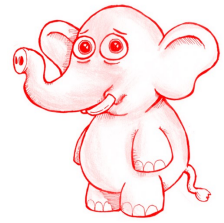


The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School

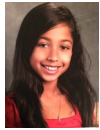


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Fall 2017

Celebrate Halloween on 'Trail of Terror'



**By Julia Wilkinson
Tusker Tribune
Staff**

October! So many events occur in October. It's the second month of school, the month of the first book fair, Hurricane season begins to cease, and more. Though in my opinion, the most famous as well as enjoyable event that takes place is one known by many.

Halloween.

Halloween is on October 31st, always the last day of the month. Jubilant, energized kids dress up uniquely, scrambling from house to house, with hopes of wonderful scares, and yummy little treasured treats.

Many people decide to celebrate Halloween by hosting Halloween parties, or decorating their yard with Halloween decorations, and fill bucket after bucket of candy, waiting for eager trick or treaters to arrive on their doorstep, ready for a good fright.

One way the Somers Lions Club celebrates this holiday is by hosting a traditional Halloween Trail of Terror.



The Trail of Terror is hosted at Upper Reis Park on Saturday October 28th, just a few days before the actual 'fright night.' This Trail is opened for civilians to get a good fright from 7:30-10:30 p.m.

When I was 8, my family and I took a trip to this Trail. Given its little publicity, you would be quite astonished how many other Somers residents had arrived for a "performance." I must remark, the trail was quite frightening, and the trial and a gloomy mysterious era to it.

Now you might be wondering, "Hey, that sounds like fun. Maybe I would want to go to the Trail of Terror. But how?"

Well, here are a few details so that you can enjoy the night.

As I said before, the Trail of Terror is at Upper Reis Park on Saturday October 28th from 7:30-10:30. The rain date is Sunday, October 29th. Tickets are \$10 and you shall be provided with a glow stick and a nice

warm cup of hot chocolate. Yum!

Now, I hope you might consider coming to this phenomenal night, ready to have the Fright of the Night!

More News on the Tusker Talker!

Ah . . . That Post-Halloween (Blah!) Feeling!



**By Caitlyn Stellwagon
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Halloween is just around the corner and kids all over are very excited. Halloween is the time where you carve pumpkins into harmless, spooky Jack o' Lanterns. Where you dress up as your favorite character with your friends. You go trick or treating 'till you literally drop. Fill your bag up with candy until you feel like you can't carry it anymore. Go to that house that went ALL OUT for Halloween that also has the best candy. Share a joke with your friend that makes you



laugh until you cry. Getting annoyed at some other trick-or-treater for no reason other than they are wearing the same costume as you. Then finally, coming home to your parents in what feels like the warmest house after running around in the cold weather.

But the next day, oh the next day, your legs are aching like nothing you have ever felt before (though this happens every Halloween) You insist you stay home after a long night on your feet, but with no surprise, mom says no.

Continued on Page 2

A Tusker Tribune Commentary: Senator Flake's Speech to Congress



**By Sean Moran
Tusker Tribune Staff**

In the long list of controversies in America today, it seems like all people are turned against each other. This makes life very difficult for politicians, and senators are no exception.

This was shown as Republican Senator Jeff Flake from Arizona announced he would retire from his job after his term ends on January 3rd of 2019. This is said to be partially due to the controversial views President Trump has expressed since he took office.

In part, his speech noted . . .

"... Our democracy is more defined by our discord and our dysfunction than it is by our values and our principles. . . I have children and grandchildren to answer to, and so, Mr. President, I will not be complicit. . . I have decided that I will be better able to represent the people of Arizona and to better serve my country and my conscience by freeing myself from the political considerations that consume far too much bandwidth and would cause me to compromise far too many principles."



Senator Flake's denunciation of Trump in a speech to the U.S. Senate has political analyzers questioning Flake's alignment with the Republican party. Republicans who have previously voted for Flake are beginning to express widespread disdain for him and his comments.

Flake may change his views on Trump in the future, and for now his statement remains arbitrary. Voters will have to play the waiting game in the coming year, just to make sure he is actually against the President.

Is the Rangers' Season Done?



**By Matt Tavares
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Do you think the Rangers season is over? The Rangers are 1-5-2 as of right now.

I think if the Rangers start playing smart hockey, they might have a chance. The Rangers defense has not been playing like they were supposed to play. They were supposed to be the next big thing with the addition of Shattenkirk.



If Lundqvist starts to play better, then the Rangers will play better. If I were in charge of the New York Rangers Association, I would try to sign Alex Galchenyuk because he's a player that can get you 30+ goals.

I would also try to get Jacob Trouba because he's an excellent defenseman who will fit right into the D spot. We have to believe.

LET'S GO RANGERS!

Post-Halloween Continued from Page 1

When you are at school, every kid struggles to keep their eyes open. You try to pay attention in class but every time your head tilts, it feels like a ton of bricks just pulling your head down, but you have to stay up, you have to.

After waiting for what feels like a century, lunch finally comes! That's when everyone has brought in their biggest candy bar to trade for something big. I heard someone traded a box of cookies for an Xbox 1 last year.



You barely even eat your actual lunch; you just fill up on the candy you brought and the candy someone else gave away. Somehow you still have candy that will last you until New Year.

But Halloween is truly the best time.

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One Reporter's View on School Lunch

By Ezra Weinstein
Tusker Tribune Staff

"Why is my meatball bouncy!?"

Is cafeteria food healthy for you?

The school cafeteria is a place to have the second most important meal of the day. If you don't bring lunch to school, then you probably buy lunch that the cafeteria provides for you.

Do you ever wonder where the school gets their food from? It seems no one knows but, I can give you my theory on where they get it from. The school most likely buys it either frozen or room temperature, then cooks it, or, they simply just make it on their own.

I have done some research and found out that the school food is actually not as nutritious as you would think. Sometimes the meals they somehow get every day aren't so fresh. The food you buy on your lunch tray can look fake and processed, which leaves children with no lunch. The school doesn't know that your parents get up for work early and can't make you a lunch.

I believe that the school should consider



Weinstein's
Wisdom

spending a little bit more money to have a chef at school or, just buy healthier, nutritious, and good food. It's perfectly fine if you like the school food, just be cautious about what you're digesting into your body.

This is a health issue because some kids have school lunch almost everyday. Trust me, I see my friends eat that for weeks in a row.

In my opinion, the school lunches are not as healthy as you think they are. Beware!

Editor's Note: School lunches must meet the applicable recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. These guidelines state that no more than 30 percent of an individual's calories should come from fat, and less than 10 percent from saturated fat. Regulations also state that school lunches must provide one-third of the Recommended Dietary Allowances of protein, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, iron, calcium, and calories. School lunches must meet federal nutrition requirements over the course of one week's worth of lunches. However, local school food authorities may make decisions about which specific foods to serve and how they are prepared.

Peanut Butter Spider Cookies!

By Caitlyn Stellwagen
Tusker Tribune Staff

This is a fun and easy recipe for Halloween. It's a great combination of delicious and creepy. Follow these simple steps and you will have tasty peanut

butter spider cookies!

Ingredients

- ½ cup of shortening
- ½ cup of peanut butter
- ½ cup of packed brown sugar
- ½ cup of white sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 Tablespoons of milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 ¾ cups of all-purpose flour
- 1 Teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon of salt
- ¼ cup white sugar for rolling 24 chocolate candy spheres with smooth chocolate filling (such as Lindt Lindor Truffles).
- Refrigerated until cold 48 decorative candy eyeballs
- ½ pound of prepared chocolate frosting

Directions

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Line baking sheets with baking parchment.
- Beat shortening, peanut butter, brown sugar, and 1/2 cup white sugar together with an electric mixer in a large bowl until smooth. Beat egg into the creamy mixture until fully incorporated. Stir

milk and vanilla extract into the mixture until smooth.

- Mix flour, baking soda, and salt together in a small bowl; add to the wet mixture in the large bowl and stir until completely incorporated into a dough. Divide and shape dough into 48 balls.

- Spread 1/4 cup white sugar into a wide, shallow bowl. Roll dough balls in sugar to coat and arrange about 2 inches apart onto prepared baking sheets.

- Bake in preheated oven until golden brown, 10 to 12 minutes. Remove cookies from oven and quickly press a dimple into the middle of each cookie using the blunt end of a wooden spoon. Cool cookies on sheets for 10 minutes before transferring to a wire cooling rack to cool completely.

- Cut each chocolate sphere into two hemispheres. Put one piece atop each cookie with the rounded side facing upwards.

- Spoon frosting into a pastry bag with a small round tip or a plastic freezer bag with one end snipped off. Dab a small amount of frosting onto the back of each candy eyeball and stick two onto each chocolate candy to resemble eyes. Then pipe frosting in four thin lines, starting at the base of the candy, on each side atop the cookie to resemble spider legs.

- Let frosting harden at room temperature, about 30 minutes. Store cookies in an airtight container.

