



The Tusker Tribune

PSA: Find your child's lunchbox now... it will not be pretty if you find it at the end of the holidays 😊

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue Number 13

<https://www.somersschools.org/Page/11489>

Winter 2023

All About Christmas



**By Jaxon Ticker
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Christmas is a very special holiday. Christmas was first celebrated in the United States in Alabama in 1836.

Another fact is about Christmas is that Christmas trees have been sold in the U.S. since 1850 and it can take 15 years to grow a Christmas tree.



President Teddy Roosevelt banned Christmas trees in the White House in 1901 because he thought they didn't help the environment.

Here are more reasons why Christmas is the best holiday:

- 1) You get gifts.
- 2) You can visit family and friends.
- 3) The decorations look great.
- 4) No school.
- 5) Playing in the snow (if you can find snow!)
- 6) Fire in the fireplace.
- 7) The food.
- 8) Making a snow man (see number 5).
- 9) Having a snowball fight. (see number 5, again)
- 10) Opening presents and stockings.
- 11) Giving presents to family.
- 12) Advent calendars.
- 13) Go sleigh riding in the snow (see number 5 one more time)
- 14) And my last reason is waking up to presents under the tree.

In conclusion I think that Christmas is the best holiday.



Turtledove Facts



**By Jacob DiPasquale
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Did you know these facts about turtledoves?

Here is one: the turtledove is a native pigeon. The turtledove is Britain's only migratory pigeon or dove.

One of the turtledove's favorite food plants is fumitory, a flowery poppy-type plant.

Did you know that in the Bible, there is a song where Solomon states, "The voice of the turtle is heard in our land." This is a reference to the purring of turtledoves.

Today, due to a lack of food, some turtledoves have stopped laying eggs and making nests. This lack of food occurs during the breeding season.



The name "turtledove" comes from "the voice of the turtle that is heard in our land."

Did you know that turtledoves are worth \$300? That's a lot.

Turtledoves are able to fly 45 or 50 miles per hour. That's as fast as a car.

Turtledoves also have great memories. They can remember events and other things from when they were born.

Unwrapping 'Boxing Day'



**By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Boxing Day, a holiday celebrated on December 26th, extends the festive spirit beyond Christmas Day. There are some theories linking its name to Christmas gifts, charitable donations, or even nautical practices.

Boxing Day served as a day of gratitude for servants, tradesmen, and the less fortunate. The wealthy would give gifts, money, and leftover food to them, believing it would ensure their loyalty and service.

It originated in Great Britain and all the upper class used to put goods, money, and leftover



food in boxes to give to their servants and tradesmen. It started as a day for the upper class to give gifts to the staff, a chance for the wealthy to give back to the poor but has turned into a sort of shopping holiday of its own. In fact, it has turned into one of the most popular days to return Christmas gifts.

Although it originated as a holiday to give gifts to poor people, today Boxing Day forms part of Christmas celebrations, including a boxing-day sale! Charity and giving to the poor are still a big part of Boxing Day though.

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No Snow Outside, But Plenty of Snow People Inside



**By Julianna Ferretti
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Snowman day was on Wednesday, and I am proud to say it was a success. I saw many snowmen in the hallway.



I personally think that my snow man outfit wasn't the best, but I did wear a white shirt and made some homemade buttons. I feel that this was a method done by a lot of students and some students would also

add a scarf and maybe a hat.



But some students and teachers would go on do more. I saw many teachers wearing snowman sweaters or shirts and I also saw some teachers wearing full on snowman costumes as well as students wearing snow man costumes and sweaters.



Overall, I think that this was a day that was a good choice and I'm glad that it was suggested to be chosen as a Winter School Spirit Week theme. And I hope that next year, it gets suggested again as a spirit day idea.

Five New Year's Resolutions That You Can Set for Yourself



**By Sofia Mendoza
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Since the new year of 2024 is coming up, some people look at old resolutions that they wanted to accomplish, or they make new ones they want to set and achieve. These resolutions could be about anything, whether it is about being on your phone less or just eating a little more fruit for lunch.



Here are some ideas to get your mind thinking about some resolutions.

- **Take better care of yourself.** Whether "take care of yourself" means to do one more push up in your workout routine or mentally take care of yourself, everyone should try and take care of themselves a little more because if you feel good, you also can have a better mindset to doing things.
- **Spend less and save more.** If you spend less money, you'll save more money. Even if you've been told this before it is still good advice because its true. Some ways you could do this is you can make a list before you go to stores, so you know exactly what you need and stick to that list. Another thing you could do is set a budget for your shopping trips and try not to spend it on things you know you won't use in the future.
- **Read more.** Not only will this make your teachers happy, but it can help you find out a genre you really enjoy or a series you want to continue reading. You can set a goal to read a book a month which should be easy if you are picking books that are just right for you.
- **Getting out of drama or toxic relationships.** This will make you happier and make you feel

like you are free from all the bad things that drama carries. If you are in a good relationship with someone then you should try and keep that goodness. If you stay out of drama, the more likely you are to not be blamed for things that happen that involve drama.



- **Lastly, Be more optimistic.** This will change many things for you whether it's the way you think about a tv show or if you try and find a good thing in something bad, this can make you see the better instead of the worse. You'll be a more positive person and will be happier.



The History of Gingerbread



**By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff**

You've probably eaten gingerbread men or decorated gingerbread houses. But have you ever wondered where it all started? Read on to find out.

The first known gingerbread recipe was from Greece – in about 2400 BCE! The Chinese made their own recipes at about the 10th century, and by the Middle Ages, the Europeans had their own version. They were popularized at Medieval fairs in Holland, France, England, and Germany. Gingerbread cookies were shaped like kings, queens, or animals, and were sometimes coated with gold leaf. The shapes of the cookies changed with the seasons though. There were flowers in the spring, and birds in the fall.

Gingerbread houses started in Germany, in the 16th century. The houses were decorated with foil and gold leaf and became a Christmas tradition. The world record for the largest gingerbread house is 39,201.8 cubic feet and is 22 ft. tall. It needed 7,200 pounds (about the weight of an ele-

phant) of flour, 7,200 eggs, about 3,000 pounds (about half the weight of an elephant) of brown sugar, and 1,800 pounds of butter – all to build that house!



English colonists brought gingerbread to the Americas. They were used to changing voters' opinions in Virginia. A softer version of gingerbread was more common in America. The first cookbook in America, *American Cookery* by Amelia Simmons has three recipes for gingerbread including the soft version which is cooked in loaves.

Mary Ball Washington, George Washington's mother, served her gingerbread recipe to the Marquis de Lafayette, when he visited her in Fredericksburg, Virginia. As of then, it was known as Gingerbread Lafayette and passed down through generations of Washingtons.

The term "gingerbread" wasn't associated with the treats we use today until about the 15th century. Before that, it just meant "preserved ginger." So next time you bite into a gingerbread cookie, or ice a gingerbread house, know that you are following a tradition that is over 4,000 years old!

Lockdowns: Becoming a Weekly Thing?



**By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff**

You might have recently heard of the lockdown that happened not too long ago. Well, it happened again. Luckily, it was not in the morning when everyone was still by their locker. Instead, it happened last period.

When I heard it, I quickly rushed to the corner of my room while other students followed. My teacher took some desks and pulled them to cover the door, in case someone tried to break in. Like before, it was just a false alarm. A substitute teacher dialed the number accidentally.



I was squeezed into the corner for about 20 minutes until announcements revealed it was a false alarm. I remember checking that clock over and over again. 2:45. Now 2:50. When will this be over? I had just gotten two shots on my left and right arm. There was a girl on my right side, kinda close, which you are supposed to be, but not banging right into me. A guy on my other side was squeezing me, and my arm was killing me after that. Especially since that arm was the one bothering me because of the shots. He also managed to elbow me several times. But I am not blaming him since we are told to be close together.

Even though it was annoying, everyone in my class got candy afterwards when we could finally go back to our seats, so it wasn't bad. I got Swedish Fish. A delicious end to the day. But as everyone started to finish off their candy, we sat with just one thought in our heads. When will we go home?



Musical performances in the morning on Wednesday got everyone into the holiday spirit.

Reporters/Contributors

**Jacob DiPasquale
Cole Dolan
Robert Jarrett
Sophia Mendoza
Olivia Pelhank
Julianna Ferretti
Sienna Ferretti
Isabella Nevsky
Noah Samuel
Jaxon Ticker
Logan Ticker**

Board Games to Play for When You're 'Bored'



By Jacob DiPasquale
Tusker Tribune Staff

When you're bored, or if it's bad weather out, here are some fun games to play

1. **Sorry** is a fun game to play with four people.
2. **The Game of Life** is perfect for playing with friends.
3. **Uno** is one of the best road trip games to play in the car
4. **Connect 4** is a fun game with multi play versions
5. **Operation** makes you feel like you are a real doctor.
6. **Battleship** is a two-person game and it is a



competitive game to play

7. **Apples to Apples** is a very funny game.

8. **Trouble** is kind of like Sorry, with some minor differences.

9. **Hungry Hippos** a fun game where you compete to see whose hippo can eat the most balls.

10. **A mini basketball court** is fun because you can play basketball, but you do not need to use a real hoop.

11. **Would You Rather** is also a funny game.

12. **Golf Chip** challenges you to try and chip a golf ball onto a map.

13. **Clue** it is a fun mystery game.

14. **Jenga** is a fun competitive game.

The History of Pancakes



By Jacob DiPasquale
Tusker Tribune Staff

Pancakes are the best!

Pancakes have been around for hundreds of years, since the 1430s. That's almost 600 years. Did you know the first waffle iron was made in the 1980s? That's not that long ago. The first recorded mention of pancakes dates to 600BC—ancient Greece and comes from two poets named Cratinus and Magnes from ancient Greece. They wrote about pancakes in one of their poems.



What are the old names for pancakes? People began using the word "pancake" during the 15th century. During the French Revolution, a chef named Auguste Escoffier gave up trying to name pancakes by other names.

He figured if they are made in a pan, and it tastes like a cake, that it should be called "pancake".

Other names came up in the 1800s and 1900s, including "hoecakes", "johnnycakes", buckwheat cakes", "griddlecakes" and "flapjacks".

Fun Facts about Donkeys



By Jacob DiPasquale
Tusker Tribune Staff

Do you know any of these fun facts about donkeys?

Donkeys have big ears, and they help donkeys from getting too hot.

They're highly intelligent creatures, and they are calm and good at making decisions.

Donkeys can only see two colors—blue and green. They can hear sounds as far as 60 miles away.



Donkeys learn at the same rate as dogs and dolphins. Donkeys have a night vision and can see well at night.

You cannot see a donkey cry because they do it silently and no one has ever seen them cry. A donkey can live for 20 to 40 years, but in a zoo, they can live for 30 to 50 years because the zookeepers take care of them and feed the donkeys.

Donkeys are scared of stray dogs, coyotes, bears, bobcats, and snakes. When it is raining out donkeys try to go to shelter.

Boxing Day

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Some folks take part in charity runs. Another event people choose to take part in is called the Boxing Day Dip. It is when people in fancy wear dive into the sea on Boxing Day. December 26 was chosen for these acts because the day was dedicated to St. Stephen, the first Christmas martyr, because he had a truly kind heart and believed in giving back to the poor.

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What's Santa Called Around the World?



By Sofia Mendoza
Tusler Tribune Staff

Sofia Mendoza
Armenia= Gaghant
Baba

Sofia Mendoza
Albania= Babadimri

Sofia Mendoza
Austria= ChristKind

Sofia Mendoza
Argentina= Papa
Noel

Sofia Mendoza
Belgium= Pere Noel
or Sankt Nicolaus

Sofia Mendoza
Madagascar=
Dadabe Noely

Sofia Mendoza
Romania= Mos
Craciun

Sofia Mendoza
Latvi=
Ziemassvetku

Sofia Mendoza
Brazil= Papi Noel

Sofia Mendoza
Iceland= Yule Lads

Sofia Mendoza
Denmark=
Julemanden

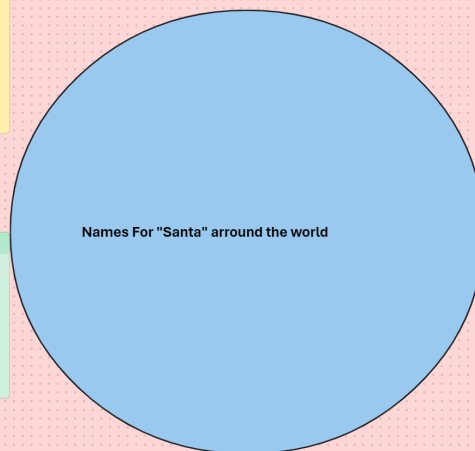
Sofia Mendoza
Finland= Joulupukki

Sofia Mendoza
Bulgaria= Dyado
Koleda

Sofia Mendoza
Czech= Svaty
Mikolas

Sofia Mendoza
Ethiopia=Yagena
Abat

Sofia Mendoza
Japan= Hoteisho or
Jizo



The History of Ice Cream



**By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff**

We have all likely tried ice cream before, but do you know how it was invented?

While ice cream has been around for the longest time, everyone still loves the cool iced dessert that can be sweet, or fruity. Ice cream has been growing in popularity every day as more and more people try it.

Ice cream was invented in China in the Tang period, which was A.D. 618-907. King T'ang of Shang had 94 "ice men" who would carry ice for him around his palace. The ingredients now are much different, but the idea of ice cream is still the same. Iced drinks have been around since 4000 B.C.

The classic flavor of ice cream is vanilla. Vanilla is a versatile flavor that can be combined with many different toppings, syrups, and probably anything. Vanilla is the most popular flavor in the United States, but chocolate ice cream was created in 1692, and vanilla ice cream was brought to the



United States in the 1780s.

The oldest known ice cream flavor was lemonade. The most unpopular ice cream flavor is birthday cake, which in the United States, only 2% of people would choose it for a top ice cream flavor. Did you know that ice cream has psychological benefits? Ice cream is known to have a lot of sugar and it's not the best to

have it every day, but once in a while it's fine.

Ice cream is also known to make people happy, and it is known to make people feel safe. Ice cream is also a comfort food, not only because it's delicious, but because it's also a guilty pleasure. A fun fact about ice cream brands is that the number one brand of ice cream in the United States is Ben & Jerry's ice cream. Ice cream brands that don't use real cream in their ingredients are Breyers, Turkey Hill, Friendly's, and a lot more.

Now when you go on the school lunch line and pick up an ice cream from the freezer, you can remember the history of ice cream and apply it to your life!

The Lockdown



**By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff**

"Lockdown, Lockdown, Lockdown"! That's what I heard at 8:22 am last Thursday. I was with

only seven other kids. And the scary part was that upon seeing my teacher exit the room – just like last time – I had wondered, "Imagine they call another lockdown with my teacher out of the room."

And here I was, 30 seconds later, in the corner of the room, without a teacher. I had literally just predicted the future. Everyone was getting scared, and there was much panic because of the



constant banging on doors.

Then, someone came to our door and said, "It's Mr. Arnett, let me in." But for all we knew, it could've been an impostor. In addition to that,

there was an announcement on the PA system saying that the lockdown was an error. Who knew whether someone was forcing Ms. Mangone to say that?

But of course, someone *had* to open the door. Thankfully, it was Mr. Arnett, and we were all safe, but you should still NEVER open the door in lockdown mode.

Some Movies Coming Out in 2024



**By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Now that the new year is approaching, I would like to tell you five movies that are coming out in 2024.

- **Inside Out 2:** This fun classic returns to the mind of teenager Riley while headquarters is undergoing a sudden demolition to make room for something very unexpected. Some new emotions.
- **Kung Fu Panda 4:** This movie is about Po retiring as Dragon Warrior in favor of becoming a spiritual leader and must train a fox to be his successor.



- **Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire:** For this Mysterious film we do not know a lot about it, but we



do know that the film setting will be in New York and the firehouse from the original film.

- **Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire:** This interesting movie is about Godzilla and Kong at it



for another round although this time from the start they may be allies instead of enemies.

- **Spider-Man: Beyond the Spider-Verse:** This enjoyable movie is a sequel to the movie Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse but the sequel splits into two films because 2023's Across the Spider-Verse ended on a cliff hanger for Miles Morales and his friends which will finish with Spider-Man: Beyond the Spider-Verse.

King James—Basketball ‘Royalty’



**By Jaxon Ticker and Logan Ticker
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Lebron James, often known as “King James,” is a basketball superstar who has left an incredible mark on the sport.

Born on December 30th, 1984, in Akron, Ohio, LeBron’s Journey to Greatness began in high school, where he gained national attention for his exceptional skills on the court.

In 2003, he bypassed college and joined the NBA, becoming the first overall pick by the Cleveland Cavaliers. Throughout his career, LeBron has played for multiple teams, including the Miami Heat and Los Angeles Lakers. Known for his versatility and basketball IQ, LeBron has won numerous awards, including four NBA championships, four NBA Most Valuable Player Awards, and two Olympic gold medals.

Off the court, he has many deals with various companies. LeBron’s impact extends beyond basketball. His dedication, work ethic, and commitment to excellence has inspired countless individu-



als around the world. He is a true icon of the game and a role model for inspiring athletes everywhere. LeBron James is one of the best players in the history of basketball. He has completed a feat that only a few other players have done. He has carried multiple teams on his shoulders to NBA finals and has won some too.

Lebron also has two sons, both of whom have had success in their young careers. The youngest, Bryce James, is mostly the shadow of the two brothers but shows sparks of talent. On the other hand, Bronny has been in the spotlight since his teenage years. The two played together most of their years playing basketball.

Recently, Bronny committed to the college of USC, right in the Los Angeles area where his father is currently playing with the Lakers. Life was going great. Bronny had just committed to a fabulous school and it was close to his parents. Until everything flipped upside down. Out of nowhere. Bronny suffered cardiac arrest. The doctors did not know if he would ever be able to play basketball again, but even though the chances were slim, Bronny James made his college debut on December 10 and has not been healthier since. This shows that anything is possible!



Techniques for Freshwater Bass Fishing



**By Jaxon Ticker
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Fishing for bass is different than fishing for other fish. How is it different? It is different because there are between 9-13 kinds of freshwater bass.

The main three types of bass are largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and rock bass. The smallest bass out of those three is the rock bass, then the smallmouth bass, and the biggest is the largemouth bass.



Smallmouth bass fight the hardest. For example if you have an eight-pound bass on the line, it will feel like a 12-pound largemouth bass. When you go bass fishing, you might have to use different lures for the type of bass you want to catch. For example, largemouth bass like artificial lures but smallmouth bass prefer live bait like minnows, worms, sunfish, and blue gill.

Do you like to go fishing? If you like to fish on land or boat or deep-sea fishing? What is your favorite kind of fish to catch?

The Story Line of Basketball



**By Logan Ticker
Tusker Tribune Staff**

It all started in Springfield, Massachusetts in the year 1891. The basketball we all know today is much different than it was when it was first invented back in the late 1800s.

The common sport has multiple factors to make it a complete game. Basketball hoops now have many differences from the peach baskets used as hoops and the wires people used to make the backboard with in the late 1800s and early 1900s.



The concrete floors that the players used have now transformed into the common hard floors built for more grip when playing.

Then there was the turning point. It was 1936. The popularity of basketball was growing, until basketball made an appearance in the summer Olympics in Berlin, Germany. From there more people began to play the sport, and now basketball is one of the most popular, watched and played sports in the entire world. Do you like basketball?

Should There be Fantasy Drafts in the Major Leagues?



**By Cole Dolan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If there is one thing I have always thought about when it comes to the major leagues is if there should be a draft where every player on every team should be able to pick the player of their choice.

This would be great if it happened every three to five years because, for example, let's take the Oakland A's. They had a 50-112 record, they don't have any star players and they are just a scrap team that are free wins for pretty much every other team. But if they had a fantasy draft in these



leagues, every team can compete, and every game would come down to the wire. I mean, just imagine a team going from 50-112 with not one talented player to 102-60, and as their stars, they could have, let's say, Shohei Ohtani, Trea Turner, Aaron Judge and Gerrit Cole.

All of this would be possible with these types of drafts. And they could be in the NFL, NBA and all other pro sports, in addition to MLB. You can take the Carolina Panthers and turn them into to a super team with a quarterback like Lamar Jackson and a receiver like Davante Adams and you are already a threat to other teams.

Most Watched Sports Around the World



**By Logan Ticker
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Whether it is basketball, football or soccer, sports are great. You could play sports, watch them, or even coach them. People play for fun; they can also play competitively. No matter how they play, sports can be people's peace or relief.

There are also sports that are not common in the United States. For example, there's rugby and cricket. Sports are played globally and played at all distinct levels. There is also a large audience for some sports. For reference, basketball was



named the third most popular sport with worldwide fans coming in at around 2.2 billion spectators spreading across the world. That is just one of the multiple great sports stretching across the globe. You might be wondering about other sports. Here are the top five sports globally. Number one is soccer, in a

close second is cricket, which is most popular in Britain and India. Coming in third place is basketball, in the fourth spot is hockey and finally, there is tennis. Those are the top five most spectated sports in the world.

The Big Contracts



**By Logan Ticker
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Professional sports players make big sums of money playing the sport they love

and have a passion for. Whether they are making a couple of hundred thousand dollars or hundreds of million dollars, athletes are getting paid to play a sport.

Recently, the NY Yankees professional baseball team, which most of you are familiar with, signed a new deal with superstar outfielder Aaron Judge to a nine year, \$360 million contract. Only three players are ahead of him: Mookie Betts,



\$356 million for 12 years and Mike Trout, \$426 million for 12 years. The first place person comes in at the most money out of all of them, and also the most money of any player in the MLB or anyone in the entire North American history of contracts, with a whopping \$700 million, 10-year deal with the Dodgers signed

just of a week ago!

You might be thinking, what player is worth that amount of money? Well, Shohei Ohtani is. He's a two-way player who can hit and pitch at the same time. Do you think he deserves that much money?

What Club Will You Join?



**By Julianna Ferretti
Tusker Tribune Staff**

With the Inclusive Week Club Fair just happening two weeks ago, and many clubs explaining what they are about, what clubs do you think you would be interested in?



If you do want to join a club but you don't know how to choose one, allow me to tell you about some of the ones that have been my favorite since 7th grade that I definitely recommend joining if you want to participate in a club this school year.

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The False Utopia



By Robert Jarrett
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: This story, and the one below it, are related to the story that first appeared in the 10/20/23 of the Tusker Tribune.

(3 millennia after the events of "THE FALLOUT")

The Rebels sat in their hideout, watching on the hologram TV as a government official spouted off false propaganda: "These so-called 'freedom fighters' are a danger to this peaceful, *already* freedom-filled land that has been like this since the fall of *Malum Mutantem*, the *Mutant King*!"



Xyasa laughed and said, in a ticked-off tone, "That is a load of crap!"

"They're *always* saying loads of crap, now it's just about us" said Walker, "I mean, this whole 'utopian land' is a load of crap, a façade! That's why we're fighting this fake government, because of their LIES!"

This was the complete and total truth, because if even a sixteenth of their façade was exposed, there'd be an unbalanced number of rebels, so much so they'd undoubtedly win the war.

"Yeah, Whatever. Well since we're all here, what's the next hit? Better something big."

On the outside of their hideout, however,

The Carrier



By Robert Jarrett
Tusker Tribune Staff

Approximately one year and 6 months before the events of chapter 2-3 of the fallout

EVHM-89 was almost full and prepared for deployment to Mars, at Delta City in roughly one hour.

Normally, the evacuation monorails were only for war purposes, but this was near the end of humanity. The mutation started only a couple of months ago, and now half of the population is...whatever those *things* are. They knew there were some of them on the monorail, but had no



idea were. All so soon, a man in a German marine suit and some glasses that looked like 'Cross Com Glasses' from the near 1000-year-old game, 'Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon Wildlands.' He spoke through a filtered gas mask. "Near a quarter of the monorail is infected. We need to do a full sweep of the civilians!"

"All of them?" you ask in a shocked tone. The quick nod motion of his head was enough of a clarification he needed. This was a horrible idea to you, the captain, but there was nothing you could do about it.

He raises his blaster at you and says, "Sorry, no exceptions."

The Single Malum



By Robert Jarrett
Tusker Tribune Staff

Apologies, finder of this journal, for I have lost the ability to write in a fool's mind, and constricted to their language of primality, but the mind is scattered, and cannot rejoice in these.

Simple bodies, so unevolved. But we will find ways to fix these issues, and once we do, Sol will be ours. After all, the Martians were the same, same with the liquid-people on Europa, and the gas formed creatures on Titan.

This body is so old, so long decayed, destroyed. Its confinement is worse than any creature under The Great Controller Mind. The leader that possesses interconnection in the minds of aeternus moderatoris. Irrelevant; we will prevail.



Two Lockdowns in Two Weeks



By Cole Dolan
Tusker Tribune Staff

Another accidental lockdown occurred on Wednesday during last period. The same thing happened 12/14, Thursday of last week and everyone is confused on why the 4-digit code is so easy to dial by accident.

I mean, it makes sense why it is so easy to dial in a real emergency, but it should not be so close to a classroom or office phone number. Why not have it be something like "9988" or "7634". Those are not as easy to call a lockdown by accident, but easy enough to call in a real emergency.

Although it is just an accident, it could help us in the future if we had a real emergency because we do not know, and even the teachers do not know that it is happening, so it helps us practice with no warning. All of this begs the question of when this problem will be fixed. Do all these lockdowns help you or scare you?



Are Mondays Really That Bad??



**By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Everyone says Mondays are the worst. And honestly, I agree.

But Mondays are also interesting. I mean, what really is so good about them?

My math teacher, Mrs. Schneider, loves Mondays. She says that you are all energized and ready for the day because you are all rested up from the weekend. And it's true. Saturdays and Sundays are perfect for sleeping in. But it's also perfect for staying up late.

I normally go to bed at like 11. But on weekends, I don't even sleep! I'm busy scrolling on my phone, doing my skincare, watching TV, or drawing. And the reason is because I can. I don't need to wake up early to finish my homework I forgot to do. I don't need to get my bag ready and rush to catch



the bus. I just need to wake up so that I can eat. Maybe play a sport or do a chore. But the point is, I'm so tired on Mondays that it ruins the whole week.

I don't really agree when people say, "I hate Mondays since I must go back to school and it's annoying" since that's not really a good excuse. If we had Monday off and we had a 3-day weekend, then Tuesday would be the worst day. And that's not what I am trying to prove. Mondays are just tiring days. And teachers give the opportunity to give out homework. There's no "well, it has been a long week. No homework today" excuse. It's more "well they just had a weekend, their minds are refreshed, so I'll just hand out a packet, maybe some IXL, something like that."

And then you spend your Mondays finishing your homework, staying up late so you're tired on Tuesdays. Let's be honest; the best part of Mondays is when it's 11:59 PM.

Chocolate Labs are Awesome!

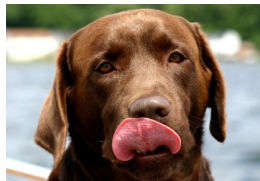


**By Sienna Ferretti
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Welcome everyone! Today, we are going to talk about the delightful and loyal chocolate labs. These charming creatures have captured the hearts of many, and it is easy to see why. With their fluffy coats, lovable personalities, and incredible intelligence, chocolate labs are the perfect companions for those who appreciate a loyal and loving friend.

Chocolate labs are often used as guides for people with visual impairments, as their keen senses and gentle nature make them excellent companions. They also have a strong bond with their human companions, making them wonderful family pets.

These intelligent dogs are known for their



problem-solving skills and ability to learn quickly. They excel in various activities such as agility training, therapy work, and even search and rescue missions. With their love for water, chocolate labs are also great candidates for water-based obedience training.

In addition to their physical attributes, chocolate labs are also known for their wonderful personalities. They are usually cheerful and energetic, making them perfect for outdoor activities. However, they also enjoy cuddling up with their loved ones on the couch when they need some extra attention.

Chocolate labs are a delightful combination of intelligence, loyalty, and cuteness. They make wonderful companions for people of all ages and backgrounds. So, if you are looking for a loving, caring friend, loyal guide, or fantastic family pet, a chocolate lab is worth considering.

Clubs

From Page 4

To start, I would like to talk about a club that I did in 7th grade that I definitely want to do in 8th grade—stage crew. This club is advised by Mr. Lugo and Mr. Devito and kids basically help create the props for the school play, and they run the events behind the scenes. I enjoyed making the props for last year's Lion King Jr.

If you are a hands-on and artistic person who wants to help out with the play, I think this club is for you. Message Mr. Lugo or Mr. Devito for more information.

The next club I totally recommend joining is Student Council. This year, I was elected Student Council Treasurer. I think that Student Council is

a very fun club that I very much recommend to you. This school year in Student Council, you can help plan fundraisers and school spirit weeks, as well as school pep rallies. I overall think it is a great way to show you care for Somers Middle School. Message Madame Hauser for more information.

The last club I recommend is the one I am currently writing about right now—Tusker Tribune. For this club, you write for the school newspaper. You can write about anything you want that interests you. This club meets every other Thursdays after school. If you write three stories, each at least 150 words, you can get a \$10 Amazon gift card, OR, you can get NJHS service hours. Message Mr. Pappas for more information.

Top Ten Rated Foods Across the U.S



By Logan Ticker
Tusker Tribune Staff

Food comes in all different forms. For example, people might like dessert for breakfast.

Everyone eats food no matter what kind it is. There is also all diverse cultural food like tacos, that first originated in Mexico during the 1800s.

America is home to various kinds of food, too. For reference, the U.S.A is known for burgers, hotdogs, and so much more delicious food.

Do you like a special type of food? Well, if you do, these are the top ten best foods voted by the people who live in America.

- 85 % of people say French fries are the number one food in the United States. French fries also go great with hamburgers at the number two spot.
- Following that is mashed potatoes.
- Fourth is grilled cheese
- Fifth, steak and baked potatoes.
- This is the rest of the list: Sixth is cheeseburgers, seventh is fried chicken, eighth is hash browns, ninth is steak and fries, and tenth, corn on the cob.

Those are the top ten American foods. What is your favorite food?



The Tusker Tribune is the online Somers Middle School Student Newspaper. It is published weekly (except during school vacations) 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.

Tusker Tribune Website:

<https://www.somersschools.org/Page/11489>



The Italian Quarterback



By Logan Ticker
Tusker Tribune Staff

The twenty-five-year-old Italian has taken the NFL by storm. Starting Quarterback for the New York Giants has been making the most of his opportunity to be playing in the NFL.

If you are not familiar with professional



sports you have not heard of Tommy DeVito. Tommy DeVito grew up in a big family who are very loyal to their culture. He grew up in New Jersey and is still living there with his parents.

In an interview, the football

phenom said this: "My mom makes my bed, does my laundry, and makes me cutlets." In one of the recent games the star QB played in, his family set up a couple of tables and began handing out cutlet sandwiches to the fans who came out to watch the young player.

Next year, when Daniel Jones, the Giants quarterback before he got injured, comes back, the starting job will be up for grabs between the two. What do you think will happen?

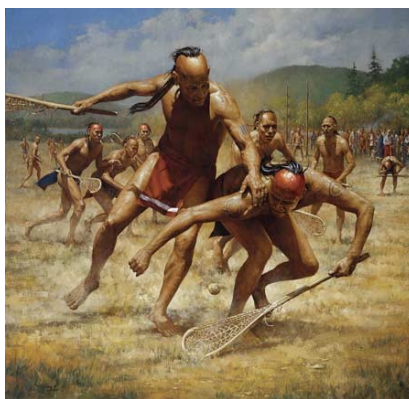
A Short History of Lacrosse



By Jacob DiPasquale
Tusker Tribune Staff

Lacrosse is called "the medicine game" because you can take out all of your feelings on the field. The sport's genesis can be traced back to the native people of North America. Lacrosse was played by the six nations of Iroquois before Christopher Columbus landed.

The game of lacrosse, as they played it, was very rough. Overall thousands of people played, from



kids to adults. The goals were miles apart and games go on for days and some people died. A lot of people trained to play in a big game.

What began as stickball, a Native American contest played by tribal warriors for training, recreation, medicinal and religious reasons, has developed over the years.

The name "lacrosse" came from a French missionary in 1636. In Canada, the number one sport is lacrosse.