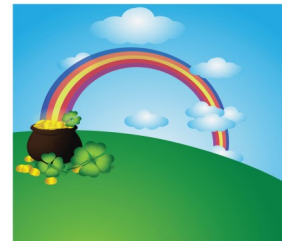




The Tusker Tribune



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Winter 2023

Somers' Ryan Ball Wrestles His Way To Excellence



By Xavi Dosil
Tusker Tribune Staff

I love UFC and boxing but never have watched wrestling. My parents were following Ryan Ball at the state championship and it was one of the most exciting sports I have ever seen. We followed Ryan on [nfhsnetwork.com](https://www.nfhsnetwork.com) for the New York State Championship the weekend of February 24th.



Ryan Ball is a student at Somers High School who started wrestling at 4 years old. He got into wrestling because his dad is a varsity coach.

Wrestling runs in Ryan's blood. His uncle and grandfather were also wrestlers. Ryan's mother told me he could not wait to get on the mat when he was younger.

Ryan fights at 110 lbs. He has a high school record of 69-12. Ryan has been in varsity for two years, and he is only a freshman. He is 2x All County, 2x All League and 2x All Section. Ryan trains all year round. He goes to wrestling camp to train with the NCAA college wrestling champions.

Mr. DiSanto (my gym teacher) has worked with Ryan for over 10 years. In 8th grade, Ryan was so talented that he was pulled up to the Varsity team by Mr. DiSanto.

Ryan is the first Somers wrestler since 2013 to make it to the New York State Championship. He ended his season with a 42-5 record, All-League, All-Section, and All-County. Ryan is one of the top wrestlers in NY State. I can't wait to follow Ryan's career next year.



Cafeteria Lunch Line is REALLY Long!



By Reagan Ciccone
Tusker Tribune Staff

There is a huge problem in our school that needs to be fixed: the lunch line. A lot of students in our school complain about the lunch line in our school. The merging of two grades for each lunch makes the lunch line long. Let us review all the problems and how they could get solved.



The size of the lunch line.

Just by looking at the lunchroom, you can see that there are only 2 lines, which is not enough space for two grades. The lunch line is also very narrow, making everyone bunched up into one space, with extraordinarily little to no room to move. A way we can solve this problem is by either splitting all the lunches by each grade, or we can build wider and more lunch lines, that way we will have more room to move.

Continued on Page 2

Lion King Jr. Coverage on Page 4!

Photos by Khloe Kisthart



'Two Can Keep a Secret' by Karen McManus



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

"Two Can Keep a Secret" is a story that shows two different people's points of view—Ellery, and Malcom.

Ellery is a smart, but awkward, and curious girl. Ellery doesn't stop until she finds what she's looking for. She also has a twin brother named Ezra. Malcom struggles to connect with others and is constantly living in his brother's shadow. He also comes across as very distant. The story takes place in a town called Echo Ridge.



A perfect town is hiding secrets. Secrets people would kill to keep hidden. Ellery is moving to a new town; she's never been there but has heard all about it. Her aunt went missing at 16 years old, and never came back. It's where a homecoming queen was murdered, and it made national news. Due to Ellery's mother being in rehab, she is now moving here, with her estranged grandmother.

Malcom's brother was the prime suspect for the homecoming queen's death, so he fled Echo Ridge. But now, he's back, just as mysterious threats pop up around town, hinting that whoever the killer may be, will strike again soon.

As predicted, another girl disappears. While Malcom and Ellery try to figure out what happened, they discover Echo Ridge has many layers of secrets.



The Wise Bird



By Allison
Cardillo and
Ila Schoenberg

One day, far far
away,

A girl got dressed
in the west.
Ready for her journey,
then she saw a birdie.
The birdie said, as it landed on her head,

"Listen to me
And you will see
The true meaning of life."
As she took his advice,
She went to go get some rice,
On her way
She saw horses and hay,
So, she said,
"Stop eating, you silly head
You will get fat,
And I will seem like the brat."



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Cafeteria From Page 1

How long the lunch line takes.

Now that we talked about the general size of the lunch line, let us go to the main problem: how long the lunch line takes. Since the grades are merged, the lunch line takes forever. It would not be a problem if lunch were not so short, but because we have limited time to eat, it makes it harder for us to finish our food if we are on the lunch line for half the time. As soon as you step out of the lunch line, the period is over.

To solve this problem, either get rid of WIN and extend the lunch period, or, like I said before, building another lunch line.

To conclude this article, there are a lot of problems with the lunch line but with a little coordination, the lunch line problem can be easily solved, giving people more time to eat and being able to space themselves out.



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:

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Tusker Tribune Website:

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

Some Background on St. Patrick's Day



**By Vivian Hernandez
Tusker Tribune Staff**

What is the origin of St. Patrick's Day?

It all started with Patrick the Saint. He was a patron saint and became a priest in Ireland. He was the first saint in Ireland. He was the person who helped spread Christianity throughout Ireland.

Before St. Patrick, Ireland believed in Pagan gods. St. Patrick wanted to spread Christianity and help others learn about the religion. After the 5th century, Ireland changed from believing in Pagan gods to believing in Christianity, but originally St. Patrick was not Irish.

St. Patrick was British and he was brought to Ireland when he was 16. Irish raiders kidnapped St. Patrick and brought him to Ireland as a slave. He was captured as punishment for lack of faith and while enslaved he spent his time praying.

After 6 years, St. Patrick finally escaped and was able to return to his studies back in Britain. He was left with an empty hole inside like

something was missing from Ireland, so he wanted to go back to Ireland and spread the word of God. In present time, Ireland has a feast in the church celebrating St. Patrick.

Fun Facts about St. Patrick

- St. Patrick was not Irish or born in Ireland; he was British
- St. Patrick never wore green in his time alive
- The true meaning of the three-leaf clover is the Holy Trinity: The father, son, and Holy Spirit.
- The church in Ireland has a big feast in honor of St. Patrick.
- Everyone believes that he banished the snakes from Ireland, but there were no snakes in Ireland during his time so that is a fun myth to tell your friends.
- St. Patrick's passed away on March 17th around 461 AD.



Want to Celebrate St. Patrick's Day? Here's Some Suggestions



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

St. Patrick's Day is a widely celebrated holiday across the United States and other countries. It is always on the 17th of March, the date that St. Patrick died.

The holiday has evolved into a celebration of Irish Culture, with parades, feasts, dancing, music, drinking (for adults), and a whole lot of green!

Who was St. Patrick? Saint Patrick was Christian bishop and missionary in Ireland. He lived in the fifth century and is known as the "Apostle of Ireland". St. Patrick was born in Roman Britain, and died in Saul, United Kingdom.



St. Patrick's full name is Maewyn Succat.

What can you do in Somers for St. Patrick's Day? If you're not able to go anywhere you can always show your pride by wearing green! However, another thing you could do is attend a parade. There are multiple events going on near Somers! Here are a few.....

- The Pearl River St. Patrick's Day Parade (Pearl River, NY). Sunday, March 19, 1-6 PM.
- Greater Danbury St. Patrick's Day Parade (Danbury, CT), Sunday 12-8 PM.
- St. Patrick's Day Party (Hastings-on-Hudson, NY), Sunday, 2-6- PM.

What did YOU Do on Your Snow Days?



**By Max Weinfeld
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On a snowy day you can finally take a break from school, play in the snow, and drink hot chocolate. Let go for the day.

It is proven that snow days make us less stressed, help us maintain a healthy metabolism, make us happier, and boost our immunity.

What if you had double snow days? We did! Day 1, playing in the snow with your friends and



throwing snowballs everywhere. After that you then relax, watch movies, play games, and spend time with family. Day 2, wake up to a late breakfast and watch as the snow melts away every hour.

These fun-filled days made you forget about all the stress that comes with school. How did your snow days go? Will there be a 4th?

Editor's Note: As all three snow days have been used, the next snow event will be a virtual learning day.

So Many Contributed to Lion King Jr.'s Success!



**By Khloe Kisthart
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Congratulations to everyone in the play this past weekend! Everybody did amazing!

This play was directed by Mrs. Williams, and we thank her so much for her hard work at making the play perfect! We are so proud of everyone who took time out of their days to embrace the theater and create such an amazing production!

A big thank you to Ms. Chan for creating such beautiful costumes for all of our cast members! The play would not have been the same without you!



Another big thank you to Mr. Lugo and Mr. Devito for making the props and for leading the stage crew. Your work made the play really come together. This whole production could not have been possible without the help of the Somers Middle School community.

Another huge thank you to all the students and teachers that made this possible! Amazing job, Tuskers!

Look Out Broadway! SMS's "The Lion King Jr." is Amazing!



**By Rosie DiLeonardo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I watched The Lion King Jr on opening night. It was terrific! All the actors were amazing! Scar was fantastic! He was an incredible actor. His level of energy was perfect, and it perfectly matched Scar from the movie.

Rafiki had an amazing voice, singing difficult songs on key. Young Simba and Young Nala are two of my friends and they were both amazing! Young Simba has the same energy as a young lion. Young Nala had a vibe that made me feel like I was part of a lion's pride.

Mufasa was amazing and had a powerful voice that was heard all around the auditorium. Older Simba was very energetic and playful and seemed like an actor who would stay an actor forever. Older Nala had a great voice and she seemed noticeably confident on stage. She moved like a



lion on stage and was a very good actor.

Pumba and Timone seemed like a team, and they had great comedic timing. They had extremely high energy and were perfect for these parts! Scar's hyenas were very funny, and they had great jokes and they were silly and good actors. The ensemble was terrific, and I loved how they were dancers and background singers.

They moved with the flow and seemed wonderfully comfortable on stage. Their voices were perfect for the harmony parts of Rafiki's "He Lives In You."

Stage crew did an excellent job at making the rocks and setting up the play. They did an awesome job at making the stage seem like a lion's territory. The play was a wonderful way for students to make friends and learn acting skills. It was cool to see my friends on stage, and now it feels like I am in school with a bunch of celebrities. Thank you, SMS, for organizing this play!

Lion King Performance Showed Off the Cast's Hard Work



**By Allison Cardillo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I saw the Lion King on Friday night and it was extremely impressive. I thought Scar was amazing while portraying his character. His voice, laughter and gestures were just like Scar in the movie. You can tell he really enjoyed himself while being in character. Everyone's singing and costumes were great. The choreography was fabulous. You can tell everyone practiced a lot because they were all coordinated with their moves, and they all seemed con-



fident being on stage.

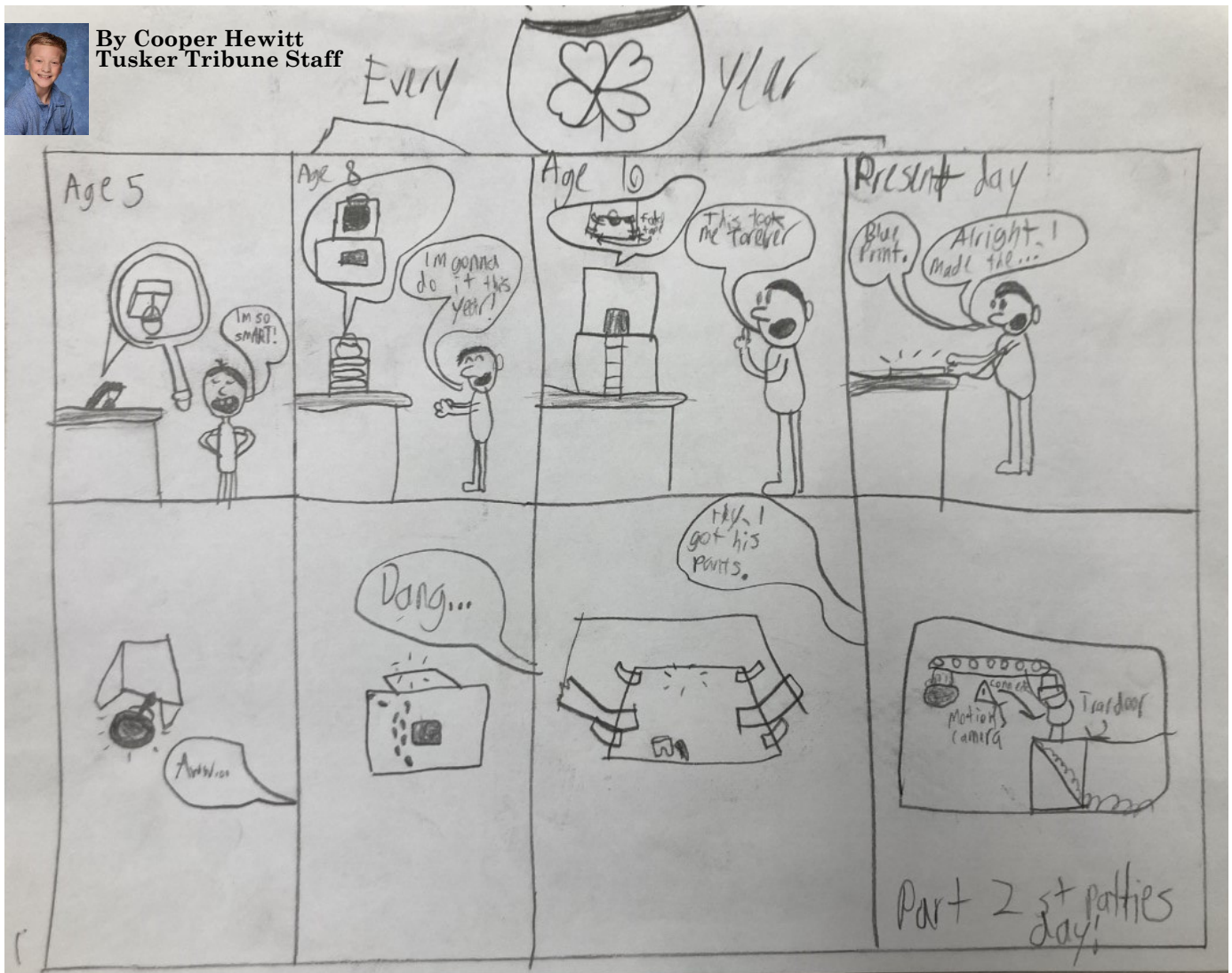
I like how they used two different actors to be young Simba and old Simba. Also, his friend Nala grew up during the show. The story line was just like the movie.

The Lion King is a classic Disney film, so I think that was an excellent choice for our play. It kept the audience's attention with laughter, different emotions and watching the dancers.

Overall, it is an engaging, fun, and entertaining show that everyone should experience.



By Cooper Hewitt
Tusker Tribune Staff



Basketball is Over 120 Years Old!



By Samantha Harris
Tusker Tribune Staff

Basketball is a team sport in which two teams, usually consisting of five players each, play on a rectangular court. The goal is to shoot the ball through a hoop mounted high on the backboard in the opponent's half, while preventing your opponent from throwing the ball into your team's hoop.

This is a very popular sport all over the world, played with a bouncing ball that is round and usually orange in color. Basketball players mainly use skills such as dribbling, shooting, running and jumping. Each basket taken is worth two points, while a basket taken outside the three-point line is worth three points. If a



player has too much body contact, they may be awarded free throws, each worth one point.

The game usually lasts four quarters, and the team with the most points at the end of the four quarters wins the game. If the score is tied at the end of the game, there will be time called overtime, which is extra play time to allow a team to win the game.

Games are played between men's teams or between women's teams. Basketball has been played at the Summer Olympics since 1936. The timekeeping rule began in 1954.

The first basketball game was played in 1892, when the court was half the size it is today. In 1891, the game was invented by James Naismith.

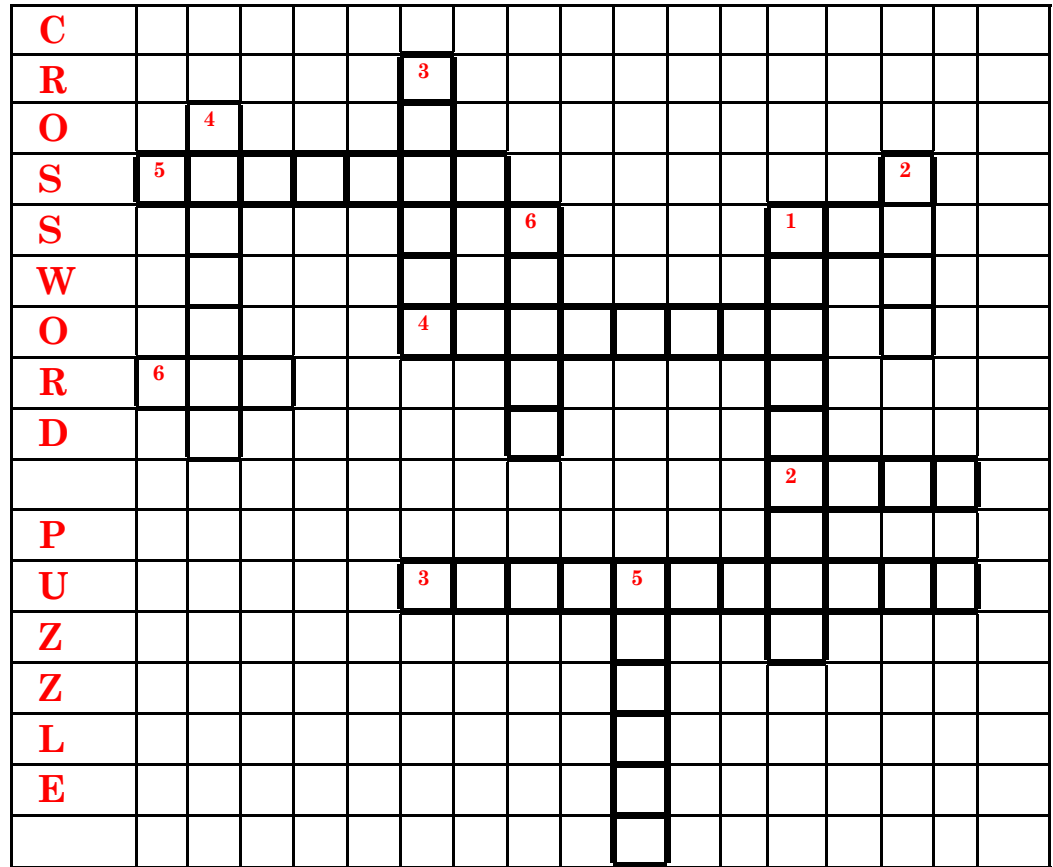
Down

- 1-An insect that can see colors that humans can not
- 2- Where a bird lives
- 3- A plant that smells and looks pretty
- 4- An insect with spots that help identify the species
- 5- Another name for a bunny
- 6- A baby bird

Across

- 1-An insect that is yellow and black
- 2- A red bird
- 3- An insect with 6 legs
- 4- Something to wear when it rains
- 5- What you see after it rains
- 6- Very hot and bright in the sky

By Allison Cardillo,
Tusker Tribune
Staff



Service Club Coat Drive!

The SMS Service Club's Coat Drive was a terrific success! 100 coats were collected and donated to the Family Resource Center in Peekskill!



Mackenzie Scott Helps Make Positive World Change



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**
Mackenzie Scott (Full birth name MacKenzie Sheri Tuttle) is an American novelist and philanthropist. Mackenzie was born on April 7th, 1970, in San Francisco, CA. She has a net worth of over \$25 billion and owns a 4% stake in Amazon.



\$2.7 billion to charities.

Mackenzie was first married to billionaire Jeff Bezos (1993). After their divorce in 2019, she married Dan Jewett (2021).



She is the third wealthiest women in the United States and the 35th wealthiest woman in the world! Mrs. Scott was named one of the "Worlds Most Powerful Women" by Forbes in 2021 and one of Times "100 Most Influential People". In 2021 Mackenzie also donated a total of

three boys, and an adopted girl. Not much is known about any of her kids. They all live very private lives away from public eye. Her parents are Holiday Robin, and Jason Tuttle.

Two novels she wrote are The Testing of Luther Albright, and Traps.

How Does Pollution Affect Our Earth?



**By Claire Cronin
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Air pollution is made up of chemicals or particles in the air that can harm the health of humans, animals, and plants. Pollutants in the air take many forms. They can be gases, solid particles, or liquid droplets. Pollution is a big deal on earth because it effects everyone and could effect their day to day life too.

Sources of Air Pollution

Pollution forms in the Earth's atmosphere in many different ways. Most air pollution is created by people, taking the form of emissions from factories, cars, planes, or aerosol cans man made sources of pollution are called anthropogenic sources. Some types of air pollution, such as smoke from wildfires or ash from volcanoes, occur naturally. These are called natural sources.



Effects on the environment

Entire ecosystems can suffer from air pollution. Haze, is a visible type of air pollution that takes shapes and colors. Air pollution can immediately contaminate the surface of areas of water and soil. This can kill crops or reduce their production.

Sulfur dioxide, a gaseous air pollutant. formed when sulfur-containing fuel such as coal, oil, or diesel is burned and nitrogen oxide, a mixture of gases produced from natural sources, motor vehicles and other fuel burning processes. Those particles mixing in the air, can create acid rain when they combine with water and oxygen in the atmosphere.

When acid rain falls to Earth, it damages plants by changing soil makeup, reduces water quality in rivers, lakes and streams, damages crops, and can cause buildings and monuments to decay.

NaNoWriMo Leads
The Tusker Tribune will publish different NaNoWriMo "leads" from this year's 8th graders over the next couple of months. These leads are on display in the 8th grade wing and on the main floor of the school.

The **moon** has come out from behind the **clouds**, and now casts it's **feeble white glow** onto the world, turning the **dark shapes** of the **buildings** in front of me a few shades **lighter**.

Connection Lost – Lenny Novichenko

Beg for forgiveness, not permission.

Twenty Bucks
Jessica Borell