating or higher, it means that critics think it's good. If it's below, the movie was bad.)

The plot and twists and the casting was perfect, and I mean, *perfect*. My emotions were going up and down, and I know that in 3D, it would have been the best.

This is all the time I have today, but tune in next week, because I'll give you guys more and more movie reviews. And if you watch any of these movies, I guarantee that you'll love it. (To find this movie, try HULU, only if you have a subscription, Amazon Prime Instant Video, etc. or try recording it on your DVR).

P.S. If you liked it, **DO NOT** watch “Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance” A.K.A. Ghost Rider 2. I saw it and most parts has nothing to do with the past movie, although it was hilarious to see Johnny go insane.



Magnus Chase and the Sword of Summer

By Rick Riordan



By Nick Cirillo
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

You know Thor. You know Loki. From the Avengers, right? But you don't *really* know Norse mythology...

The Sword of Summer by Rick Riordan is the first book in the ongoing *Magnus Chase* series.

Magnus Chase, a homeless kid living off of falafel and sleeping on benches, only has two friends he can really trust, the fashioned-"sensed" Blitz and the deaf Hearth. And he certainly doesn't realize that they aren't who they appear to be.

But when Magnus is approached by his cousin Annabeth and his uncle Frederick, he is brought into a dangerous world—or rather, nine worlds—full of danger. And when a fire demon known as Surt attacks Boston, Magnus somehow

summons a mythical sword out of the river, to find it does *absolutely nothing*. So, to save Boston, he attacks Surt.



And he dies. Now, if it weren't on the back of the book, that would be pretty surprising. But, Samirah al-Abbas, a guardian known as a Valkyrie, brings his soul to the Norse warrior afterlife known as Valhalla.

And to stop Surt, Magnus must team up with Samirah, Hearth, and Blitzen (who are actually a dwarf and an elf) to find the Sword of Summer, and stop Surt from releasing a dangerous evil that haunts Magnus' past.

The funny, blink-and-you'll-miss-it action of *Magnus Chase and the Sword of Summer* will keep you on edge until you are done, and ready to buy the next book...

Uranium (Chapter 3)

From page 2

"HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT! We will never, ever become your slaves."

"Too bad," the nurse said as she held up a device that looked like a propane canister with a nozzle. Flames shot from the nozzle as if they were going to grill something. "The moment this thing touches you, you will die. SO TELL ME NOW!"

"Why should I tell you? You were the one responsible for this. You turned off the phones because it is harmful to your species. You wanted to civilize Earth and eat us as food. That won't happen. Never." Derek screamed at the nurse. Derek picked up the phone.

"Should I unlock this?"

"Don't." The nurse stayed firm, but there was a hint of fear in her—its—voice. It began to morph into a big green blob complete with eyes and arms. It began to advance towards Derek at threatening speed, wielding the propane fire gun



in its outstretched arm.

Derek, scared for his life, unlocked the phone and placed a call to a random number. The radiation from the phone brought down the alien instantly. It belched something in an alien language. It was probably calling for help, but its voice was too feeble

now to be heard outside this room.

"Noooooooooooooooooooo! You will pay for this!" the alien screamed in agony. The blob collapsed on to the floor with a disgusting noise similar to someone sitting on a whoopee cushion. So they were aliens. And they died in the presence of cell phone radiation. But where did they come from? What exactly were they? Where was everyone else? What was their mission? Where was Andrew? This made Derek's head spin. He had just killed an alien.

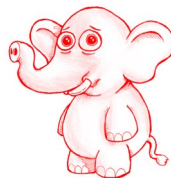
Derek somehow found the strength to yank the Aboveground door lock open. Then the felt something stab him and the world went black.

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

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Ode to Homework



By Casey Bolotin
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Do your homework!

"Ugh."

"Not fun."

"Too much."

"I can't do it."

"It's hard."

"I'm

busy."

"No."

"Later."

"You

can't

make

me."

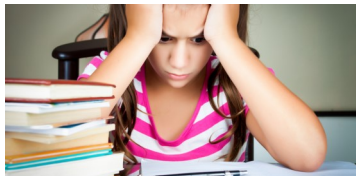
"I'll do it. Probably. Maybe. Never

mind."

"No thanks."

You know, if you would stop complain-

ing, you'd be done by now!



Blossoming Brightness



By Ashley Cambareri
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Winter is the time of year

When carolers sing for all to hear.

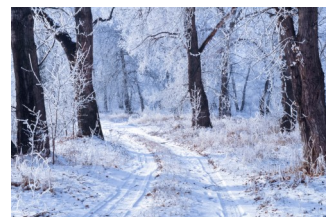
Snow falls and there it lay;
in hope that children will soon come and play.

A fire in the fireplace burning
bright;
spreads heat through the
house all day and night.

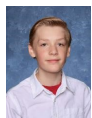
Winter break is in full swing;
why not go out caroling?

Slowly winter speeds by;
the bright white snow begins to die

Spring is coming and winter is coming to an end;
When will it be winter again?



Arrgh! One User's Frustration with Microsoft



By Xander Pedersen
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

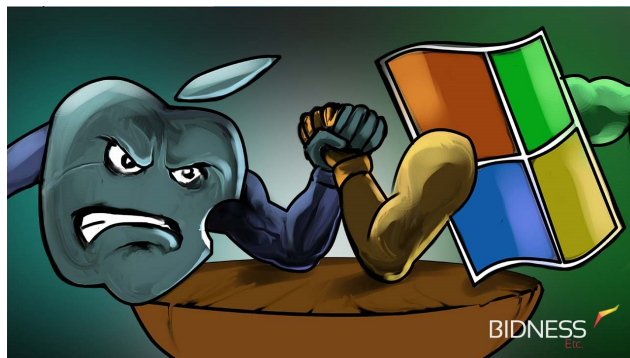
Have you ever thought that the Microsoft office product are just terrible?

First of all, One-Note. It's all over the place! Literally, if you want, you can have One-Note on your computer, phone, tablet and watch!

Who actually loves OneNote so much they have to have every where they go?

Also, I'm constantly finding glitches and it's so slow. Maybe it's my fault for using an iPad but if you are going to advertise that your services are on Apple products, at least make them half way decent.

Let's move on to your products. Most of my gripes with Microsoft devices are from tablets not made by Microsoft but just run Microsoft operating systems. Most of them break way to easily or look terrible. Just look at our school's tablets. To play devil's advocate, these tablets follow the rule of you get what you pay for because they cost less



than \$200. I actually have no problem with the Surface tablets. They're not the best but at the same time they're not terrible.

On the other hand though, the Microsoft phones are terrible. I wouldn't even be surprised if you told me, "Xander, Microsoft made a phone?" They did and it performed terribly. I am telling the truth. I'm not just saying this to make my point strong-

er. Go on to Amazon right now and look up "Microsoft phone". It actually exists! It is basically everything I said in one package. It is cheaply made, slow, it glitches and it breaks quite easily.

The point of this article is simple—can we just get iPads? It would be so much better. It has none of the problems of the Microsoft products and Apple does not look though all of your files.

Microsoft even admits that they are able to look though the files of computers and other devices operating on Wifi.

All in all I believe that Microsoft products are cheaply made and Microsoft does not need to know what I'm doing.

It's Playoff Time in the NFL!



By Jesse Heller
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

The 2016-2017 NFL playoffs are just about ready to start. This Saturday starts the first round of the playoffs and 8 teams are squaring off in a win or go home situation.



The first game is at 4:35 on Saturday where the number 5th seeded Oakland Raiders travel to Houston to play the 4th seeded Texans. These are among two of the worst teams in the playoffs as they both don't have reliable quarterbacks. The Raiders had one of the best offenses in the league until star quarterback Derek Carr injured his leg and is now out for the season. The Texans finished first for least yards allowed in the NFL. If the Texans could spark a run, they will have home field advantage as Super Bowl 51 is held in Houston. **Jesse's pick: Texans.**



The second game of the wild card round starts at 8:15 Saturday night and the 6 seeded Detroit Lions take on the 3rd seeded Seattle Seahawks in Seattle. The Lions are coming off a tough loss at home against the Green Bay Packers in week 17. If the Lions had pulled away with a



victory, the Packers and them would be in reverse situations. Playing in Seattle is one of the toughest stadiums to play in because of the "12th man"



and the Seahawks defense is just too good. Even though the lions have some offensive weapons, in the end it won't be enough to pull through with a victory. **Jesse's Pick: Seahawks.**



On Sunday afternoon at 1:05, the 6th seeded Miami Dolphins battle with the 3rd seeded Pittsburgh Steelers up in Pittsburgh. The Steelers started the season at 4-5 but now have 7 straight wins coming into this matchup and they have scored 24 points or more in each of those games. If you were lucky enough to watch the Steelers play on Christmas day against the Baltimore Ravens, you could see the fight in that team. The Dolphins are a very fine team but I don't think they have enough to pull an upset.



Jesse's Pick: Steelers.



The final game of the wild card round is at 4:40 when the 4th seeded Green Bay Packers host the 5th seeded New York Giants. The Packers started the season 4-6 but have 6 consecutive wins and now are the NFC North division champions. The



Packers have one of the best offenses in the league but the Giants also have a great defense. The Giants defense is a little banged up and home field advantage is a huge factor in the playoffs. I think the Packers offensive is too good for the Giants to handle. **Jesse's Pick: Packers.**



SPORTS UPDATE by Eli Yates



On December 31, New Year's Eve, Alabama played Washington in the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl (final four for the national college football championship). Alabama, which was projected to win, won 24-7. The other 2 teams that were also in the final four that also played in the PlayStation Fiesta Bowl were Ohio State and Clemson. Clemson was projected to win and they won 31-0.

The NFL Playoffs are here. This week the NFL playoffs start and the wild card matchups for the NFC are the NY Giants, the 5th seed, at (11-5-0) playing the Green Bay Packers, the 4th seed, at (10-6-0). The next matchup for the NFC is the Detroit Lions, the 6th seed, at (9-7-0) play-

ing the Seattle Seahawks, the 3rd seed, at (10-5-1).

The matchups for the AFC wild card include the 5th seed Oakland Raiders (12-4-0) playing the 4th seed Houston Texans (9-7-0). The other matchup is 6th seeded Miami Dolphins (10-6-0) playing the 3rd seeded Pittsburgh Steelers (11-5-0). The teams that get a 1st round bye in the NFC are the top-seeded Dallas Cowboys (13-3-0). The other team in the NFC that gets a first round bye is the 2nd seeded Atlanta Falcons (11-5-0).

The teams that get a 1st round bye in the AFC are the top-seeded New England Patriots (14-2-0) and the second seeded Kansas City Chiefs (12-4-0).