TUSKERS
SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

23
NEWSPAPER CLUB
TUSKER TRIBUNE

Issue Number 28 **https://www.somersschools.org/Page/11489** **SPRING 2025**

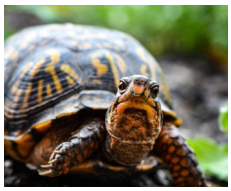
Celebrate World Turtle Day TODAY!



By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff

World Turtle Day is today! It is celebrated every year, and it's a special day to learn about turtles and help protect them!

Turtles are amazing animals that have been around for millions of years. Some live on land, while others live in the water. Regardless, they all have shells to protect them!



Sadly, many turtles are in danger today because of pollution, plastic waste, and people taking them from their homes. That's why World Turtle Day is important. It reminds us to take care of our environment!

There are many things you can do to celebrate, such as learning fun facts about turtles, picking up trash at your local park or beach, or even drawing pictures of turtles. Some people will even wear green to show their support!

Turtles may be slow, but they are very special. They are beautiful creatures and it's our job to keep them safe! But anyway, enough about all of that and have an amazing World Turtle Day!

NIL Fills Players' Wallets



By Cole Dolan
Tusker Tribune Staff

Big changes are happening in college football—and they're all about three little letters: NIL.

NIL stands for Name**,** Image**,** and Likeness, and it's a new rule that lets college athletes get paid for things like sponsorships, autographs, and social media posts.

Before NIL, athletes weren't allowed to make money while playing sports in college, even if they were superstars. Now, that's all changed.



So how does NIL work? Let's say a quarterback is really popular and has a lot of fans. A local pizza shop might pay him to appear in a commercial or post about their pizza on Instagram. That player gets money just for being himself—and using his fame. For many athletes, this is a huge opportunity. Some players are making thousands (or even millions) of dollars from deals with companies. It helps them support their families, save for the future, or just enjoy the rewards of their hard work. But not everyone agrees on how NIL is affecting the game. Some people think it's unfair because players at bigger schools with more fans get more money. Some people worry it's turning college football into a business, not a sport.

Still, one thing's for sure: NIL is here to stay, and it's already changing the way college football looks and feels. More players are transferring schools to find better deals, and high school athletes are thinking about NIL when choosing where to go. As fans, it's exciting to watch our favorite players succeed on and off the field.

Remember Cameron Boyce's Legacy



By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff

Everybody mark your calendars, because on Wednesday, May 28, it's Cameron Boyce birthday!



If you don't know who Cameron Boyce is, he's a famous acter who was in hit shows such as Jessie. I know him best as Carlos from Descendance. He was born in 1999 and began his career as a child acter. He appeared in films such as Mirrors, Eagle Eye, Grown Ups, and its sequel.

He was best known for his easy-going attitude and his bright smile. Needless to say, he was a very talented acter, and an amazing person. He also helped raise $27,000 for an organization that brings clean water to countries and raised money to help homelessness.

Cameron worked with the United Ways of America's, Wielding Piece, It's on Us, and the Lucstrong Foundation to make the world better. Sadly, Cameron passed away in 2019 at the age of 20 because of complications from epilepsy. He died in his sleep, but you must live to die. Cameron lived an amazing life and even helped others' lives and will forever hold a place in tons of people's hearts.

So, mark your calendars because Cameron Boyces birthday is next Wednesday!

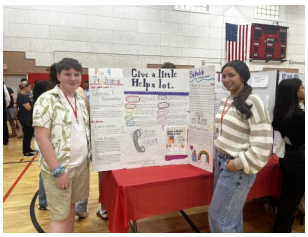
2025 8th Grade Community Project Showcase

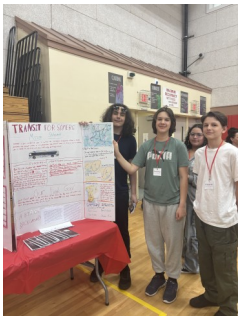


















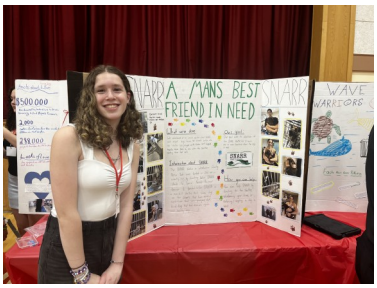




















Ian Dempsey's Flight Saga/Dream Chapters 5-8



By Ian Dempsey
Tusker Tribune Staff

Note: This is a continuing series of short stories written by Ian. The last part, Chapter 4, was in the 3/28 edition of the Tusker Tribune.

CHAPTER 5

I just wanted to get out of this **nightmare.** I thought it would never end. It was the fourth time already and I needed to think of a way to escape it.

I thought for hours and tried each one. Fire extinguisher? Nope. Skydiving? Nope. Nothing works. Now I had one thing left to try and I think this would have to work. The plan? *Survive!* How I will execute this plan? No idea. I thought about things until I had a list that I wrote down on a piece of paper that I found in my pocket and decided to try the first thing—parachute. I searched the entire cabin for one but I found nothing but right before I checked the cockpit, a flight attendant stopped me.



"You can't be up here sweetie," she said.

"B- b-but I have to," I said.

"No no no. I'm sorry but you are not allowed to be up here," she said.

"I really must—it's VERY urgent."

BANG! I see a wing of the plane fly off. "See what I mean?" I said.

"YOU'RE A TERRORIST!" she said.

Oh no, I'm dead.



She was screaming, I was screaming. Security tried to cuff me. They were pointing everything they had at me. Alarms were blaring, and the entire place smelled like smoke. I tried to calm down everybody,

"Please, just let me use the parachute, It's important," I said.

"WHY SHOULD WE GIVE THE TERRORIST A PARACHUTE?!" she screamed.

I knew that she wouldn't believe me if I told her my story. My next option—lying.

"I have the cure for cancer in my bag. I could revolutionize the world!" I said, slowly reaching in my bag for something that may have slightly resembled a glass, pulling out what felt like a water bottle. I said, "I'm taking it out now to show you."

All of the plane's security had their guns aimed at me as I pulled out my water— half eaten sandwich? As I showed her my wonderfully made sandwich, she... did not look very amused

"I, er US at the lab were developing bacteria that eat away at the tumor!" I said.

"On a sandwich?" she asked,

"This isn't just any sandwich. It is the sandwich of new hope. I would think that if you have read the... NEWSY NEWS, then you would have heard about my—our research," I responded.

"I have never heard of 'Newsy News'," she said.

"That's because it is not very popular here. It is much more popular in . . . California!" I said. She looked at me dead in the eyes, unblinking and said, "You better not be lying."

CHAPTER 6

As I was getting escorted to the cockpit, one of the security guards took my sandwich for "closer inspection." They opened the cockpit door to two pilots panicking.

"WHAT THE HELL ARE ALL OF YOU DOING UP HERE?!! WE'RE ABOUT TO HIT THE GROUND!!" Pilot 1 yelled.

"We need a parachute for this passenger." the flight attendant said.

"And why should I give a parachute to a random passenger because some underpaid flight attendant said so?" he asked.

"He has the cure for cancer and we need to keep him. He's a valuable asset for us," she said, *Valuable asset?* I wondered, *what does that mean?* She gave the captain a look and that settled it. They gave me a parachute, but right before I was about to jump, that captain said to me, "Land 40 meters north of that lake. Rescue service will find you easily." He gestured to where he wanted me to land, but my mind was focused on other things.

My Aerophobia was coming back, and I felt like I was going to throw up. But before I had a chance to puke, I found myself falling. I felt like I was on a cold flying carpet that couldn't hold my weight. As I fell, I saw the landing spot but then I realized how fast the ground was coming at me, like it was a punch coming for my face. I reached for my parachute, missed, tried again and, WHOOSH! I felt like the magic carpet had repaired itself and was rescuing me, I felt like I was floating, but then I saw that I had barely slowed and I was about to become a human, parachute, pancake.

Continued on Page 4

Flight Saga

From Page 3

CHAPTER 7

Pancakes would be good right now, or maybe they wouldn't. It would probably be difficult to eat pancakes while falling from a burning plane, but maybe when I become a pancake in a few seconds, the animals will enjoy me. But what if there aren't any? I'm distracting. I need to focus on NOT becoming a human pancake.



I found another strap on my parachute and when I pulled it, another parachute came out, and I slowed down enough to get my balance and stand up straight. Great, now I'm falling with two parachutes while looking like I'm walking on air.

But as I slowed down, I started to calm down and I realized that there were trees I could break my fall with. CRASH! BANG! WOOSH! THUMP! I found myself laying on the ground (fully intact) next to the lake. 40 meters north of the lake, Time to start hiking. First step is to find north, which I calculated by staring at the moon. Once I determined north, I needed to count my steps: 1, 2, 3, 4… 118, 120!

After about half an hour, I made it to the rescue point, and as soon as I made it, I saw a helicopter.



"HEY! GET ON!" somebody from inside the helicopter yelled, but as I made my way to the helicopter, I saw a shadow behind me. The man seemed panicked now, urging me to run faster, so I did. I ran as fast as I could but the shadow was faster . . . or was it getting bigger? It started to surround me and the last thing I heard before I plunged into darkness was the terrified scream of the man in the helicopter.

"Who are you?" I scream, not knowing exactly where to scream to as *IT* was all around me.

"I am you," I hear my own voice say, but I wasn't talking. "I am all of you."

"But *I'm* me," I responded.

"I am you future, past, present in every way possible," I heard it say again.

"Well then, what are you trying to do to me?" I asked.

"I am trying to save you, trying to protect you from . . . Them," It answered.

"Who's 'them'?" I asked.

"The people, the ones on the plane, the ones in the helicopter. They aren't people," it said.

"What are they?" I asked.

"That doesn't matter right now, I just need you to run from them and keep running until you find a city," it said.

"I don't have much time, the people here aren't rea-" I suddenly jolted back up from the ground. I hear the helicopter man screaming, "Oh thank God you're awake. Now get on fast, don't believe whatever that... thing told you."

CHAPTER 8

At this point I have no idea who to believe. Was that really me? Maybe it was. What if it's related to how the flight attendant said I was a "valuable asset"?

Still, I got on the helicopter because it didn't look like I had many other options. The man in the helicopter looked relieved when I decided to step on the helicopter. "My name is Jason," he said. He looked young and scared so I started to tell him about me.

"I have the cure for cancer," I said.

His eyes lit up. "Really?! My ma has cancer. She is only expected to live another two weeks," he said in a slight accent.

"Oh," I replied.

"Could I have some for my ma? I can pay, I have some cash," he said.

I didn't know what to say. I didn't have the cure for cancer and I couldn't disappoint him. "Yeah, sure, when I extract it in the lab, I could donate to you, no cost" I said.

"Really?" he said, beaming now.

"Yeah, of course, kid," I said, holding back tears.

"Thank you so much, sir," he said.

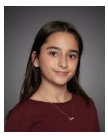
I was screaming at myself for saying that, for promising that, for lying to an innocent kid. Just then, I realized we were in the air. I even saw the city. But we weren't going to the city. We were heading deeper into the forest, closer to the plane.

"Why are we going back to the plane?" I asked Jason.

"I don't know, most likely to pick up more survivors." Now I could see he had an unsure look on his face.

When we arrived at the wreckage, we didn't see anybody. When we got closer, I saw the shadow. Now with an arial view, it looked like my shadow, but without me making it. It looked scared somehow when it saw the helicopter It tried to run away, but the helicopter was close after it, gaining on it, faster and faster by the minute, as if our lives depended on it. We got in front of it when the helicopter shot out some sort of energy net. Then I realized, this wasn't a rescue helicopter, It was a war one. When it shot the net, the shadow stopped moving.As the helicopter landed, Jason looked worried, sad now, because he realized, his mom wouldn't live... If I didn't.

Amazing Sea Life in the Oceans



By Haley Sander
Tusker Tribune Staff

The ocean is home to many amazing animals. Some are big, like whales, the largest animal on Earth. Others are tiny like plankton, which float near the surface. There are fast swimmers like dolphins and slow movers like sea turtles. Some ocean animals like the octopus can change color to hide from predators.



Coral reefs are like underwater cities filled with colorful fish, crabs, and sea horses. Sharks may seem scary, but they are important for keeping the ocean healthy. Jellyfish float through the water with their long, stinging tentacles, and starfish crawl on the ocean floor.

Ocean animals live in all kinds of places, from sunny shallow waters to the darkest, deepest parts of the sea. They help keep the ocean balanced and beautiful. We must take care of the ocean so these amazing creatures can live safely for many years.

Fun fact: Did you know 2700 scientists study marine life throughout 80 countries?

The Pitch Clock Era: Has MLB Finally Fixed Its Pace Problem?



By Cole Dolan
Tusker Tribune Staff

Major League Baseball's 2023 introduction of the pitch clock was one of the most explosive rule changes in decades — and so far, it's working. It is designed to speed up the pace of play and enhance fan engagement.



The clock has shaved an average of 20–25 minutes off game times. That's a big win for a league often criticized for slow, drawn-out games lasting at times three hours. Pitchers now have 15 seconds (20 with runners on base) to begin their delivery, and batters must be alert with 8 seconds left on the clock.

While some players initially pushed back on the rule, most adjusted quickly, and most fans responded positively to the faster tempo with games not being as long.

The pitch clock has also affected each team's strategy. Pitchers have less time to recover, which has led to a shift in bullpen usage and stamina on pitchers' arms.

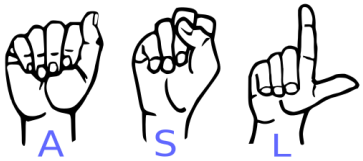
While some may argue it disrupts baseball's natural rhythm, others think it is necessary to evolve the game. With shorter and more action-packed games, MLB may have finally found a way to keep baseball relevant in today's fast-paced sports era.

Signing is Communicating With Imagery



By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Learning a new language is always cool, but American Sign language (ASL) is extra awesome! It's not just about hand movements; it's a whole different way of talking and connecting with people. Think of it like learning a secret code, but instead of just writing messages, you're talking with your hands and face.



I have been taking American Sign Language and it's been life changing! Even though I'm still improving on a lot of new hand movements, I love how i get to interact with deaf people. This is one reason why you should take American Sign Language—you get to interact and communicate with deaf people! I also must admit learning this is something fun to learn and you should learn to!

ASL makes your brain stronger; it's like giving your brain a workout! Learning a new language helps you think faster and remember things better. This is because your brain must work hard to figure out grammar and meaning of signs, just like when you learn a new spoken language, like Spanish or French. It's like a superpower of your mind!

Reporters/Contributors
Elizabeth Alonzo Javier
Ian Dempsey
Cole Dolan
Olivia Pelhank
Allison Posadas
Haley Sander

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.
Tusker Tribune Website:
https://sms.somersschools.org/student-life/activities/tusker-tribune-newspaper