

# The Tusker Tribune



### SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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#### Spring 2023





Congratulations to Gabriel Stor (115 points) and Aksel Soto (109 points) for earning first and second place, respec-tively, in the 7th grade March Mammal Madness contest!

Using Phones in School—Can There Be a Compromise?

By Terezina Parubi Tusker Tribune Staff

Some people argue that phones can be used as educational tools in the classroom. Students can use their phones to access educational apps, research topics, and take notes. Phones can also be used to communicate with teachers and classmates, which can be helpful for group projects or for asking questions about class.



Others argue that phones can be a dis-The Tusker Tribune traction in the classroom. Students may be KOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER tempted to check social media or play video games instead of paying attention in class. Phones can be used to cheat on tests, but with the correct restrictions, this will not happen. The decision to allow phones in school is

up to the district. One compromise is to allow phones but restrict the use during class. It's important that if phones are allowed, students are respectful of the teachers. Students must also follow the rules and use phones in a responsible and appropriate manner.

## Consider the Navy Museum for Next Year's D.C. Trip



# By Lenny Novichenko Tusker Tribune Staff

Last summer, my dad and I visited Washington, D.C. for three days. We stayed with my cousin, who is a journalist for the Washington Post,

and he showed us around the city. We visited many land-

marks, such as the Capitol and the Jefferson Memorial, and went to many museums, such as the Na-tional Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian Natural History Museum. We will see all of the aforementioned places during the 8th grade Washington D.C. trip in

May, but one place we won't even catch a glimpse of is the Washington Navy Museum. I originally discovered this museum while

exploring on Google maps. After seeing the pic-tures, I became intrigued because there were many fascinating historical artifacts at the museum. Upon further investigation, I learned that the museum was located on an active U.S. Navy base, which made me even more eager to visit the museum.

On the third day of our trip, we decided to visit the museum. The exterior of the base was surrounded by a 2-foot-tall brick wall. There were several breaks in the wall which allowed cars and

people to enter and exit, but they were guarded by vehicle barriers and gates. At first, we couldn't find the proper entrance, but after some search-ing, we discovered it, and some signs led us to the visitor center. It was a small building, and its

main feature was a reception room quite similar to one you might find at a doctor's office.

After going through a 40 minute background check, we were given a map and directions to the museum. We walked through the base, and on the way learned some interesting facts about the base. One fact that we learned was that the Washington Navy Yard once had a large indoor pool

for testing model ships and was also the place where the gears for the locks in the Panama canal were made. The actual museum was housed in a large warehouse.

We walked in and started exploring the museum. One thing that was very unique about this museum is that it was filled with highly detailed ship models, ranging in size from one foot to a couple yards. Some other notable exhibits included the submarine *Trieste*, which set a world depth record, a Japanese *Kamikaze* aircraft, the propeller of the USS Maine, and a replica of a sec-tion of the USS Constitution.

Continued on Page 2



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#### More Than Just Dots And **Dashes**: The History of the Telegraph



# By Ava Schmidberger Tusker Tribune Staff

The telegraph is a invention that was used before the telephone for long distance (instant) communication. The invention was developed in the 1830's and 1840's by Samuel Morse and other inventors.

The telegraph completely changed the way people communicate. To work, it used elec-trical signals over a wire between stations. In addition to inventing the telegraph, Samuel Morse also invented the Morse code. Morse code is the English alphabet using a code made out of lines and dots. It was made to allow simple transmission of complex messages over the telegraph.

In 1844, Samuel Morse sent his first telegraph message, from Washington D.C, to Baltimore Maryland. By the year 1866, a telegraph had been laid across the Atlantic Ocean (United States) to Europe. However, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there was no longer a need for the invention due to the creation of old and modern day phones. Very few people in the US and around the world own a telegraph. It is very rare to have an old telegraph and some of them sell for over \$200!

In addition, while Morse code isn't used all that much, U.S. Navy pilots are trained in using it.



#### Nav From Page 1

Writing about the museum now, I realize that it had provided me with a lot of background knowledge for social studies. For example, when we learned about the Mexican-American war, I was already familiar with what happened because I had learned about it in the museum.

Too bad that we won't have time to explore the Washington Navy Museum during our 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to the nation's capital but I highly recommend it to all of my classmates if they ever visit this city on their own

#### Starfish Trivia



By Madison Kaplan Tusker Tribune Staff

Did you know a starfish is not an actual fish? Starfish aren't fish because they do not have gills, scales, or fins. Starfish have no brain or blood.

There are over 2000 different species of



starfish! Starfish can regenerate but cannot survive in freshwater. Starfish can live up to 35 years and weigh around 11 lbs.! There are multiple starfish species across the Atlantic that are extinct or in danger of extinction.

The common starfish, like the name states, is the

most common starfish in the North-East Atlantic region. The common starfish has five arms and usually grows between 10-30 cm across, although

larger ones have been found multiple times. There are many predators to the common starfish. Some of them are crabs, lobsters, and other sea stars/starfish. Sometimes a predator will grab onto a starfish's arm, but the starfish can get away, and regrow the arm. The starfish likes to eat clams, mussels, and shells.

#### Girl Scouts Aren't Just About Cookies



**By Svea Almquist Tusker Tribune Staff** We've all heard of the famous Girl Scout cookies like thin mints, and Samoas, but not many people actually know what Girl Scouts are and are about. So, what are Girl Scouts?

Girl Scouts is an organization that prepares girls to empower themselves and promotes passion, courage, and active citizenship. The girls learn this through activities such as camping, community service, learning first aid, and erring



badges by completing help-ful skills. As Girl Scouts, girls discover the fun. friendship, and power of girls and women working together

Why should you be-come a Girl Scout? When

you are a Girl Scout, you get to experience new things and explore new places. You help the com-munity and learn responsibility, as well as, create strong, long-lasting connections with other girls in your troop.

How can you sign up to be a Girl Scout? To become a Girl Scout, all you have to do is register to join and pay the \$25 membership fee. A Girl Scout membership starts on October

1st and ends on September 30th every year.

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## Mother's Day is This Sunday



By Max Weinfeld Tusker Tribune Staff

Mother's Day is an annual holiday celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day to honor and appreciate the love, care, and sacrifices that mothers make

for their children.



The Tusker Tribune COn this special day, people express their gratitude to their SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER mothers by giving them gifts, flowers, or cards, and spending quality



Mother's Day is not only a time to celebrate mothers, but also to remember their importance in our lives. Mothers are the ones

who bring us into this world, nurture us, and guide us through life's challenges. They are the ones who support us, encourage us, and love us for the way we are. Mother's

Day is a reminder to cherish and ap-



preciate the special bond we share with our mothers. It is a day show our love and affection to the most important woman in our lives. What did you get your mother this year?

## The History of Hershey (The Great American Chocolate Bar)



By Ava Schmidberger Tusker Tribune Staff Milton Hershey's love for chocolate began at a young age and flourished when he estab-

lished the Hershey Chocolate

Company in 1894. By 1900, the first Her-shey chocolate bar was sold. Today Hershey sells over 250 million Hershey bars per year (2013).

#### Timeline:

1894: Milton Hershey incorporated the Lancaster Caramel Company and establishes Hershey Choc-

olate Company as a division. 1900: The launch of Hershey's Milk Chocolate Bars, a luxury item, is turned into an affordable treat. Milton sells Lancaster Caramel Company. 1907: The manufacturing of Her-shey's Chocolate Kisses begins.

1925: The launch of Mr. Goodbar.

1939: The launch of Hershey's Miniatures. 1945: Milton Hershey died.



963: Milton Hershey acquires Reese Candy Company (Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

1979: Hershev makes its first billion in annual sales.

2008: Hershey makes its first five bil-

lion in sales

2014: The Hershey company adopts a new corporate logo.

2016: Hershey Chocolate World welcomes its 100<sup>th</sup> million visitor. 2018: Michael Buck becomes Hershey's new CEO.

#### **Social Media Can Affect Teens**



#### By Terezine Parubi Tusker Tribune Staff Social media is a powerful tool that can af-

fect the lives of teenagers in many ways. One positive impact of social media is that it can help teens connect with friends and family, especially those who live far away. Through social media,

teens can share photos, videos, and messages with each other in real-time. This can be a great way to strengthen relationships and maintain connections.

However, social media can also have negative effects on teens. It's easy for them to become obsessed with getting "likes", comments, and fol-lowers. This can lead to anxiety and stress when



they don't get the attention they want. Social media can also expose

teens to harmful content, such as cyberbullying or online predators. This can have serious consequences for their mental health and safety.

To help teens navigate social me-dia safely and responsibly, parents and educators can provide guidance and support. They can talk to teens about the risks and benefits of social media and

help them set health boundaries for their online activity

They can also encourage teens to use social media to share positive messages and support others. By working together, we can help teens use social media in a way that enriches their lives, rather than harming them.

Page 3

The Tusker Tribune The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School

#### **Once 'U-pawn' a Time ...** "Check" Out This Awesome Chess Board!







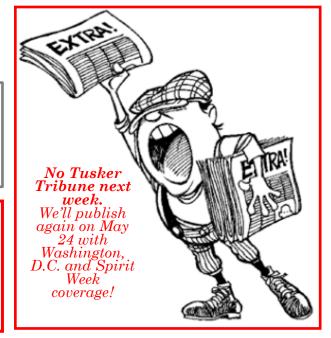




Students in Mr. DeVito's and Mr. Lugo's Tech Club created a giant chess board with red and black wooden pawns, knights, rooks, bishops, kings and queens. Here the kids are shown setting up the board, and then playing chess, moving the huge pieces around!

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 students 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

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Page 4