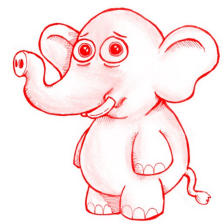


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Spring 2018

School Shootings—A Preventable Tragedy



By Izzy Youngs
Tusker Tribune Staff

All around the world, about 35,141 a year people are shot and killed by guns. Almost all of them are innocent and about 2,737 of those people are kids. Kids whose lives were ended too soon just because bad people were able to get guns. That needs to be fixed!

One way to fix it is make guns harder to get. Also, did you know, according to research it is harder to get a marriage license than it is to get an assault weapon. A MARRIAGE LICENSE!!!!

Another group of people who don't help with the situation is the National Rifle Association (NRA). These people are the ones who always use the Second Amendment—the right to keep and bear arms—as the reason why there shouldn't be restrictions on guns.

I don't know why people who are mentally unstable can have guns! That, too, should also be



stopped. Besides making it harder to buy a gun, we need better background checks. No more innocent lives should be taken for no reason whatsoever.

Another thing is school shootings should end and kids should never have to go to school with a little worry that something might happen. School is supposed to be safe and keep you safe. That's why we have all kinds of drills.

In 2017 there were a total of eight school shootings and in 2018, so far there have been 10 shootings, and counting. The recent shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, resulted in 17 students and teachers dying. And after what happened at their school they have had protests and are helping make a change in gun violence.

Hopefully these things can be stopped, and people don't have to worry about whether someone in their family might get shot and die simply because they decided to attend school.

New iPhone is Shrouded in Mystery!



By Ezra Weinstein
Tusker Tribune Staff

As most of you might know, the iPhone X and the iPhone 8/8 plus just came out last December.

If you think that was it for a while, you are completely wrong! Apple has said that in September, a new phone will be coming out.

Apple likes to keep their new products very secret so it's very hard for people to obtain information about them. Everyone thinks when a phone comes out, it means that they just finished making it. The phone is usually created a couple months before the actual release date.

There is a new phone sitting on a table inside a vacuum sealed room with many layers of security. Supposedly,



Weinstein's
Wisdom



there is a combination lock on the door. That lock changes its password every 30 minutes to ensure that no body besides Apple employees can access the room.

Of course, the CEO of Apple, Tim Cook gets notified every time the password is changed. It's funny because in the movie Ocean's 11, the casino has a similar method for their money vault. The password also changes every 30 minutes, which makes it a challenge for the main character, Daniel Oceans, and his team, to steal the money.

Maybe Tim Cook liked Ocean's 11! I'm sure the suspense is killing you trying to find true information on the phone but the only thing I know is that it is claimed to be a bigger version of the iPhone X. C'mon I thought we were trying to make phones smaller!

If anyone has any more information on the new iPhone, I suggest sharing it with your peers.

BSA's Sea Base: a Weeklong Sailing Trip!



By Nicholas Cirillo
Tusker Tribune Staff

Just visualize for a moment: You're in the sunny Florida Keys, sailing on a boat, fishing lines dragging behind you, with three or four of your friends hanging out.

The wind changes, and you hear your Captain yell: "Tack on the starboard side!" You grab the rope closest to you and pull with all of your might as your friend loosens the one opposite of you. Both of you sigh in relief as the sail changes direction, and you tie up the knot in a cleat hitch. You take a step back, adjust your hat, and slap on another layer of sunscreen, ready to dive into the water once again.

That's Florida Sea Base, a high-adventure program offered to Boy Scouts and Venture Crews. Through the week of winter break, many boys in Troop 228 Somers (myself included) flew down to the Sunshine State to sail in the beautiful Florida Keys.

After we arrived at Sea Base, we prepared our things and were assigned our boats – Crew A, led by fellow 8th grader Robert Moore, would be sailing on the Hercules; Crew B, led by your truly, would be manning the Jewel of Athena; Crew C, led by Somers High School student Julian Bruno, would adventure on the Green Olive, and Crew F (I'm not too sure why letters D and E were skipped), led by SHS student Alex Witkiewicz, sailed on the Missty.

All four boats and their captains were fabulous, and the next morning, each boat set sail into the Keys! First up: Snorkeling!

Snorkeling is a way of swimming in which the swimmer wears a mask, flippers, and often an inflatable life jacket. The mask is unique in that it has a hollow stalk reaching above the head of the user, connected to a mouthpiece, enabling breathing at a shallow underwater level. Snorkeling was one of the highlights of the trip, and while my crew did not see many coral reefs or catch any lobster, it was still a blast to swim in the water and watch the colorful fish.

Another fun aspect of the trip was the sailing itself. There were three different sails, and the sail we used the most was the jib, a small, triangular sail towards the bow (front) of the boat. It's also the hardest to manage, with bigger ropes and manual cleating (tying off the rope).

The Scouts cook each meal and clean all the dishes – which really isn't that bad – as well as select what each meal will be. Crew leaders like me had to choose who will be cooking what



(delicious) meal, and which adults and Scouts will be taking which anchor watch.

Speaking of anchor watch, each night, the Scouts must keep a night watch by taking bearings and making sure the boat isn't drifting. This can be done in several ways. My boat did one Scout per one hour (admittedly, a bad idea, since twice Scouts fell asleep during their shifts), while another boat did two Scouts for two hours.

Here's another tip: Bring some kind of pocket-sized board game, like chess or Battleship. You can play it on the boat before bed. It's also a good idea to bring your smartphone if your parents will allow it: *NOT* to use on the boat, except for maybe pictures and a call home, but for time at the airport or on the plane.

On Thursday, our boats reconvened at the Marathon Marina, where we refueled the boat's motors, emptied out the trash and (yuck!) the head, and ate a delicious seafood dinner at the Lazy Days restaurant. After that, we enjoyed one more full day of sailing, and headed back to New York for school. (Here's a great tip: Don't go to school that Monday. You will be getting back at 2 a.m., *on* Monday, and it's just not worth the sleeplessness. Just remember to ask a friend for any missed assignments.)

I've attached the photo of everyone who attended Sea Base with us, and I'm sure you'll see some familiar faces. If you're curious about it, be sure to ask one of us!

All in all, not once did the awesome adventuring at Sea Base get boring, and if you are a Boy Scout or part of a Venture crew, I highly recommend asking a leader about Florida Sea Base!



Two Views on 'Fortnite'



**By Nolan Kavanagh
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Taking over the Internet, one gamer at a time. One single video game. FORTNITE.

The video game Fortnite was developed by the companies Epic Games and People Can Fly. This free to play as of 2018 game is a co-op sandbox survival game considered by the creators of the game at Epic as a cross between the two games Minecraft and Left 4 Dead.

The game has recently reached its peak of a bit over 3.4 million concurrent players, crushing PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds' (PUB G) record of 3.2 million.

Fortnite is set on present day earth where a storm inches closer and closer until the prior safe zone is consumed and a new smaller one is set. If the storm moves ahead and surrounds someone, they are slowly deprived of health until the storm stops for a mere 3 minutes



and 20 seconds until the storm begins to proceed to its next stopping point, consuming everything in its path in the process. Every time that the storm is stopped, the closing time gets slimmer. Once there is only one person left, it is a Victory Royale.

The game begins by choosing a mode, Solo (alone), Duo (two players) or Squads (four players). Once you are matched with a total of 100 players, you are placed in a game lobby and right from there are loaded onto a battle bus. You can jump off the battle bus at any time at any place as the bus continues to fly over the map.

Some of the landing spots consist of Tilted Towers, Retail Row, Salty Springs, Moisty Mire, Wailing Woods, Tomato Town, Lucky Landing, Loot Lake, Dusty Depot, Lonely Lodge, Snobby Shores, Greasy Grove, and Pleasant Park.



You can download Fortnite at www.epicgames.com.



**By Juliana Spano
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Fortnite is the new craze amongst, well, everyone! Kids, teens and adults are all joining the game and are playing to win. Here's a little knowledge I have on the game.

You start out in a "lobby" and 99 other random players (unless you are playing and are connected to your friends) are brought into the same lobby as you.

After a few seconds to a minute, you are put on something called a battle bus and you get to pick when you jump out and skydive down to one of the various towns on the map.

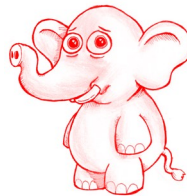


There are many kinds of weapons and other objects to collect in the game. The game also has a feature called The Storm. The storm is just like what it sounds like: it's a storm that closes in on you unless you are in the storm eye.

The eye shrinks and shrinks and eventually, if the games go on for a long time, there is no eye at all.

There are a few different modes you can play such as solo, duo and squad. Whatever you decide to play, there can either only be one person, duo or squad left. When you win, you get a cool design on your screen that says, "#1 Victory Royale."

Do you think kids and teens are too obsessed with this game? Personally, I think that it's a phase and pretty soon it will be onto the next game.

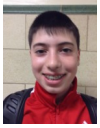


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Self Driving Cars Not Ready for Prime Time!



By Joseph Melillo
Tusker Tribune Staff

Many people don't realize the truth about self-driving cars, but I've come to know how dangerous these cars truly are.

People think self-driving cars are safe and fun. But they can develop glitches and bugs, they can fail to detect a crossing pedestrian, or if it crashed nobody would know who to blame. It could take years to figure out.

I believe self-driving cars are not safe and should not be on the road.

Self-driving cars are not safe because they can develop glitches and bugs. First, a glitch is annoying on a desktop computer, but on the road, it is much worse. Out of 44 middle school students surveyed, 78% of them said a bug or glitch would be deadly on the road. Because of a glitch the following negative things could happen, you could crash, your car could break down, and you could scratch your



car. This shows how dangerous a glitch or bug could possibly be. Secondly, technology is very helpful; everyone likes technology, but if humans rely on it too much bad things could happen. Hack-

ers could gain control of the computer and crash it or use it as a weapon for terrorist attacks. This could cause America to fall into chaos. There will have to be constant updates for every single new stop sign or traffic light. This would mean they would not always be available.

Self-driving cars are still not good enough to be on the road. In Florida, a Tesla car using its self-driving technology failed to detect a crossing semi-truck and neither the car or the human backup driver braked. This resulted in a crash, but luckily no one was hurt. This shows that self-driving cars are not prepared to take on the road yet. Even though self-driving cars are cool, they are unsafe.

Continued on page 5



Music Report



By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff

My Dear Melancholy – The Weeknd

The Canadian “Can’t Feel My Face” and “Starboy” singer The Weeknd is surprising his fans with a new album, *My Dear Melancholy*, out at midnight tonight. There is very little news about the album, but every The Weeknd album has a few gems, if not more.



The World Is Yours – Rich the Kid



Rich the Kid, the Queens, NY native, rapper, and musical mastermind. March 30. The World Is Yours. Rich the Kid’s new album includes song like “New Freezer” with rapping prodigy Kendrick Lamar, “Dead Friends”, a diss to rapper Lil Uzi Vert, and many more.

[New Freezer \(feat. Kendrick Lamar\)](#)
[Plug Walk](#)
[Dead Friends](#)

California – EP – Diplo

DJ Diplo of Major Lazer is back with a new EP titled “California”. It has a loaded feature cast of rappers Lil Yachty, Designer, DRAM, Lil Xan, GoldLink, and Trippie Redd. It also includes singers Santigold and MØ. I give Diplo a double thumbs-up.



Continued on page 5

Music Report

Continued from page 4

? – XXXTENTACION



Rapper XXXTENTACION is one of my favorites for one reason. On this album, he's not rapping about cars, drugs, money, and sex like most rappers do; he uses his platform to talk about depression and anxiety and suicidal thoughts, etc. The lead tracks, "SAD!" and "changes" explain the entire album. Although he may look intimidating, he is not a gangster rapper.

AMERICA – Thirty Seconds to Mars

Thirty Seconds to Mars has been holding this album off for forever. "Walk on Water" was a hit and then they released "Dangerous Night" which didn't do as well but I personally thought it was an okay song. A week later, they put *The New Album* on Pre-Order for June 2 and kept it for several weeks. Until last week when they released their third single off the album "One Track Mind" with rapper A\$AP Rocky. Then they changed the album name to "AMERICA". Across the cover, it says "COWGIRL; DOGGY; FACE; SIXTY-NINE; SCISSORS; THE CRAB". Thirty Seconds to Mars, that is a weird choice of wording.



Self Driving Cars

Continued from page 4

Self-driving cars are not safe because they may not be able to do the right thing. According to a recent survey, most of the 48 people surveyed believed that a self-driving car would not be able to do the right thing if someone got in its way.

Adding onto the glitches, the glitch could cause the motion detector to break down and fail to notify the driver of the vehicle. This shows the high chance of a pedestrian getting hit by a self-driving vehicle. It also shows that a self-driving car may not have the ability to notify the driver if it broke down.

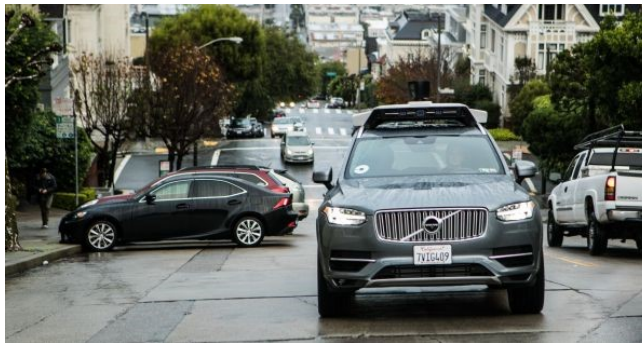
Self-driving cars need to be programmed to save people's lives and to also follow the laws of traffic. Finally, what would happen if the car detected a leaf or a falling twig and stopped the car? This could cause an accident with the car behind it. To allow self-driving cars to be on the road they need to be able to do the right thing if something got in its way.

Self-driving cars are not safe; who would be responsible if the car crashed? If a self-driving car got into an accident because it ignored a recently placed stop sign, who would get in trou-

ble? Would it be the manufacturer of the car or would it be the human driver?

The argument could go both ways, the manufacturer could get in trouble for failing to update the computer controlling the car, or it could be the human driver's fault for not paying attention to the road. This case could take years for court to figure out. Also, a self-driving car would probably add 10,000 dollars to an average car price. If the car crashed and you didn't have insurance that would be a lot of money wasted on a car when you could have gotten something else.

If self-driving cars were let onto the road it would end in people suing the manufacturer of the car, or people suing other people because of an accident. The cars would have to be constantly updated and recalled too give them the



latest technology and virus protection. In conclusion, if the self-driving car crashed it would be a difficult court case.

In conclusion, self-driving cars are dangerous and should not be on the road. I believe this because self-driving cars can develop glitches and bugs, they may not be able to do the right thing if something got in its way, and it would be a difficult court case. Please, do your part to keep the community safe and do your part to keep self-driving cars off the road