

The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Fall 2018

Yes, There's Such a Thing as 'Halloween Spirit'



**By Allison O'Connor
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Halloween is an annual holiday celebrated each year on October 31, and Halloween 2018 occurs on Wednesday, October 31.

It originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. The evening before was known as All Hallows Eve. Today, it's sometimes known as "Mischievous Night".

Halloween to certain kids is, "Oh I get candy!"



Some kids take Halloween as a greed. "Oh, thank you so much!" They take Halloween as a blessing.

Some kids can get a rock and they will be thankful. Some kids will get a rock and they will say "What is this? I wanted something good, not a rock!"

The main point is be thankful no matter what you get. Next time you go trick or treating remember that some kids don't have much. So, if you don't want it, donate it.

Don't Support Animal Testing!

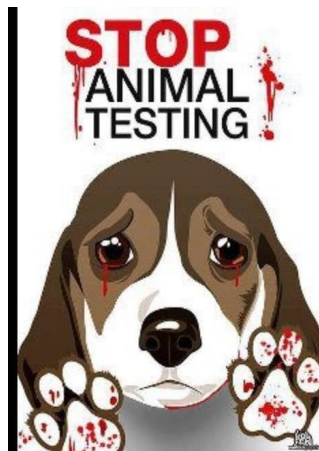


**By Jack Tremblay
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Many people don't know the true extent of animal testing, but I've come to know that the truth might shock you. Between horrible living conditions, abuse, and tests mostly not working, I think we need to stop animal testing once and for all!

One of the many reasons animal testing needs to stop is because the animals must endure a life of constant abuse. Tests can do horrible things to the animals such as, traumatizing fear, paralyzing pain, brain experiments, extreme stress, being crippled, testing drugs, infecting the animals with diseases, poisoning for toxicity, burning skin, irritating skin, brain damage, implanting electrodes into the brain, maiming, blinding, long-term social isolation, electric shocks, withholding food and water, repeated breeding and separation of infant, and most of the animals end up dead before the end of the tests. How would you feel if you had to live like this?

The second reason we need to stop animal



testing is because animals living in these facilities have horrible living conditions that they are subject to live in their entire life. Some of these living conditions include but are not limited to, barren cages, unable to make natural choices, no fresh air, no sunlight, behind bars, small crowded cages, and extremely loud noises, note that these are not all the "living conditions." And these conditions are horrible for animals or anything really.

The stress of these conditions can lead animals to, running in circles, biting open wounds (which in small, crowded cages, there are a lot of wounds to bite) mauling themselves and others, and ripping hair out of themselves. Would you want to be stressed to the breaking

point?

The last reason I'll be telling you about is that most tests simply don't work! Only 8% of all tests conducted are released to the public. Everything I just talked about would be worth NOTHING because it didn't even work!

Lastly, take everything that has been animal tested (makeup, medicine, perfume, etc.) and throw it out! https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_testing

How You Can Help Hurricane Michael Victims



**By Kaeleigh Picco
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Although the summer has come to a close, hurricane season has not. Hurricane Michael is a horrific tropical storm that devastated the Florida panhandle just over a week ago.



After forming in the southwest Caribbean, the storm had only a few days before landfall; it slammed the shores with 155mph winds, which makes it a Category 4 storm, the first to hit the Panhan-

dle in the last 150 years.

This hurricane brought an incredible amount of destruction to the Sunshine State; homes, offices, and buildings were ripped apart, and this beach (above) in Bay County, Florida, was hit so hard by the storm, it looks as if the town behind it is almost flattened.

The storm also decimated a school (below), collapsing part of the roof.

On October 12, 1.37 million homes and businesses in the area were without power, twenty two counties are under mandatory or voluntary evacuation orders, and 6,700 people are taking refuge in fifty four shelters in Florida. After also hitting Georgia and South Carolina, the hurricane is projected to move East, and eventually die out in the Pacific



Ocean.

While hurricanes are horrible, and awful events, they also can cause a community to come together. If you want to help the victims of this natural disaster, please visit the following websites for more information:



https://www.samaritanspurse.org/article/hurricane-michael-barrels-toward-florida-panhandle-please-pray/?utm_source=Ggl&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=m_YGHM-N18V_HM-NB-LP-article&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI9sazqdf_3QIVEK_ICh0pQQrTEAAYASAAEgLGnPD_BwE

https://www.redcross.org/donate/hurricane-michael-donations.html?cid=fy19hurmicahel&med=cpc&source=google&scode=rsg00000e017&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI9sazqdf_3QIVEK_ICh0pQQrTEAAYAiAAEgKws_D_BwE&gclid=aw.ds&dclid=CLmcosnX_90CFWG4swodWTsP4A

https://give.helpsalvationarmy.org/give/166081/?pid=cpc:red_kettle_national::google:::uss:salvation-army-brand:brand&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=red_kettle_national&utm_content=uss&utm_term=salvation_army_brand#!/do_nation/checkout

What's With the Giants' Football Season?



**By Jacob Hauser
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The 1-4 NY Giants took another loss this past week. This time to the Philadelphia Eagles, dropping their record to 1-5. The Giants are a young team with a lot of talent but continue to struggle.

The Giants' rookie running back, Saquon Barkley, was the second pick in the 2018 draft. He is a young, talented running back with lots of potential to be great. The problem is the offensive line.

The Giants star wide receiver, Odell Beck-



ham, Jr., is one of the best wide-outs in the league. He has had a slow start to the season partly because Eli Manning, the quarterback, is not getting enough time in the pocket to make accurate throws.

Once again, the offensive line is to blame.

The Giants' upcoming opponents are the Falcons, Redskins, 49ers, and Buccaneers. If the Giants want to win these games and make it to the playoffs, they need to improve the offensive line.

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AJR 'Burn the House Down' Music Review



**By Will Underkoffler
Tusker Tribune Staff**

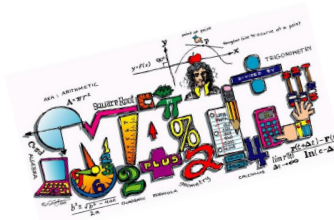
First, this is one of my favorite songs and I love to listen to it, but most of the music I like to listen to isn't the kind most kids (At least in this school) like to listen to.

So maybe I am biased, and nobody will listen to this song anyway, but please listen to what I have to say and judge me later.

AJR is a pretty good band and I like to listen to their "Sober Up" and this song, so I like their style of song and I think that most kids aren't exactly into alt-rock, so this is a pretty good song for me and some old guys.

This song is pretty good for listening to while doing homework or just plain work. It is upbeat, and it makes me happy when I listen to it.

So, this is my review of AJR Burn the House Down Music Review.



Tricks

**By Mario Mancini
Tusker Tribune Staff**

#1

Ask a friend to pick a number between 1-20. Once your friend picks a number ask them to add five multiply the sum by three then subtract 15.

Once your friend is done ask them what they have. Let's pretend they picked eight, so by the end of all of that, they should have 24.

Then divide the number they gave you by three and Abra-Cadabra, you get eight.

#2

Here is a trick that will definitely help in math class. Say you have a problem like 43×11 . The easy way to do it is you add four and three and you get seven. Stick the seven in the middle, and you get your answer.

If you don't believe me, do it in your calculator. If you have a number like 78 when you add $7+8$, you get 15. You add one to the first digit and put the second digit in between and you get 858.

#3

This trick will help you guess someone's age. First tell a friend pick a number between two-10. Let's say they pick five. Ask them to add five and multiply it by 50. Tell them to add 1768 if their birthday did not pass and 1769 if their birthday passed.

If they picked five, then they should get 2518 if their birthday didn't pass. Then ask them to subtract their year of birth by that number. Then they get 512. They take the five away and you get 12 and that should be their age.

Stay tuned for more math tricks next week!

My First College Football Game!

**By Pat Carino
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Last weekend on October 12, I drove a very long car ride to Pennsylvania to go and watch Penn State play their Saturday football game against Michigan State. I remember leaving SMS on Friday, very excited to get going. I went home packed my bags and left.

We drove to Pennsylvania with my family friends. It was a lot of fun in the car. The drive was five and a half hours to State College, PA, because there was a ton of traffic but, I slept half the time, so I was good.

We got to the hotel at 12:30 am and I was so tired. The

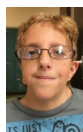
next day we woke up late and started to leave for the game at 12:00 pm. We stopped for lunch at this packed restaurant. Once



we were done eating, we went to this Penn State store to get sweat shirts and pants because it was freezing out. After we got our clothes, we went to the giant stadium packed with people. That

night, the stadium held 106,680 people. Later in the game the score was 17-14 Penn State but, on the last drive Michigan State came back and won the game. It was a big bummer. I was really hoping they were going to stop them at the end of the game. Still that was a great first college football game.

2018-2019 NBA Season Preview



By Michael Abrams
Tusker Tribune Staff

This NBA season will be a competitive one with experienced players coming back from injuries and talented rookies getting drafted. There were big trades this offseason and an amazing preseason. There is hope for young teams to do well this season. Let's explore some things to look forward to this NBA season.

My Top 5 Starting Lineups



5. Philadelphia 76ers

Point Guard (PG): Ben Simmons
Shooting Guard (SG): J.J. Reddick
Small Forward (SF): Robert Cuvington
Power Forward (PF): Dario Saric
Center (C): Joel Embid

4. L.A. Lakers

PG: Rajon Rondo
SG: Kentavious Cadwell-Pope
SF: LeBron James
PF: Kyle Kuzma
C: JaVale McGee



3. Houston Rockets

PG: Chris Paul
SG: James Harden
SF: P.J. Tucker
PF: Carmelo Anthony
C: Clint Capela

2. Golden State Warriors

PG: Stephen Curry
SG: Klay Thomson
SF: Kevin Durant
PF: Draymond Green
C: Jordan Bell



1. Boston Celtics

PG: Kyrie Irving
SG: Jaylen Brown
SF: Jayson Tatum
PF: Gordon Hayward
C: Al Horford



Who Will Win?

My prediction for the Eastern Conference finals will be the Boston Celtics defeating the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Western Conference finalists will be the Los Angeles Lakers beating the Golden State Warriors.

In the finals, the Lakers and the Celtics will continue their rivalry that dates back to the 1960's.

This year, the experienced Lakers will outplay the young Celtics team. Kyrie Irving will be MVP and LeBron will lead the league in scoring. Those are my predictions. I look forward to an awesome 2018-2019 NBA season starting this coming Tuesday.



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

FC Somers Soccer is a Real Kick



**By Joseph Melillo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

FC Somers. Somers soccer team for kids who love soccer and want to play competitively. FC Somers is a not-for-profit volunteer-run organization that has teams and programs for U8+.

The teams are run by volunteers who coach and train the many soccer teams. FC Somers participates in the State Cup and the Westchester Cup.

FC Somers accepts anyone, and any skill level, the older kids have 2 teams, an A-team, and a B-team. Usually, if it's your



first year you will be put on the B-team, but if you are really good then you may get on the A-team, many kids have played for many years and still enjoy playing. And, you get to know kids you never would have known through your soccer team!

Also, you don't even have to be from Somers to play for FC Somers, which to most people doesn't make sense, but, if you know someone that lives nearby, and doesn't like their soccer team, tell them about FC Somers.

I Won't Soon Forget This Apple Picking Visit



**By Seth Cheung
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Sometimes people don't realize the things they say might come true and that's what happened to me.

It was a warm fall day and I was going apple picking with my family.

"Why do we have to go apple picking every year? It's so stupid!" I complained.

"Hey, don't use that language in front of your sister like that!" my his mom said.

"Uuug! Whatever!"

"Why are you in such a bad mood?" she asked in a harsh tone.

"Because I hate this farm and I wish everyone would just disappear!"

I turned around and started walking away, getting ready to be yelled at, but for a weird rea-



son, no one said a thing. I turned around and my family was gone.

I walked around the empty fields and saw no one. I ran back to the main farmer's market area and to my surprise, no one was there. I felt dizzy, but I didn't know why. After a second everything went black. It only felt like a second, but it was really two years.

I woke up in a hospital bed. I peered around the room only to see that no one was there I got up from the bed and opened the door the hospital was empty and looked very neglected.

All a sudden, I screamed, 'I WISH I HAD MY FAMILY BACK' and then everything turned black again. I woke up on my back in the apple farm. I got up and my mouth dropped when I saw my family and I learned never to disrespect my family again.

I also learned to be careful for what I wished.

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POSTED by John David Anderson

**By Natalia Tellez
Tusker Tribune Staff**

John David Anderson, the author of *Ms. Bixby's Last Day*, *Side Kicked Minion*, and *The Dungeoneers*, has come out with yet another great book. He writes about four boys with nicknames and stories behind the names Wolf, Bench, Dee-Dee, and Frost.

There's also one girl, Rose, new to the school who is very different and stands out from the crowd. But that's not the most interesting part of the story. The way the author is able to write such an enjoyable story about friendship, middle school, and bullying is.

Posted is about five kids in Middle School

who turn Post-it Notes into a communication tool when cell-phones are banned. Soon everyone notices, and it catches on but not all the notes are nice and friendly. Some are cruel and mean to the reader.

As most of the kids in the close group of friends get targeted, the tension is high, and it leads to Rose having to do a said-to-be-impossible challenge: to defeat the bully.

I recently finished this book and can truthfully say I loved it! I would recommend it to students from age 9 to 13 years old. *Posted* is a wonderfully written book with a reminder's in its plot that shows you can survive middle school, especially with friends by your side.



Why Do We Respect the Flag?



**By Joseph Melillo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

So, the American flag. Why do the Americans respect the American flag? We respect the

American flag because many, many people have fought and sacrificed their lives for our country. From the American Revolution to the most recent war. The men and women who served have sacrificed a lot for our country. We have the country we have today because of the men and women of the past who have served.

The American flag is a symbol of our nation. White signifies purity and innocence. Red represents hardiness and valor. Blue shows vigilance, perseverance, and justice. It is worn on law enforcement uniforms, military uniforms, Boy

Scout uniforms, it is flown outside the White

House, sports stadiums and town halls.

The flag is hung in classrooms and flies outside military stations. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited every morning in school and at the openings of important federal events. The National Anthem originated as a poem written by Francis Scott Key during the war of 1812, during the bombing of Fort McHenry. Then it was rewritten into a song and is sung before sporting events and other events.

In conclusion, we honor our veterans and what they have sacrificed for our country. We honor the American flag, we recognize the design and understand what it means to us. We understand what the colors of the flag mean and we understand what the overall flag itself means to us as a country. Long Live the U.S.A!



The 'Art' of Trading Halloween Candy



**By Samuel Sanz
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Halloween is a great holiday. A tradition for some people including me is trading candy. How do you trade candy the best?

This chart at right shows the different categories of candy. To begin, you need to play the fruit/sours game to get some nut-based/crunch. If your trading partner does not know a lot about candy trading, then use that to your advantage.

Then use the Nut-Based/Crunch that

you do not like to trade for the fillings/softs you want. Fillings/softs trade for fruit/sours.

*Continued
on Page 7*

	NUT-BASED/CRUNCH	FILLINGS/SOFTS	FRUIT/SOURS
AFFINITY PROFILE			



**Nerd's
Words**



Music Report



By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff

Drip Harder – Lil Baby and Gunna

In a post-Young Thug, post-Future Atlanta rap game, popular rappers Lil Baby and Gunna are neck and neck as emerging voices of the city. But unlike Thugger and Hendrix—whose collaborative 2017 album *Super Slimey* was released more than half a decade into their careers—Baby and Gunna have teamed up early in their race, delivering 13 songs to satiate the pair's largely overlapping fanbase.

The project takes its name from each of the rappers' franchises (*Harder Than Hard*, *Too Hard*, and *Harder Than Ever* for Lil Baby and *Drip Season 1*, 2 and 3 for Gunna.) *Drip Harder* showcases each rapper in equal measure, Lil Baby's distinct vocal accent complementing Gunna's in a way that's nostalgic of Mobb Deep's Prodigy and Havoc. While there are stand-out solo outings from each ("Deep End" for Lil Baby and "World Is Yours" for Gunna), the album is proof positive that when Atlanta's brightest young talents align, it's the rap world in total that wins.

Genre: Hip-Hop



Trench – twenty one pilots

Having jumped to new heights with 2015's *Blurryface*, followed by almost two full years of touring, twenty one pilots were in need of a break. Recorded primarily in the band's Columbus, Ohio, studio during a yearlong public silence, their 5th album *Trench* picks up where the band left off both in sound and subject, exploring rough emotional ground in a style by turns cleaning and strange.



What continues to echo in twenty one pilots member Tyler Joseph's ability to turn his personal pain into shared experience, his inner thoughts into public art.

Genre: Rock

Zeze – Kodak Black featuring Travis Scott and Offset



Florida native Kodak Black has been releasing music again after about a year of being quiet. His return started with the drum-heavy "If I'm Lyin', I'm Flyin'" which references his past run-ins with the police. Now Kodak's new song "Zeze" is a tropical hip-hop bop with rapper Travis Scott and Migos member Offset. It is produced by the same producer of Tyga's hit song "Taste", also with

Candy

From Page 6

Also, don't trade big candy bars (It's a mistake). Make sure to organize your flavored items in sets. **Not by flavors.** Also, candy you want to get rid of should just get covered up with good candy and trade for the whole pile that you've made. This chart shows trade equivalents. The last one is not true.



So, the next time you trade candy on Halloween remember. If someone offers you an apple or a bag of pretzels, they're a bad person.

Giants

From Page 2

Secondly the Giants' defense needs to step up and make big plays. If these two things don't happen soon, they will



continue to have serious problems competing in their division.

On the upside of the Giants being so bad is that they will get a high draft pick in the 2019 draft. Most likely, the Gi-

ants will focus on Eli's eventual backup and a better offensive line. A few college QB's who will be available at the top of the draft are Will Grier of West Virginia and Justin Herbert of Oregon.

Eli Manning has had a tremendous career and given the Giants fans two Super Bowl rings, but sadly it seems that his time as an elite NFL quarterback is up.