

The Tusker Tribune

119



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue Number 9

<https://www.somersschools.org/Page/11489>

Fall 2024

Snow What! It was Just a Coating (But Enough to Delay School)



By Gabby Cordero
Tusker Tribune Staff

The first snow of the season happened on Friday, 11/22/24. It wasn't much snow, but we got a two-hour delay and I bet lots of people were happy for the extra two hours of sleep they got.

The winter and the holidays, the best time of year in my opinion, are quickly approaching. There was supposed to be more snow for Black Friday, which would have made Thanksgiving an im-



mediate start to the winter season.

Will there be a lot of snow this season? Will there be enough for everyone to play in, have snowball fights, make snowmen, and snow angels—all part of the winter season.

Everyone start buying your snow pants and warm clothes and snow boots. We're saying goodbye to fall and hello to winter, getting the cold weather we needed after so much time in the 70s and 80s. I hope everyone enjoys the snow and has an amazing holiday season.

What About Artificial Ads on Tik Tok?



By RJ Hall
Tusker Tribune Staff

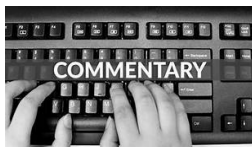
If you have been on Tik Tok or any social media for the past few days, you may have seen ads for Honda and Coca Cola and just brushed it off, but if you pay more attention and don't immediately skip them, you may notice how some things don't make sense and how the ad looks weird. That's because they used Artificial Intelligence.

People are upset about the ads because they are "creepy" and "unrealistic" or even "uncanny" to some people. Other people are upset because that ad was supposed to be a remake of the ad from 1995 and they took something familiar and



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changed it to be weird and unfamiliar

As for the Honda ad, it's just as weird. The background isn't consistent and it looks like slime that doesn't stop moving around. And honestly, it's bad marketing because it might make people think how the cars are bad so they need AI to make them look good.

So now what do you think about this? Do you have a problem with it or do you simply just not care?



Goodbye, Thanksgiving. Hello December!



By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff

Thanksgiving has sadly passed, but what an amazing holiday it was! It's crazy to believe that Thanksgiving has been an annual holiday ever since 1621! You know, Thanksgiving wasn't even called Thanksgiving at the time.

My favorite part of Thanksgiving is the pie. My favorite is apple pie, but pumpkin pie is more popular. About 50 million pumpkin pies are eaten in the month of November!

To most, Thomas Jefferson is a very, very familiar name. Thomas Jefferson was against the



idea of Thanksgiving, believing that when you 'give thanks' when you are eating, it is too religious.

When you think of Thanksgiving, what do you think of? Some might think about food or family or just being thankful, but I think of the turkey! Turkey is the best part of Thanksgiving (unless there is pie). Ever since 1989, the President of the United States would "pardon" the turkey. I thought that was a pretty cool fact.

Thanksgiving is an amazing holiday with facts that I loved learning about, but now that it's over, it's time for Christmas!

What is the Weirdest 'National Something Day'?



By Caitlin Goodwin
Tusker Tribune Staff

I'm here to talk to you about the world's weirdest "national something" day. You may know that almost every day is a national something day. Well, you may ask "What's the World's Weirdest National Something day?" And here is my answer.

The World's Weirdest National Something Day is National Crab Stuffed Flounder Day. This is a very interesting day, in my opin-



ion. This special day takes place on February 18 every year. This interesting day was created to honor and promote seafood cuisines. The weird holiday stays somewhat of a mystery, but scientists say it was in the 1800s.

The dish is created with the ingredients of butter, crabmeat, breadcrumbs and flounder. But it really is a flounder with crabmeat, breadcrumbs and butter stuffed inside.

Personally, I find that this topic is very interesting and ponders your mind. I hope you know a little bit more about this intriguing holiday.

National Fruitcake Month Is a December Highlight



By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff

My favorite month of the year has arrived. The month when Christmas and Hanukkah take place. Though these are, in my opinion, the best holidays, the month of December can be known for much more. It's Safe Toys and Gifts Month, World Food Safety Month, Write a Friend Month, and even Bingo Month.

But the most important, interesting part is that it's National Fruitcake Month.

Fruitcake has been around for hundreds of years, originating from western Europe. They originally were baked during harvest time and weren't eaten until the next year. That's a lot of waiting time!

National fruitcake day is celebrated on December 27, but there is even a National Fruitcake Toss Day on January 21st, where people in Manitou



Springs will throw leftover fruitcakes into the air using objects such as cannons.

But

anyway, let's go back to National Fruitcake Day. We can thank

ancient Rome, Egypt, and medieval Europe for creating fruitcake. Without them, December 27th wouldn't be National Fruitcake Day. And hey, National Fruitcake Day was such a success that they made December National Fruitcake Month!

Check Out These Facts About Three Popular Holidays



By Gabby Cordero
Tusker Tribune Staff

It's now winter and the first trimester is ending. The year is quickly ending and the holidays are also approaching quickly. I wanted to share some facts about **Kwanzaa**, **Hanukkah**, and **Christmas**. Each holiday is special and amazing in its own way and all have similarities and differences.

One fact about **Kwanzaa** that is little known is that Kwanzaa is based on **seven principles** known as the **Nguzo Saba**, which include values like unity self-determination collective



work and responsibility and purpose. In each night of Kwanzaa, a different principle is represented according to the night as Kwanzaa culture.

sented according to the night as Kwanzaa culture.

One fact about **Hanukkah** is that the reason Hanukkah lasts eight days is because the eight days is the duration that the oil of the Menorah lasted. There are nine candles on a Menorah because one is used to light the rest in Hanukkah.

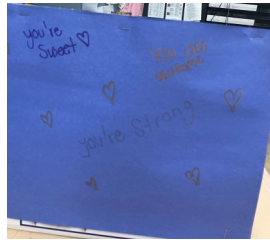
One fact about **Christmas** is that Santa Claus' robes weren't always red and in older traditions, they were green maybe even blue or white and the red coat came along because the popular Coca Cola advertisement in the 1930s which gave us the red coat that Santa wears now.

Student Council Brightens Lives With Candy and Food Drives

*Photos by
Mr. Drebycz, Ms
Soares and Mrs.
Bieber*



Two copy paper boxes of candy, and 21 boxes of food were collected! The food was distributed by St. Luke's Episcopal Church parish.



Crowds Protest in Georgia



**By RJ Hall
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Editor's Note: Georgia is a country in Eastern Europe and West Asia. It is bordered by the Black Sea to the west, Russia to the north and northeast, Turkey to the southwest, Armenia to the south and Azerbaijan to the south-east.



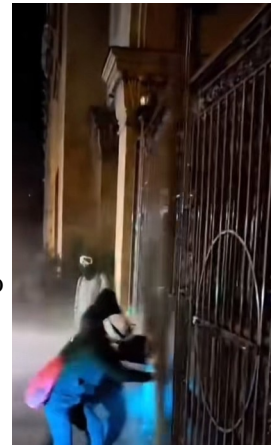
A few days ago the Georgian Dream political party has announced that they are going to back out of talks about joining the European Union in favor of becoming more friendly with Russia. People are outraged because of this and protests have popped up in the city of Tbilisi in favor of Georgia joining the European Union.

Thousands have showed up to the Parliament building in Tbilisi (Georgia's capital) to protest this

decision. Although they have no "weapons", they have brought fire work launchers as a sort of semi-lethal weapon and in response, Georgian riot police have brought shields and water canons and tear gas to retaliate.



According to apnews.com "Nearly 300 protesters have been detained, and 26 people, including three police officers, have been hospitalized with injuries". This is a direct result of all of the "weapons" being used by both riot police and protesters. After four nights of protesting, they are yet to stop, so when will these protests end?



Keep a Healthy Balance Over the Holidays



By Gabby Cordero
Tusker Tribune Staff

As the holidays approach, there are many things everyone is thinking about. We think about buying gifts, giving gifts, getting gifts and spending time with family or friends while enjoying the holidays.

While all this happens for both students and teachers, school can tend to be busy. You may have tests or you may have homework and lots of other things to do and think about which could really



stress you out in terms of having an overfilled schedule.

In order to keep on top of the issue of over scheduling and overbooking yourself in ways that could really stress you out, you can make sure to plan everything you're doing on your calendar, looking over it and ensuring there's a good balance of fun and work and time for you to rest or have alone time.

This doesn't mean completely isolating yourself from all others, but it does mean keeping a schedule that works well for you and gives you things to do without stressing yourself out in the process.

Holiday Activities to Keep You Busy During Breaks



By Gabby Cordero
Tusker Tribune Staff

As holiday break quickly approaches, there is so much to look forward to. Though the break is fun, sometimes we can get bored not knowing what to do due to lack of energy. Some things you can do include pipe cleaner snowflakes or DIY candles or bracelets and more. You can also make things like hand-painted ornaments.



These things are fun to do and also they can keep you occupied and make a great gift to a loved one that is made with love and an easy but great gift to give them for the holidays or just in general. Gifts like these can prevent breaking the bank with expensive gifts and giving your loved one's something they can keep and they can easily identify and recognize you made it for them due to it being unique or different from a normal gift.

What do you do to have fun over the holiday break?

We're Entering the BUSY Holiday Season!



By Gabby Cordero
Tusker Tribune Staff

We're already in December and nearing the end of the year. The winter and the cold and the holidays are all quickly approaching as the year flies by.

First it was September, and now suddenly it's early December and we're going into the second trimester of the year. Around this time of the year, many different holidays are being celebrated. Previously, it was



Thanksgiving, and upcoming are Christmas, Hanukkah, New Years, Kwanza and more.

In my opinion, the holidays are the best part of the year. So much to do, so much to look forward to, just generally a great time of year for giving and receiving. The Christmas break will approach quickly as we are already in December, and it's only a few weeks left before we can have our nice long break—a nice time to be at home and enjoy the holidays and prepare for the year to come. So what are you doing for the holidays?

Reflecting on 2024



By Gabby Cordero
Tusker Tribune Staff

With the end of the year quickly approaching there is a lot to reflect on. 2024 has been such a eventful year with such great and not so great events. What goals do you have for the new year to come? What do you want to accomplish next year that you didn't do this year?

It's always great to have a challenge for yourself—something to work towards and complete



may seems. What's your goal and how are you planning on achieving it?

before the year ends. Everyone can have goals and as long as they're reasonable for you, you'll be able to achieve them if you keep trying and never give up on yourself.

If you think your goal is too hard or unachievable and that you would never be able to do it, keep confidence in yourself and do not give up because it is achievable no matter how hard it

SMS STARs: November 2024

Grade 6:



Sofia Martin

Grade 7:



Avianna Botticelli



Shelley Asencio Velasquez



Endrit Selimaj



Emily Scocozza

Grade 8



Susan Pucci



Samantha Martinez

*A STAR award stands for **STu-** dents who Are **Role models.** The students pictured here were caught doing something that deserves the STAR recognition for the month—from common courtesy, to helping another student or staff member, to standing up for someone or cheering them up!*

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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:

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<https://sms.somersschools.org/student-life/activities/tusker-tribune-newspaper>

Her Fight; My Mission



By Ila Schoenberg
Tusker Tribune Staff

It is 2am and I can't sleep. I slowly creep downstairs so I don't make any noise and wake Anna up.

Once I successfully get out of the room without waking up Anna, I walk towards the elevator and press the button for the main lobby. I wait for the elevator to reach the lobby and then I step out. It is kind of nice at 2 am.

Of course there are still some patients coming in and out; it is still a hospital after all. Although, it is very quiet for the most part, I still hear a woman screaming. *It's fine, she is probably just in pain*, I think to myself. But then I hear her say mid scream, "I can't die, not like this. You're supposed to be the one saving me, not killing me."

My body went numb. Maybe she has some physiological problems. But what is she doesn't? What if Anna is next?

I slowly creep closer to the room where the screams and yelps are coming from. Once I approach the room, I see a small desk that no



one is behind directly across from the room. I check the hallways before running as fast as I can and hiding under the small desk. I peer into

the room and see a woman. She has an IV in her and her face is white as a ghost. She looks like she had just been attacked by some rabid raccoon. Her hair was a mess, she had a ripped up shirt and jeans, she looked my age, she had scars all around her, she looked like a hot mess.

The doctor must have had to get something because he had left the room. The crazy looking girl picked up her phone in a hurry. She looked around the room and spotted a security camera. She scoots off the table, grabs some tissue, and stuffs the camera. She then dials in 911.

"911, what's your emergency?" the operator answers the phone.

"Help. I am at the Northwell Southern Hospital and the doctor, he, tried to kill me!" she says in a frantic whisper.

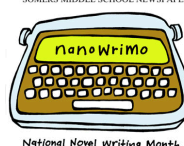
"Ma'am, this is a huge deal so we have to make sure."

"I am 1000000 percent sure that was his goal!" the girl interrupts.

"We are on our way. Is there any place you can go that safe until we can get to your location?"

I knew I had to help. I looked around the hallway again and spotted an alcove with tool bins. I slowly get up, trying not to make a sound and go through the door of the girl's room.

Continued on Page 5



Her Fight; My Mission

From Page 4

"Hi. I didn't mean to eavesdrop but I have a place you can reach safety, follow me," I say frantically so the doctor doesn't catch us mid hide.

"Thank you so much," she says and she wheels her IV monitor and follows me out the door quietly.

We were so quiet you could hear a pin drop. We creep towards the alcove and slowly walk into the space. I open a bin.

"Here, there are some tools in there but it is your best shot!" I say, worried the doctor was going to find us before the police found him.

"Thank you so much. I am still on with the operator, I will guide the police towards me, but I need you to make sure that doctor doesn't come hunting for me."

"I promise to do my best." I reply.

"Please, I can't die!"

"You won't, not on my watch."

"Thank you so much. I hope you know that you are a true hero!"

"Now, hand me any sharp tools that could puncture you if you lay down in that spot."

She hands me three tools. "I think those are the only tools I could get hurt by if I lay in this spot."

"Okay perfect. By any chance are you claustrophobic?"

"No not really."

"Okay, I am going to close the lid of the bin, you will silence your phone, and if any other doctors find you, push them to the side and run out the exit door next to you. It will sound an alarm but it's better than the calling down your doctor. You stay on with the operator and I will go distract him. Good luck."

I close the lid to the bin and run as fast as I can in the direction I saw the doctor take off to. I didn't want to say this to the girl but I am worried this doctor is going to do something bad to me while I am trying to save her. I knew I needed to help her though. I spot a group of doctors huddled in a circle and I know what I have to do. I run into the huddle and start distracting them. It's what I do best.

"Hi doctors! I don't mean to interrupt but I have a question." I say super smiley.

"What is it sweetie pie?"

"You know you're under arrest," the policewoman says in perfect timing.

The doctor in charge of the little girl gets on his knees and puts his arms behind his head knowing he is caught. I spot the little girl at the entrance hugging her mom and crying happy tears because she is safe now.

I walk up to the little girl and her mom after five minutes to give them the space and time they need.

"You are a true hero I hope you know that," The little girl says as I approach her and her mom.

"No it was nothing. If anybody's a hero it is you. I would be freaking out and you were able to stay calm enough to reach safety," I say.

"Thanks but I thank you," she replies.

"I hope you know how much you saved our family, little girl," the mom says to me while happy crying.

I have never felt more important before. The whole hospital is now quiet. I guess it was always quiet but not in my head. When I saw that little girl, I thought about Anna.

Wait, ANNA!

Pink: The Poem



By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune
Staff

Welcome to my poem,
It's about pink,

I need it as much,
As we need to blink.

Pink is my favorite color,
That is no lie.

I will probably stop loving it,
Once pigs can fly.

Pink is in some flowers,
There can be pink in the sky,

I even like pink,
More than apple pie!

Pink is so pretty,
And I love it so,

It's the best color,
I do hope you know.

This poem is ending,
And that's kind of sad,

But if you also love pink,
Then you made me glad.

So now I am wrapping up this poem,
But before I do,



There is one more thing to say,
That is very true.

I do love pink,
And that's again so true,

But I think I

am starting,
To really like blue!

Cause blue is a nice color,
One of the best to exist,

So now I will leave you,
With that big twist!