

The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Spring 2019

8th Graders' Letter Leads to Lunch Menu Changes



By Tusker Tribune Staff

A letter written by three 8th graders resulted in a meeting with Dr. Blanch, Mr. Getman, and Mrs. Zeller, with the result being that they will be planning

the lunch menu for SMS for the month of May.

A text of their letter is reprinted here:

Mrs. Zeller, Mr. Getman, Ms. Casale, Dr. Blanch:

My name is Anthony Altieri. I am an 8th grader here at SMS. My friends and I are writing to you about the school lunches at SMS. There doesn't seem to be much variety. Often we have some type of something with red sauce and cheese. Between the last five days in February and first five days in March seven of those ten days were cheese and sauce. Cheese sticks with dipping sauce or grilled cheese is also on our menu a couple times a month.

Is there any chance we could have some variety? Some suggestions could be roasted chicken with bisques and gravy, stuffed baked potatoes, mac and cheese. We think that the turkey on March 13 was very good but you could change the rice into corn because a lot of people would rather the warm corn than the rice. Why don't you try meatball sub Mondays, taco Tuesday, burger Wednesday, turkey Thursdays, Nino's pizza Fridays.

Continued on Page 4

MAMMA MIA Comes to Somers



By Natalia Tellez
Tusker Tribune Staff

Every year, Somers High School drama club students put on an amazing production for the whole town. These have included the shows *Our Town*, *Les Miserables*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *It's a Wonderful life*, and *Aladdin Jr.*

This year, they chose to act out *Mamma Mia* with songs based off the playlist performed by Swedish rock group ABBA.



The production was held on March 15th and the 16th in the Somers High School auditorium. The story plot of *Mamma Mia* was that Sophie, hoping to meet her real father and have him walk her down the aisle as she married Sky, secretly invites three men from her mother's past to come to her wedding, and from then on, it is all fun and an amusing story.

The show was mostly organized by students as they constantly helped to gather props, sell tickets, design graphics, paint sets, and much more. All the high schoolers put so much effort to make it happen whether it was as stage crew, the cast, or producers.

The songs in the show included *Waterloo*, *Dancing Queen*, *Mamma Mia*, *I Have a Dream*, *Super Trouper*, and *Knowing me, Knowing you*. The cast included a total of 43 students with Riley Com-paretto as Sophie Sheridan, Deirdre Winston playing Donna Sheridan, and Sky acted by Ned Becerra. Overall, I really like the show because all the songs were fun, the costumes amazing, the acting really good, and dance numbers all great. All the students involved in the *Mamma Mia* production are all very talented and should be proud of the production they were able to make happen.



March 25: Greek Independence Day



**By Joseph Melillo
Tusker Tribune
Staff**

Greece is officially known as the Hellenic Republic. Its largest city is Athens, capital of a country with a population of 11,000,000 as of 2016.

Monday, March 25th, 2019, was Greek Independence Day. The small group of islands and one mainland gained their independence from the Ottoman Empire in a war known as the Greek Revolution from

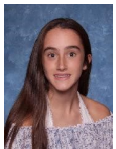


1821 through 1829, later being backed by the United Kingdom, The Kingdom of France, and the Russians.

The war officially ended on September 12th, 1829. This is an important day in Greece with celebrations such as parades, parties, and food. This celebration is actually part of a much older celebration of the Greek Orthodox Church's celebration of the Annunciation of the Theotokos.

Make sure to wish a Happy Greek Independence Day to any Greeks you know!

College Softball Teams Chart Path to World Series



**By Mia Barlanti
Tusker Tribune Staff**

This year, colleges all around the United States are competing in softball. All together, there are 286 teams across the country. The top three colleges in the ranking this month are: 1. Florida State, 2. UCLA, and 3. Florida.

LSU is my favorite college softball team so I'm hoping they'll do well and make it into the championships. Their record is 13-3 and they are ninth in rankings. Recently, on March 24, 2019, LSU played Georgia and beat them 7-4.



Last year, the winner of the championships was Florida State and right now they are in first place and doing very well.

The World Series for college softball begins when there are 16 surviving teams. There are 8 locations where the games are played with the last 16 teams will be playing. Two teams are matched up and put at a location and they play a best-of-three series to determine who will move on in the World Series. The season started not long ago but as more days go on, more games are played and it moves closer and closer to the World Series so teams can compete and try to win.

Bermuda Triangle Remains a Mystery



**By Jordan Della Vecchia
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The Bermuda Triangle has several names, such as the Bermuda Triangle, the Devil's Triangle, and Hurricane Alley. It is called this because it is so deadly.

The Bermuda Triangle is a mythical section bounded by Miami, Bermuda, and Puerto Rico, where several ships and airplanes mysteriously disappeared without a trace.

Unexplained circumstances



surround a portion of these accidents. There have been theories that have been proposed regarding the Bermuda Triangle, but none of them prove that the missing boats and airplanes absences occur more frequently there than in other well-traveled sections of the sea.

Fun Fact: The Bermuda Triangle is one of only two places on Earth where a compass points to true north rather than magnetic north. Source: www.history.com

Somers Middle School Drama Club
Proudly Presents

Seussical JR

Performances:

Green Eggs & Ham	Ham & Eggs
Thursday 4/4/19 @ 7 PM	Friday 4/5/19 @ 7 PM
Saturday 4/6/19 @ 7 PM	Saturday 4/6/19 @ 2 PM**

TICKET INFORMATION:
Go to somersms.seatyourself.biz for advanced ticket sales
All tickets are \$10

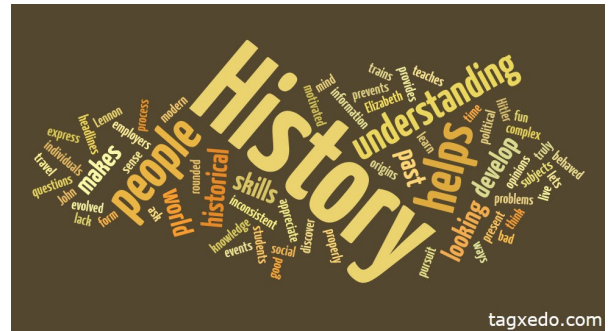
**Have your picture taken with one of the characters after the Saturday matinee
You bring the camera, we bring the character!
\$5 suggested donation to benefit Special Olympics

This Week In History



**By Kaeleigh Picco
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever wondered what happened today ten years ago? Twenty years ago? Fifty? In ***This Week in History***, I will tell you about the events that happened that particular week that could have impacted our everyday lives or are just really interesting to learn about.



March 27th, 1977

The worst accident in all of civil aviation tragically occurred on this date as two Boeing 747 Jets collided on a foggy runway at Los Rodeos Airport in the Canary Islands. The Tenerife Airport disaster resulted in the deaths of 583 people.



March 29th, 1790

10th President of the United States John Tyler was born on this date in Charles City County, Virginia to John Tyler Sr. and Mary Armistead. Tyler briefly served as Vice President to William Henry Harrison, but then became President when Harrison died of pneumonia after just one month in office. He was nicknamed, "His Accidency" because he was the first person to become President when not being officially elected to the title.

March 30th, 1981

Former President Ronald Reagan was walking toward his limousine in Washington DC following a speech that he gave inside a hotel when he was shot in the chest. He was immediately rushed to the hospital for a surgery that would remove a 22 caliber bullet from his left lung. The President would soon recover from this and return to his duties. Three others were also targeted, including the President's Press Secretary James Brady who was shot in the forehead, but miraculously survived.



March 31st, 1991

Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, and The Soviet Republic of Georgia all voted to declare independence from Soviet Russia. Ironically, Georgia was the birthplace of Joseph Stalin, the infamous dictator of The Soviet Union during World War Two. After the vote, Russian troops were dispatched from Moscow under a state of emergency.

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



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Video Game Review:



**By Andrew Fasone
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The game Plants vs. Zombies 2 is a mobile game that is free to play and has been around since 2013. With the new update of plant levels, plants can now level up by collecting seeds and get stronger the more you level them up.

The amount of levels varies depending on how strong the plants were to start with. There are also different classes of plants. With the addition of the new update they added a "battlez" mode where you and another player fight each other to see who gets the highest score. The winner gets five points and the loser gets one. There are also different leagues with the highest being the Jade League and the lowest being the Soil League. The more battles you do and the more points you get result in promotions, and if you are ranked the lowest in your league, you get demoted.

If you have played some games in the "battlez" mode, you can get a reward called the

win streak. You can get coin gem seeds to level up plants and pinatas. One more thing in the "battlez" mode you can get are "mints". If you collect 100 mints, you can get a "reinforced-mint".

The reinforced mints are also classed, and they boost the class of plants on the battle field that you have placed.

They have also added more worlds since the game has been released in 2013. When the game was released in 2013, they had three worlds (ancient Egypt, pirate seas, and wild west). but since then they have added many worlds (such as

Frostbite Caves, Lost City, Far Future, Dark Ages, Neon Mixtape Tour, Jurassic Marsh, Big Wave Beach, and Modern Day).

Each world gets harder and harder and you advance in the game. But there has been a recent update where they added about 10 give or take levels to each world that are extremely hard and introduce new zombies that have more protection and are harder to defeat. But with the harder zombie comes more rewards.

All in all in my opinion I think that Plants vs. Zombies 2 is a good, free, mobile game to play.



Perseverance Key to Football

**By Isaac Like
Tusker Tribune Staff**



Football is a sport based off agility, strength, and speed, etc., so what happens when you have none?

I started of playing football in 4th grade. I was short, skinny and not fit for football at all. My older brother played football, so I was encouraged to play like him. When I started playing, I played the two most passive positions (meaning not engaged with the "game") but, when I cam to play in 6th grade, I started to change up. I got a little taller and chubbier. I still was not a useful player on the team, and I got minimum plays a game (3). My offensive position was changed, and I considered it an upgrade but, I still got



minimum plays. That year we also won the championship and I got my first taste at linebacker, even though I didn't play it oddly enough.

This 7th grade season was no doubt the biggest change in my football career ever. My defensive position was changed to linebacker and even though I wasn't the starter, I was happy. One of the starters though, was a good friend of mine and was confident in my skills and believed I could be good at linebacker and he helped teach me to play the position and he was also the QB, which was tiring to start at both positions, so he got tired. Then I went in and that's how my football career really got going. Then my friend got hurt and I started in the last six games. The coaches can see my potential and now I just have to keep playing.

Lunch From Page 1

To sub out some of these things you can have pasta and meatballs, popcorn chicken, orange blossom chicken, grilled cheese and vegetable soup, cheese sticks with dipping sauce or waffles and ham.

We hope writing to you will help improve the menu.

Anthony Altieri

Jake Mohan

Tyler Brownstein

May should be an interesting month, lunch-wise!

Some Baseball Milestones in Honor of Opening Day

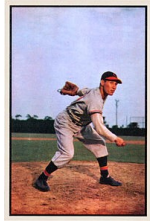


By **Jesse Manginelli**
Tusker Tribune Staff

Opening Day for the MLB is today for both the Mets and the Yankees, with the Yankees playing at home.



To commemorate the opening, I will go over some Opening Day Miracles. I will start off with a miracle from the original Bronx Bomber himself, George Herman "Babe" Ruth. When the original Yankee Stadium was built, it was already known as the "House That Ruth Built." On the first ever game played in the stadium, on April 18, 1923, Ruth hit a three-run homerun off Red Sox's pitcher Howard Ehmke.



The next one I will talk about is Bob Feller's no hitter. On the opening day of 1940, Bob Feller of the Cleveland Indians recorded the only no hitter on opening day ever. Maybe the most important one out of all these is about Jackie Robinson.

Opening day April 15, 1947 was Robinson's debut. He was the first African-American to play in the MLB at the time. This made a tremendous impact on baseball

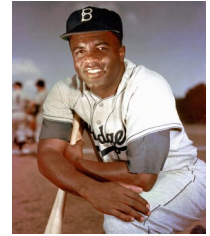


and racial integration. And then there is

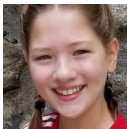
Hank Aaron. On the first day of the season in 1974, Hank Aaron made an unbelievable achievement. He was just under Babe Ruth's lifetime home run record of 713. On opening he didn't waste a second and smashed a homer to tie Babe Ruth.

Finally, George Bell hit three homeruns on Opening Day in 1988.

That's all for now. Let's see what Opening Day this year brings us.



Tusker Tribune Trivia



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

• Who was the legendary Benedictine monk who invented champagne? *Dom Perignon.*



• Name the largest freshwater lake in the world? *Lake Superior.*

• Where would you find the Sea of Tranquility? *The Moon.*



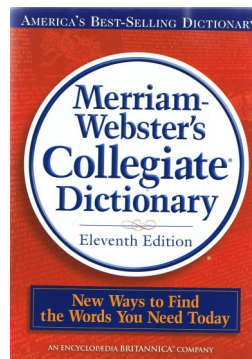
• What is someone who shoes horses called? *A farrier.*



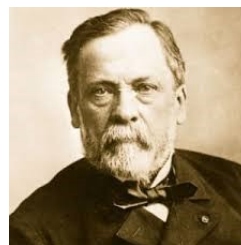
• What item of clothing was named after its Scottish inventor? *A Mackintosh.*



• What kind of weapon is a falchion? *A sword.*



• Name the seventh planet from the sun. *Uranus*



• Which word goes before vest, beans and quartet? *String.*

• What is another word for a lexicon? *Dictionary.*

• Name the seventh planet from the sun.

• Who invented the rabies vaccination? *Louis Pasteur.*



The NBA Playoff Race



By Arjun Ojha
Tusker Tribune Staff

With only 2 weeks until the end of the NBA regular season. I want to go over the standings as well as who is in the playoffs. It is a tight one, so get ready.

The standings for the NBA on the Eastern Conference are as followed:

- Milwaukee Bucks 56-19
- Toronto Raptors 52-23
- Philadelphia 76ers 47-27
- Indiana Pacers 45-30
- Boston Celtics 44-31
- Brooklyn Nets 38-37
- Detroit Pistons 37-37
- Orlando Magic 37-38



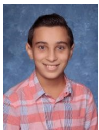
The Standings for the Western Conference are as followed:

- Golden State Warriors 51-23
- Denver Nuggets 50-23
- Portland Trail Blazers 47-27
- Houston Rockets 47-28
- Utah Jazz 45-30
- Los Angeles Clippers 45-30
- Oklahoma City Thunder 44-31
- San Antonio Spurs 43-32

These eight teams are the teams that are in the playoffs as of now. So far, in the Eastern Conference, the Milwaukee Bucks have clinched the division and the Toronto Raptors, Philadelphia 76ers and the Indiana Pacers have clinched a playoff position.

In the Western Conference, the Golden State Warriors, the Denver Nuggets, Los Angeles Clippers and the Houston Rockets have all clinched their playoff spots.

Ski Mask the Slump God's Favorite Cartoons



By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff

South Florida's Ski Mask the Slump God is a rapper's rapper and he's known for clever bars filled with animated pop culture references, that range from *Dragon Ball Z* (on "LOST SOULS") to *The Simpsons* ("Save Yourself!").

I looked at some of Ski Mask's biggest tracks and over 60 different references to figure out what cartoons he loves to namedrop the most in his bars. "And there were a lot. Cartoons are really my thing I feel like you can learn a lot of things from movies," said Ski Mask.

#5: Rick & Morty

Adult Swim's hit comedy about a scientist and his grandson Morty, which just so happens to be one of Ski Mask's personal favorites, mentioning it in at least four different songs. "Rick and Morty tells you a lot about life and that's really going on." One song he mentions it on is "RUN." Besides general show references, Ski mask also gets into specific characters, like Pickle Rick on "Unbothered." As well as some more secondary characters.

#4: Futurama

At #4 we've got the sci-fi cartoon *Futurama*, which Ski's mentioned in at least five different songs, one being "Chemicals." And he's paid homage to some of its most beloved characters like Fry on "Thriller (Forever)," Bender on "4Peat," and many others.



#3: The Fairly OddParents

At #3 is the classic Nickelodeon show the *Fairly OddParents*. Ski Mask references the show on at least seven songs, and a lot of those bars mention the babysitter, Vicky, including "SUICIDE SEASON" and "Nuketown." "We don't really mess with Icky Vicky. She from *Fairly OddParents*, she's a babysitter, and she's mean." Ski said. Ski mask even sampled one of the show's songs, "My Shiny Teeth and Me," from fictional teen heartthrob Chip Skylark on a track of his own, "New Age Chip Skylark."

#2: Pokemon

At #2, we've got the classic Japanese anime and game series, *Pokemon* which I found Ski Mask referenced in eight different songs, some including "Faucet Failure" and "Cat Piss." "Ash is the Pokemon trainer that's the main character on *Pokemon*."

#1: SpongeBob Squarepants

Finally, the cartoon with the most mentions from Ski mask in nine different songs across his catalog is *SpongeBob Squarepants*, including "SLMD Remix (R.I.P. Bernie Mac)."

But even outside of his top mentions Ski mask clearly has a lot of other favorites, like the *Grim Adventures of Billy and Mandy*. He even sampled the show's theme song on the 2016 track of the same name. And on tracks like "Dr. Eggman," he's even used more obscure references like this bit from *Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends*. But besides his favorites there's still plenty more cartoon references from Ski Mask, and he's kept them coming. So, what are some of your favorites?