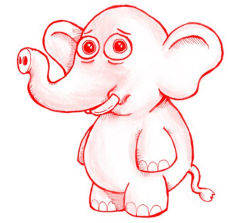


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Winter 2018

Check Out SMS Special Olympics!



**By Ava Rourke
Tusker Tribune Staff**

What is Special Olympics? Special Olympics is a club nationwide that allows children and adults who are disabled and have autism to play sports with other children and adults who are disabled.

Our club at SMS includes many athletes and volunteers,



but that's not all it is. To me, Special Olympics is a club where you get to have fun, meet new people, and make friends. I have met so many new friends through Special Olympics, both volunteers and athletes.

Now the main thing we do at Special Olympics is obviously play sports. We have practices on Wednesdays and sometimes Thurs-

days if we don't have a game. We also travel every now and then to our games. And Special Olympics here has four main sports that we play—soccer comes first, then floor hockey, and then basket-



ball. During basketball season we have a big basketball tournament at the high school. It's like any other basketball tournament. Your team is in a division and plays against other teams to hopefully win first place. And yes, we may not be known as well as the other sports teams are at our school, but we are just as important and good.

So, becoming a fan or volunteer is very much encouraged. From experience, I can say that being a volunteer is so much fun! You feel very connected to, and aware of, the community of people around you. You learn a lot, too. As a volunteer, you get to participate and help in practices, and travel to away games. And something I've learned over the many years is different ways of helping or teaching kids with different mindsets and disabilities.

So, my overall thought of Special Olympics is that it's a great club and just as good as any other sports team here.



The Groundhog Shall Decide!!!



**By Juliana Spano
Tusker Tribune Staff**

It's only a matter of days before we find out whether we will be stuck in winter for another six weeks or if spring is soon to come.

But how accurate is our groundhog friend? I did a little research to find out. This weather prediction holiday is from German speaking areas in Pennsylvania where a badger is the forecasting animal.



18 times where he didn't see his shadow.

If he is only correct 39% of the time, you are better off flipping a coin to predict what will happen!

The groundhog Punxsutawney Phil only has a 39% accuracy rate regarding his forecasts. Phil has seen his shadow almost 90% of the time so he mostly predicts six more weeks of winter. He has made 130 predictions with only

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The Tusker Tribune is published online and is featured weekly on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from
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Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at
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Gans Rubik's Cube is Top of the Line



By Max Harkins
Tusker Tribune Staff

Many people had Rubik's cubes two years ago, in 2016. They had the regular Rubik's brands, which for all speedcubers, are not that good. At all.

I have a Gans 356S V2 Rubik's Cube; it cost \$16.99 and is the 7th best cube in the world and the cube that Feliks Zemdegs won with a World Record time of 4.49 seconds.

There is a point in spending the extra 5 dollars. You get a cube that corner cuts 45 de-



grees, you get a fast cube that in 1 flick you could spin it 180 degrees. You get a highly controllable cube that all speedcubers desire. You could also get a Dai Yan, which is also a **HUGE** step up from the Rubik's brand.

I like to get a lubricant of Weight 1 and a Weight 5 to make the components move more smoothly. Those are the best, but if you don't want to spend a mere \$6 on it, then you could of course buy a supreme sticker, because **THAT** is worth your money!

You should get a Gans Rubik's cube to play around with, and maybe someday you'll be able to solve it in less than 20 seconds, like I can.

"12 Angry Men" the Focus of Perspectives in Drama ELA Unit

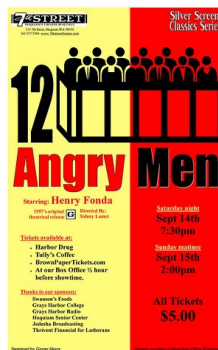


By Samantha Crecco
Tusker Tribune Staff

You may have heard of the famous title, "12 Angry Men", but what you may not know is that it has been a play, three movies, and a musical!

As some people say, it's "a phenomenon". "12 Angry Men" is a drama about a 19 year old kid accused of killing his father. The movie takes us through the journey of the 12 jurors and what they are doing as they deliberate whether he's guilty or not. They are locked in a hot, non-airconditioned room, and things are getting heated!

In Somers Middle School, every year, one ELA teacher and one social studies teacher team up to present "12 Angry Men". On the 7th grade White Team, Mr. Mullany and Mr. Pappas show



all of their students movie versions of "12 Angry Men". Mr. Mullany starts students off with the history behind this famous title, and the 1997 film, and explains how our judicial system works in this country.

Several days later Mr. Pappas, the ELA teacher sets up props to resemble the jury room in the 1957 version of the movie, prints out scripts and has all of the students reenact the 1997 version of 12 Angry Men. The follow-up is a Socratic Seminar on the key themes in the play, where students discuss whether our jury system is effective, whether it favors the defendant, how tough it is to stand against the opinions of the majority, and whether the way we choose juries is fair.

Fortnite Battle Royale!



By Anthony Carino
Tusker Tribune Staff

Fortnite is a multi-player game that has two modes: Save The World and 100 Player PVP.

Let's start off with Save The World. Save The World is zombies like Call of Duty has been doing for all of their games. The graphics in Fortnite are good but I wouldn't buy the game. The game is free, at least the 100 player PVP is.

Save The World, from what I believe, is 10 dollars to buy. I personally don't like the price, but other people do. But let's get back on topic. Save The World is also Multiplayer. You can play



with four players at max. Fortnite Save The World was released at the Video Games Awards in 2011.

Now let's talk about the 100 Player PVP. I love this part of the game. The makers of the game said that this game was only intended to be a zombie game. I think that the creators had a really good idea by putting PVP into the game. There is a new update that just released the 18 of January. The update includes a new map and new biomes. I like how they added new places on the left side. My favorite place to go now is Tilted Towers. It is my favorite place to go because a lot of people go there and it's a lot of fun to just destroy everybody else.



Fablehaven by Brandon Mull



**By Jay Wilkinson
Tusker Tribune Staff**

When I was little, my mom would have to twist my arm [not literally] to get me to read for only 10 minutes.

Now, my mom has to twist my arm to get me to stop reading because I can read a 600-page book in a couple of days. Pretty ironic.

How did I become such an avid reader? It is all about finding the right book for you. A book that is interesting enough to get you hooked on reading.

From the time I started to find my passion in reading, I actually have come across quite a few books and series that are pretty interesting. It all started with this one book for me. The book was The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate.

This book is a narrative of a wise gorilla in captivity that observed humans and how he saw things differently. Then I started the Percy Jackson series where I was captivated by the Greek Mythology. Then I started the Heroes of the



Olympus series by Rick Riordan.

Here is a book I would like to share with you. Fablehaven by Brandon Mull. It is a pure fantasy book. Almost everything that happens in this book can't happen in real life. Kendra and her little brother Seth's parents drop them off at their non-social grandparents while their parents get to enjoy a 2-week first class cruise. But the siblings have no idea that their grandpa is the current care taker of one of the last magical preserves in the world called Fablehaven. Inside the woods near the house

is where Fablehaven is and ancient borders and rules protect all of the creatures and mortal beings from death. If a rule is broken, evil will be unleashed to all of the world and the earth as we know it will plug into an

endless chaos. Kendra and Seth will have to face many great challenges to stop this from happening. Fablehaven is a series of five books. I really liked this book and from what I've heard it's pretty popular so the chances are that you'll like it, too.

XFL Round 2—Better than Round 1?



**By Jack Van Tassel
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The XFL Football League is returning. Originally formed in 2001 as a joint venture between the World Wrestling Federation and NBC, the league was designed to play during the NFL off-season. It was supposed to be a slightly rougher form of professional

football with fewer rules. It played one season before being disabanded due to low TV ratings.

Now it's scheduled to come back in 2020 with "fewer gimmicks". Some people are looking forward to its return while others are not.

In my view, I don't like what

I'm hearing about it.

I like NFL better.

It sounds better and it has all the good

players. The NFL will make more money than the XFL but I just wonder, will any NFL players go to the XFL? Who will want to join and who will be mad about it and who would watch and who wouldn't?

I wonder what's the exact date the XFL will come out. I also wonder if the XFL has enough money to open a new business and I wonder if the WWE will like the XFL and who will not. The last thing I wonder who will be the coaches of the team and how much will the players get paid?

