



The Tusker Tribune



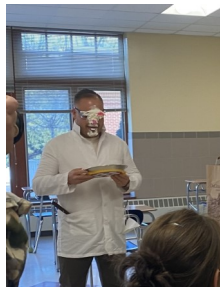
SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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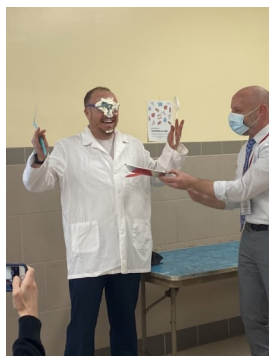
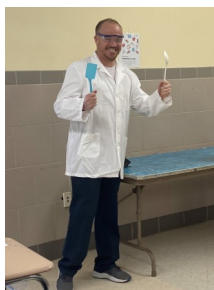
Winter 2022

'I Only Have Pies for You . . .' Student Council Pie Event Raises Over \$500



SMS Student Council's Pie in the Face Event was a messy success! Mrs. Manko, Mr. Arnett, and Mr. Drebycz bravely stepped forward to be pie'd for a good cause. And afterwards, Mr. Getman also got his "just desserts."

Photos by Eve Clark



The Student Council is continuing to accept donated treats for pets. All donations go to the area SPCA's. The collect boxes are in the main lobby.

8th Grader Ryan Ball in the Running for LOHUD Wrestler of the Week

By The Tusker Tribune Editorial Board

8th Grader Ryan Ball was a nominee for the LOHUD Wrestler of the Week this week (February 7-11)—an honor usually reserved for high school students.

Ryan wrestles in the 102-lb weight category. According to LOHUD.com, Ryan had a couple of pins to end his regular wrestling season. However, he really excelled at the John Jay-Cross River Division 1 Sectional Qualifier recently, when he recorded two first-period pins. He ended up capturing the divisional title as an 8th grader.



luck, Ryan!

Furthermore, Ryan didn't allow his opponents a single point at the divisional qualifier.

LOHUD.com and The Journal News look at standout performers each week and a poll is posted online for readers to vote on, in this case, the LOHUD Wrestler of the Week. The poll link is posted on Tuesday of the week and it closes on Tuesday night, with results posted on LOHUD.com.

Even though Ryan wasn't named Wrestler of the Week, the fact that an 8th grader is having such an impact is remarkable. And regardless of the outcome, Ryan is headed for the Sectionals next week. Good

Somers Modified Sports



By Samuel Dwyer
Tusker Tribune Staff

When you read about modified sports being offered in Somers, you see track, volleyball, hockey and others. While these are great, kids are also intrigued by baseball, basketball, football and soccer. Back in 2008 the economy broke, and school budgets decreased dramatically. Districts made cuts to modified sports.

Recently, surrounding schools have brought them back, but Somers has not. Almost all schools have received financial aid since the COVID pandemic started. Why not put it to things kids love and will look forward to at the end of a long day of work?

A big part of middle school is preparing kids for high school; not only academically but also socially and athletically. Not having a modified program puts us at a two-year disadvantage compared to the teams we will compete against.

A big part of team sports is building a strong foundation, but our varsity coaches cannot begin that until we reach the ninth grade. Also, so many of us play on so many different travel teams that we don't get to play with our classmates and build friendships that come along with playing sports together.

Having modified sports would bring many benefits to our school community.



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SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER



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

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Page/11489**

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NEWSPAPER CLUB



TUSKER TRIBUNE

WHAT ARE THE MOST EXCITING WINTER OLYMPIC SPORTS?



By Leonid Novichenko
Tusker Tribune Staff

There are many interesting events and holidays this February, such as Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day. But in my opinion, the most exciting event in February is the Winter Olympics.

The first Winter Games were held in Chamonix, France in 1924. Although the first Winter

games were actually called International Winter Sports Week, they were so popular that the International Olympic Committee changed their name to the Winter Olympics and turned it into a winter tradition.

Those first Olympics featured five different sports: bobsled, curling, ice hockey, Nordic skiing (ski jump), and ice skating. Now in 2022, we have 15 different sports and 109 different events at the Beijing, China Winter Olympics.

With so many events and the Olympics only lasting for two weeks, it's hard to watch all of the events. I decided to interview some SMS students to find out their opinion on the most exciting winter sports. Out of the 11 students I interviewed, seven mentioned that they think snowboarding is an exciting sport. Although snowboarding was only added to the Winter Olympics in 1998, it is now a very prominent sport in the Winter Olympics, with athletes such as Shaun White earning many silver and gold medals.

Skiing was also mentioned seven times. There are many different forms of skiing, including ski jump, alpine skiing, and cross-country skiing. The newest form of skiing is Big Air Skiing, where athletes do different flips and tricks in the air after jumping off a large ramp.

The third most popular sport was Ice skating. There are also many forms of this sport, such as speed skating, figure skating, and partner figure skating. Although there are many Winter Olympic sports and events, these are the ones SMS students like best.



The Entire Story of Aaron Raven Avon

Editor's Note: Rather than having you go through separate issues of the Tusker Tribune in order to read the various chapters of this story by Nova Laubis, we've decided to include the entire story in one issue.



By Nova Laubis
Tusker Tribune Staff

Aaron Raven Avon—Chapter One

(Aaron) *I must, survive... I, must survive.... I must survive*, is the only thought running through my mind as it feels like and might just be pounds of sweat, slowly dripping down my whole body.

My breathing won't slow down as I am desperately trying to make it. I don't know where I am, or what is happening as I am desperately trying to survive the night.

HHOOWWLLLLLLL!!! is the last thing I hear mixed with the swishing of the trees, as I suddenly feel a sharp pain in my arm, that I know will leave a mark before all goes blurry. ((remember this))

I wake up, building unknown. I hear whispers that don't belong to me nor anyone else I know, then I look around and the pieces click, I see bars all around me. I am in jail. Yes. Now I am positive as I see the police officer start to notice me waking up.

He says in his police officer voice, "Well son what were you doin' lying in shredded shorts unconscious, in the woods? I mean, I always get a bunch of prank calls, stolen cars, reports of buildings being damaged or damaged buildings, and stuff, especially on the night of a full moon, but this, now this is new. What's your name, son?"

****Silence****

"Can you hear, boy?"

"Yes, my name is Aaron." 'Aaron, Raven Avon.'

"We wanted to make sure you were okay, but we also wanted to make sure you weren't some psycho. And since we didn't know anything about you, we brought you in. We just want to run two tests on you, then you're free to go."

"I don't understand why, being as I am healthy, I feel fine, and I promise you I'm not a psycho. Besides, officer-whatever-your-name is, haven't you heard of school, 'cause I kind of have it today, being as it's a Tuesday and I'm not known for always being late."

The police officer grunts. "You can call me Fred, and I suppose you're right."

Aaron gets out of the cell and gets driven home by the police officer, but it's not like he has

to worry about getting in trouble since his mom's been dead since he was eight, and his dad was on a business trip.

Aaron gets out of the car and walks up the steps to his home, to get ready for school.

(Narrator) Meet Aaron, the school bad boy almost all the girls ((and even one or two of the guys)) are crazy for. But I mean, could you blame them? With his deep blue eyes, pitch black hair, muscular body, and slightly pale complexion? Speaking of Aaron, here he comes walking through the hall to first period now.

Aaron Raven Avon Chapter 2

No matter how many times he walks through the high school hallways, it's like the instant he steps through the school entrance, time stops for a second, it goes quiet and then comes the stares. Then some teacher would start to walk the hallway, and all would be normal...almost.

Some would still try to steal a few glances at him. Aaron was used to this routine by now. everyone knew not to mess with him for if you got

on his bad side; his piercing blue eyes seemed murderous, like a furious red, some said even vampire like, no need to even try to stare him down.

Some loved him, others hated him, and in the end, he didn't care. He was popular, he was smart, he knew when to keep his mouth shut and well, he could be a model. He didn't see the point in school, but figured he should still go, and did pretty much whatever he wanted, not caring about anything else.

He was once manipulated and vowed never again. Only the very few who he trusts, who cared to get to know him when he was younger, know he has a caring, very protective heart. He is strong, mature and, well, I could go on and on and on, but my point is that he is not a jerk. However, he's also not a teddy bear to the stranger's point of view. Like I said, you have to get to know the guy and get him to trust you to understand.

(Aaron:) Third period flies by in the blink of an eye. Before I know it, I have a free period, and I rush off to my part time job. Five minutes later, I arrive at Bo Bo's café parking lot, I walk inside the café, and get to work. Then, I slowly realized I never checked my arm from the strange night last night. I rolled up my sleeve and looked down to see what appeared to be a bite mark.

I couldn't understand as I still couldn't quite remember the memories of last night. I didn't think much of it and got back to work.

Continued on Page 4



Aaron**From Page 3**

Yet only 10 minutes later, a mysterious person in a dark hood, who I thought was a customer, walked up to me and says, "You're coming with me."

I snicker. "Ha-ha. Sureeee buddy. I would like to see you try! As you can see, I am a little busy. You gonna get something or not? Cause in 20 minutes I have to get back to class, soooo, yeah."

The stranger quickly pinned me against the wall.

"You got some moves. You wanna fight? Okay, let's go!" I say. I quickly slide out of the stranger's grasp and trip them, only to have them bounce back up a second later and almost uppercut me, which I barely manage to dodge. Then I feel some weird, newfound power that I've never felt before from within me and manage to give the stranger a solid blow to the chin.

As if the stranger knew or realized what I felt, they said, "It's too late," and they seemed to vanish into thin air right before my eyes. But I guess they just moved really fast because they showed up behind my back only a second later and injected something inside me with a syringe.

Almost instantly, my knees buckled and I fell to the ground, my vision going blurry the last image I see is the stranger in the dark hood hovering over me, rubbing their jaw, and whispering to me, "You fight good, this should be interesting."

Aaron Raven Avon Chapter 3

Once again, I find myself in an unknown building, except now I'm in what appears to be a cage. Slowly opening my heavy eyelids and struggling to clear the blurriness from my eyes.

Immediately I hear the most painful ringing sound in my ears. But not knowing who is around, as my vision is still slightly blurry, I show no weakness except the quietest of groans. As I finally manage to stand up and clear the blurriness from my eyes.

Slowly I retract my hands from my ears that are bleeding and I focus. I focus SO hard that I try to force myself not to hear the sound and I can make out people and whispers all around me. But in doing so, I also see where the sound is coming from as I immediately swing on one of the bars on the top of my cage and manage to reach the device as I smash it into oblivion (mainly out of rage).

Now I could hear and see people all around me, which I could kind of hear and see before but it was easier now. Then I see the same mysterious

person in the dark hood as before storm into the room and give a hard slap to a man whose face I couldn't make out due to shadow as it seemed this might be their underground hide-out. Then I hear the mysterious person yell at the man

"I TOLD YOU NOT TO DO THIS," the mysterious person said, which I could now make out to be a man, as I watched him strike the other man in the face one more time. I also heard a few very faint gasps from the others around the cage.

While they were chatting, I sneakily spotted a medium rock just a few inches away from my cage, so very quietly, and as fast as I could, I grabbed the rock and hid it behind my back casually with my left hand. My feet slowly inched forward toward the lock on the cage. Now for the risky part, I knew that as soon as I did this, pretty much all of them would try to stop me from escaping. And either way, I am pretty sure all the unwanted attention would be on me. So, I only

had one shot. I took the risk, I took my shot. I took the rock and smashed it against the lock of the cage as hard as I could. Sure enough the lock came off, and the cage door popped open. All turned silent, and all the unwanted attention was on me.

I walked up to the "door frame" of the cage and the mysterious man walked right up to me and said, "Sorry for my friend here's

rude welcome, and allow me to be the first to welcome you into our base."

Then, he slowly took his cloak and hood off, and I could finally get a good look at him. He has a muscular body with a sleeveless shirt revealing his tattoos. He has a half tattoo sleeve on his left arm from his wrist stopping to half/the middle of his arm, of what looks to be an intricate design of some rose vines fading all around his arm and a wolf that you could see through the spaces of the rose vines, on all fours with an intense stare like it was about to pounce on his prey.

Then I looked up at his face to see a big scar on the right side of his face from the very right side of his forehead to the very right of his jaw, in a sort of vertical line, just avoiding his intense green eyes with specks of blue, but not in perfect straight line. And deep dark brown hair slicked back. With black jeans, and barefoot.

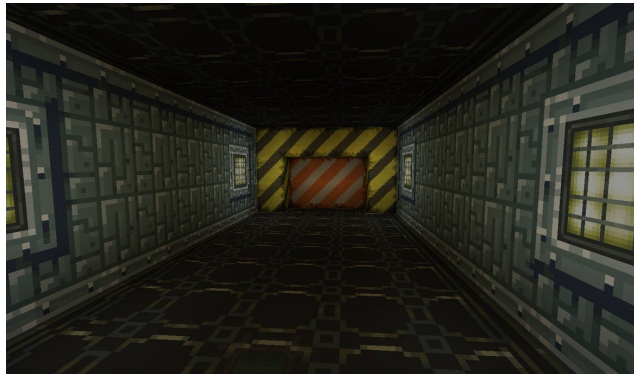
Aaron Raven Avon Chapter Four

"Why am I here" I said showing no weakness and never breaking eye contact.

"Well, someone's eager to have answers."

"It's only fair considering you injected me with something to bring me here and I have other things I rather be doing."

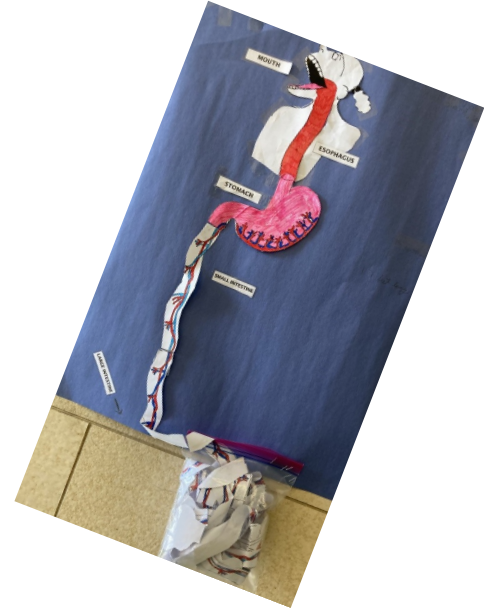
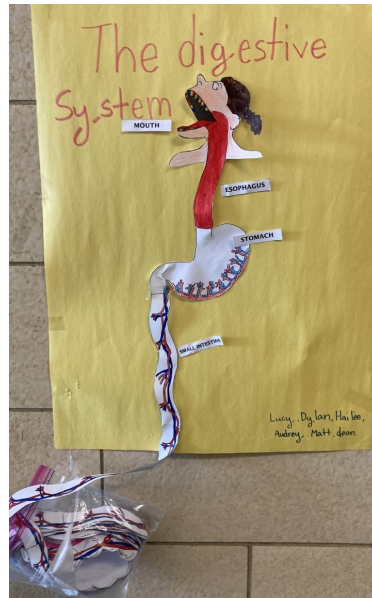
"Fair enough."



Continued on Page 5

Tusker Tribune 'Digest' (Pardon the Pun!)

If you're ever curious about how your school lunch gets processed by your body, stop by the third floor across from Mrs. Manko's room to take a look at these displays her students created. As an introduction to the human digestive system, students created digestive display models that clearly show how incredibly long the system is. The project also helped students understand the order in which digestive organs are placed.



Aaron

From Page 4

"Okay, well, someone better start talking or someone's gonna get hurt and I'm outta here."

"Ha ha ha hah!" They all laughed.

He said, "Aww, that's cute, truly, but I don't think you understand who you're with right now, so I'd watch your mouth"

Then the strangest thing happened. At least five people turned into wolves. Then he spoke again. "You can call me Tobias. You're gonna be stuck with us for a while."

"Well, damn," I said.

And then I was practically forced into a room where I saw a mattress, a threadbare blanket, a stained pillow, and no windows. The whole room was made of cement.

At this point I wasn't sure what to do...should I try and made a break for it now, should I try and escape later, should I suck it up and do as I'm told? Actually screw that! I was getting out of here whether it was now or later, that was one thing I knew for a fact.

Just as they were about to shove me in the room and slam the metal door shut behind me, I dodged their shove and instead shoved them into the room with all my might, and just as quickly, I shoved them into the room, I slammed and locked the door behind them.

But as soon as I turned around, I came face to face with Tobias. His face was impossible to read, and his hand gripped around my arm so tightly, I wasn't sure if I could escape or not, but either way, I didn't want to try and escape his grasp just yet, as I was curious as to what he was thinking, or what he was going to say, or do.

Finally, after a moment of silence he spoke. "I take it you want some answers?"

But I didn't answer. Instead, I just glared at him, and then his mask broke for a second and I could see he almost had a knowing look on his face, but just for a mere moment, as I could see he quickly had his mask back on, with his face being impossible to read once again.

He then sighed. "If I let go of your arm, can you swear to follow me and not try to escape?" He paused and then added, "You wouldn't be able to escape without almost dying, even if you tried, and instead of letting it get to that, I would just inject you, but I prefer not to waste that on you again."

Once again, I glared at him, but nodded my head in agreement. We then walked in silence, until we came to a stop at a door, and somehow, I just knew that when I walked in there and got answers, I knew when I walked out, my life would never be the same. I don't know how I knew, but I had a feeling.