The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue 5 Fall 2026

146

NEWSPAPER CLUB

TUSKER TRIBUNE

Unity Day Makes a Strong Statement Against Bullying

By Francesca Steinberg
Tusker Tribune Staff

Wednesday, October 21 was the day to show that everyone matters. Everyone wore orange to show Unity.

Showing unity can help someone during the toughest time of their day, week, or even year.

Saying “good morning” or just giving someone a smile can make someone's day. Being nice costs nothing whereas bullying can cost a life. You never know what someone is going through until you walk in their shoes.

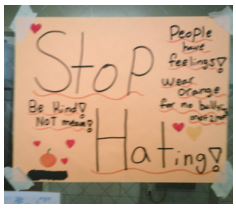
This all comes back to No Place for Hate. Everyone knows the golden rule, treat people the way you want to be treated. It was great to see so many people wearing orange this week to show that everyone matters, no matter what. For the people who are getting bullied or have been bullied, just know it is OK to stand up for yourself and tell a trusted adult. These are just some ways to stop bullying. If you see something, say something. You can change a life.











Take a look at some additional photos by Claire Dooley and Julia Toscanos from Unity Day at SMS on Page 2



By Matteo Carrasco
Tusker Tribune Staff

During the previous week, some very interesting things happened at Somers Middle School.

The Makerspace was open, there was an unexpected evacuation drill, and so much more! In this new installment of The Tusker Tribune, you will be caught up to date with everything that happened in Somers Middle School this past week!

A very popular thing that happened this week was the kickoff of Somers Middle School Intramurals on Tuesday, October 13. The sport that was on the agenda that day was Two Hand Touch Football featuring a celebrity player and host, Mr. Paulmeno. It’s a very popular sport, especially in Somers.

Another big thing that took place was the first meeting of the No Place for Hate, (NPFH) club on Wednesday, with Mrs. Morrison as the host. Staying on the theme of big clubs, the A.T Academic Triathlon Club kicked off this Thursday. A lot of people enjoyed testing out their academic knowledge in fun, energetic trivia alongside Mr. Dell. So many clubs this week!

And who could forget about the International Club, which had its first meeting on Thursday, October 15, where you get to watch cultural movies, learn about different cultures, eat international snacks, and so much more cool stuff!

Moving on from clubs, a very cool thing that took place on Monday, October 12 was the Tusker Recess Zone, which only takes place once a week. There were board games, puzzles, and creative activities. And if you didn’t want to play anything, you could just relax and chill during the recess period.

So much happened this week in Somers Middle School, everything from clubs, to drills, and even recess, and the year has just begun! There will be so much more to happen in the following months and even weeks.

Next week, there will be so much other cool stuff that will happen. This is the week update of the Tusker tTribune. Until next week!

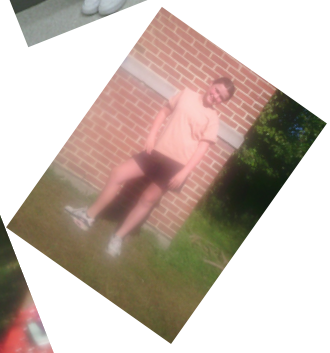







TAREA

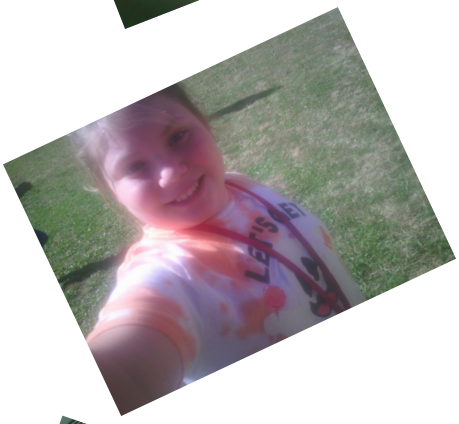








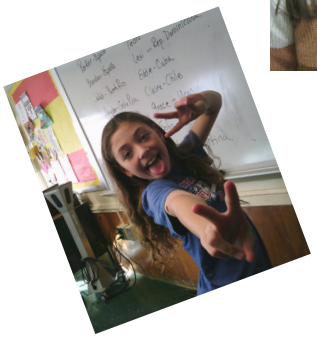

NO PLACE
FOR HATE
SUPPORTS
UNITY
DAY
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21
WEAR ORANGE




SEND A VISIBLE MESSAGE TO PREVENT BULLYING
UNITY
DAY
OCT
21
2026












UNITY
DAY





A work of art by Chelsea Lainez-Lieb to get YOU into the Halloween Spirit

Get Spooked; Stay Safe!Halloween Safety Tips

By Andrew Tatto
Tusker Tribune Staff

As we get closer to Halloween, trick or treating safety tips are essential, and here are some!

First, use a flashlight if it is dark when you are trick or treating so cars can see you when you are walking.

Second, look both ways before you cross the road, especially main roads.

Make sure your costume fits you well and does not drag on the ground, because you could trip on it.

You should also only carry accessories like swords, knives, or wands if they are made from soft material like plastic.

When you are walking, always use the buddy system, always walk with another kid or adult so you can stay safe.

If there are sidewalks that you can use, walk on them. If there aren't sidewalks, walk on the far edge of the road facing toward traffic. When you are trick-or-treating, never enter a stranger's house or vehicle.



An Octopuses' Tale (or Tentacle)

A chapter book written by SMS student Peter McCormack



Translated to English by Peter McCormack
Tusker Tribune Staff

My name is Orca Tentacles Cephalopod. And I should mention, I'm an octopus. My mom says I shouldn't go near humans. This is the story of how I got really close to humans and lived to regret it. But before I tell you about that, you need to know this.

Orca: Chapter one
The Clam Before the Storm

One day, when I was out minding my own business, gathering mollusks (yum) for dinner, my older sister, Whale, swam over to me. "Go home. Quickly, please." She didn't say my full name, so I knew she wasn't angry, but she sounded worried, so I obeyed immediately.

I have to explain Octopus life to you. Yay. We don't live in giant weird unnatural "cubes" like humans do. I don't think we even have "cubes" down here. No, our "homes" are anything we can find. I'm lucky. My parents found a beautiful giant coral reef with no end in sight. Some of the other octopi (or octopuses, whichever you prefer) that I've seen (from a distance of course- they could eat me!) struggle to find homes so easily.

We live in a beautiful section of coral teeming with life. We have about 300 neighbors. Some of them might be snacks, some of them might think we're snacks. It's the circle of life, or some other mumbo jumbo like that.

Anyway, I swam home, using my propulsion. When I reached home, I saw my brother, Daryl, waiting for me to come home with the clams and oysters (again, yum.) I handed them to him, and he started splitting them for dinner. It was about then when my mom got home. She looked shaken. "Daryl, can I talk to you?" she asked, "in private?"

I heard them murmuring about who knows what, and when I asked, they said nothing. Hmmm… what are they up to?

The next day, my sister came up to me and said, "be careful. Yesterday I saw a giant-- ACK! It's here! Run!" I turned around, and right there behind me, swimming toward me, was a giant moray eel. Octopi's top predator. So that's what they were talking about, I thought. Then I was horrendously mauled, ripped apart, and eaten.

The End

Orca: Chapter two
The Chase

Just kidding. The eel lunged toward me, but I dodged, and--desperately trying to stop-- the eel, smashed headfirst into the coral wall. Whale was nowhere to be seen. Phew, I thought, she escaped.

Dazed, the eel recovered its wits and attacked again. I swam away again. Lunge, dodge, lunge, dodge. We continued this deadly dance for a while, until I went to dodge again, and the eel, catching on, anticipated my move and BIT OFF MY TENTICLE!

People ask me, "What was it like to have your arm severed?"

I reply, "it hurt, thanks for asking." I freaked out and sprayed ink all over the eel's face. It writhed and tried to wipe the ink out of its eyes with its tail. I swam for my life, but the eel was beginning to recover and was much faster than me. I looked back after a couple minutes, tired from blasting full propulsion. He was chasing after me! I had a big head start, but as I said, he was much faster than me. AND HE WAS RIGHT BEHIND ME!!!!!!!!!!

With one last bit of propulsion, I dove behind a bit of coral and camouflaged myself. The eel swam right past me. I could hear my three hearts beating. He was gone. Phew! But then I realized I was farther from home than I've ever been before. But that was the least of my problems. I was about to go… what's that human saying again? Ah yes, out of the frying pan, into the fire.





Cookie Craving

By Emily Gardella and Victoria Ramos
Tusker Tribune Staff

Riley raises her hand;
Teacher says “yes”?
But there's something she must confess;
Instead of the restroom where she should go,
Riley storms to the cafeteria and nobody knows
Purchases a cookie to soothe her craving,
Now she has the whole class raving.
...

Not satisfied, she comes back to class;
Now asking the teacher for a pass.
She opens the door, runs away;
For two more cookies, she will pay.
Out the cafeteria door,
After getting more,
Riley comes back to room 204.
...

Riley's stomach grumbles with greed;
Just one more cookie she will need.
Raised hand
"To get water," she says;
Slipping away with perfect finesse.
Her hands pull open cafeteria doors,
To soothe her stomach,
To stop its roars.
"One sugar cookie"
Riley's mouth says,
But Riley's stomach wants three instead.
So, she changes her mind,
Pays the cashier behind,
And leaves happily,
With all three.

...

A Decision to ‘Take the Plunge‘

By Ava Vala
Tusker Tribune Staff

It all starts with a small comment from a kid saying, "You don't know how to swim? That's so weird."

I thought about that comment, a lot. And I came to the conclusion that I am going to learn how to swim. I asked my mom and she said we can do some tryouts.

On the day of the tryouts, I was passing the living room double checking if I had everything. I told myself this wasn't a big thing to worry about, but I wanted to make a good impression still. Then it was time to go to the pool; I was so nervous. I took deep breaths sounding like a balloon. "Mom, I don't think I can do this."

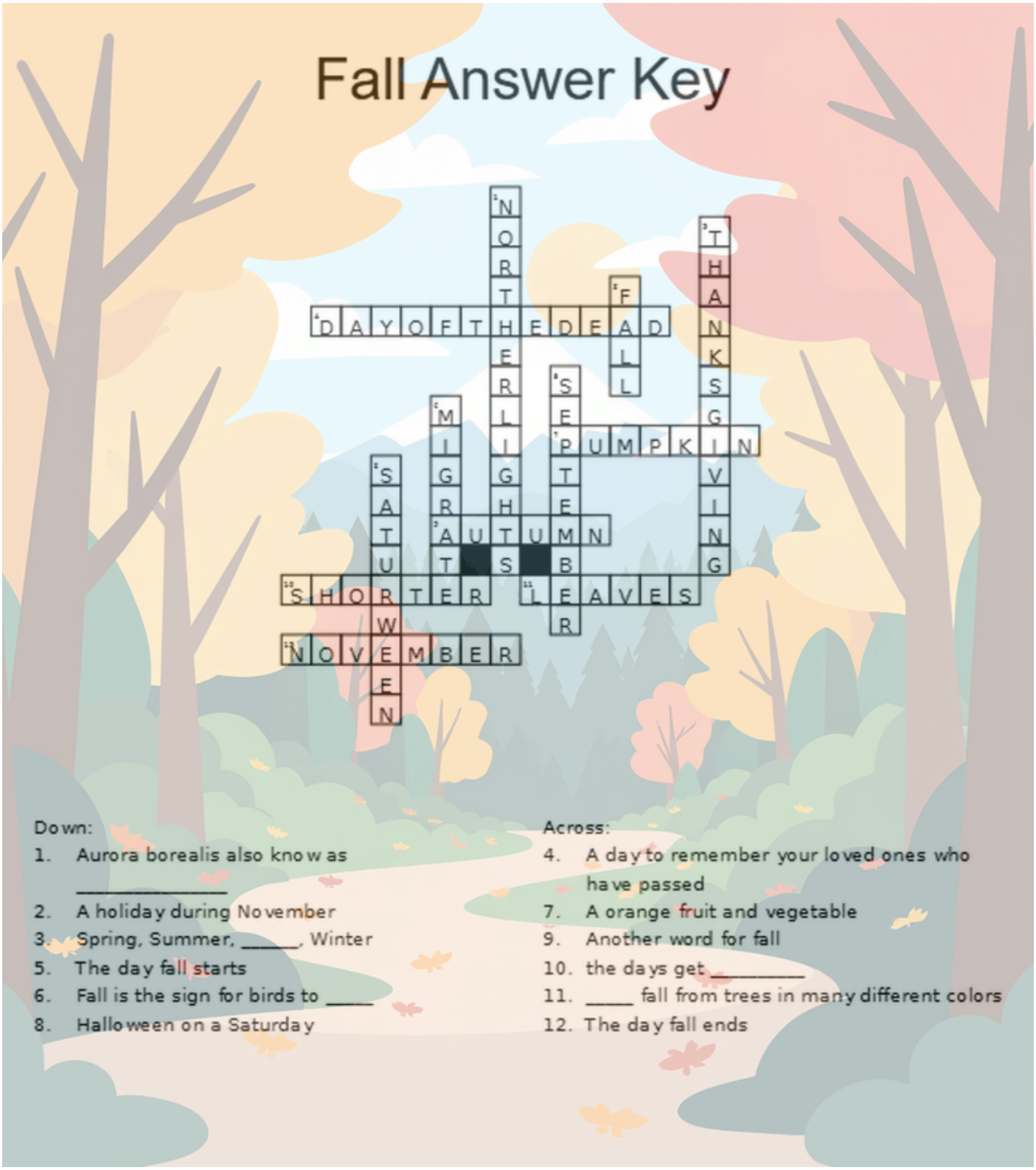
"It's okay, Ava. I will be here with you every step of the way." My mom scouted out for a parking spot, and my mom and I stepped out of the car and started to walk towards the building. I looked up at the sign the displayed. It said "Wings Over Water". *Sounds cool I guess,* I thought.

Continued



The Tusker Tribune is the Online School Newspaper of Somers Middle School. It is published weekly (except for school holidays) and contains articles written entirely by the students of Somers Middle School, 250 Route 202, Somers, NY.
Any student interested in joining the Tusker Tribune Newspaper Club should contact Club Advisor Dean Pappas at DPappas@somersschools.org.
To visit the Tusker Tribune Website, click here: Tusker Tribune School Newspaper

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Here's the Answer Key to Weston Volpe's Fall Puzzle from the last issue of the Tusker Tribune!

An LBI Bike Ride (With a Lesson)

By Samantha Thomas
Tusker Tribune Staff

LBI bike ride,
Smells like beach.
I remember it like it was yesterday.
Josie and I walking out of the house;

Feeling scared;
But feeling good;
It's the time to ride
A
A
A
BIKE!

Josie asks,
"Have you ever ridden a bike before?"
I say, "Yes but with training wheels."
We pause in silence.
Feeling scared;
But feeling good.
Time to ride a bike!

We start by falling,
Well, that's just me falling.
She's riding
Like she grew up
On a bike.



It's time for the lesson.
Josie tells me
What to do.
Josie yells,
"Peddle and stay up straight."
Feeling scared;
But feeling good;
It's time to ride a bike.

I start to peddle,
Moving
Peddling
And riding
I was doing it!
I was riding a bike!
Feeling scared;
But feeling good;
It's time to ride a bike.
Josie and I were riding together;
I felt like I was unstoppable.
I know how to ride a bike!

Feeling good;
Feeling great ;
Feeling amazing ;
Now time for the LBI ride.

Are AI Artists Taking Over Your Playlist?

By Aidan Sacchetti
Tusker Tribune Staff

Chances are you have been fooled by an artificial intelligence (AI) video thinking it's a real. I have. But have you ever been fooled by an AI song? Did you know there are tons of them?

Spotify has removed tens of millions of AI tracks from its platform, following user complaints about "AI Slop" taking over their playlists. Spotify doesn't think that AI should be taking views from music created by human artists.

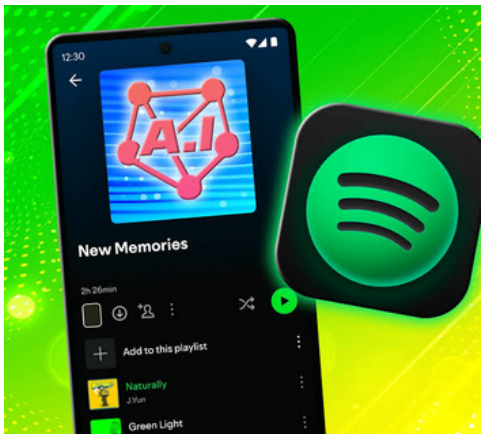
"AI-generated slop and spam don't belong in your recommendations, and we've made changes to keep them out and protect the listening experience," Spotify said in a statement it put out this week. All of this AI slop is challenging for music platforms, and most likely annoying for listeners who are trying to filter it out from their playlists or recommendations. It is also unfair to real artists who put in time and effort and get less recognition than a literal computer. The influx of AI generated songs will also diminish how much true artists are paid.

Spotify also clarified that not all AI use in songs is considered "slop." Some artists use AI to enhance their songs, and Spotify will label these songs as having AI involvement. Hopefully, Spotify's effort to weed out the AI mumbo jumbo will succeed. With AI becoming more sophisticated, this may be hard.

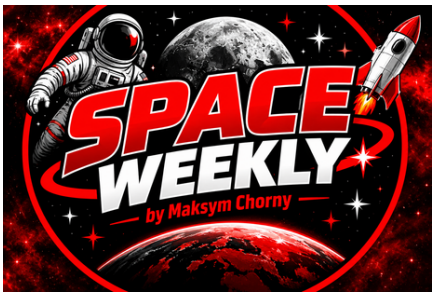
o you enjoy AI-generated music, or wish it would go away? Have you had AI songs infiltrate your playlist?

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Mariner 5 Explores Venus And a Comet

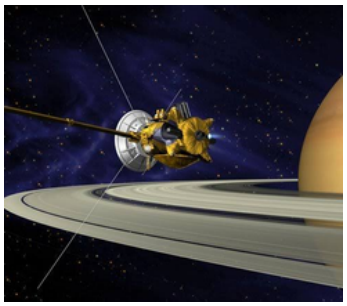


By Maksym E. Chorny
Tusker Tribune Staff

Space Weekly Issue #5

For the last four issues of Space Daily, the articles have been conducted in pairs, but this article is a stand alone. In this issue, we are going to explore the Mariner 5 mission, which was going to Venus at the time.

June 14, 1967. Why was this day important? It was the day Mariner 5 was going to be launched on a mission to Venus. Mariner 5 was to launched on an Atlas-Agena, the same launch vehicle as every other Mariner thus far.



After a successful launch, Mariner 5 had a four-month cruise to Venus. Early in that cruise, a course correction maneuver was made on June 19, 1967. This caused Mariner 5 to have a very close approach of Venus on October 19, 1967, with a close approach of 2,544 miles, which in space terms is barely anything. As a result of the encounter with Venus, Mariner 5 entered an orbit around the Sun. And Mariner 5 could have been the first mission to a comet. Why is this?

Well, originally, Mariner 5 was planned as a backup for Mariner 4, but of course, Mariner 4 worked successfully. So, where was Mariner 5 going to go now? Well, how about a comet? This was a very good idea, but instead NASA chose to send Mariner 5 on a flyby of Venus, just as Mariner 2 had done almost five years before. But Mariner 5's story isn't over yet. Although contact was lost with the probe on December 4, 1967, contact was reestablished on November 5, 1968. But then contact was lost again. This time for good.

Next issue: Learn about the Mariner 6 and 7 probes and their journey to Mars, the red planet.

Drama Club Announces This Year's Prodiuction!



By Victoria Madera
Tusker Tribune Staff

The Drama Club has an exciting lineup for this year!

This year we are performing The Little Mermain, Jr., and luckily the cast list was just posted.

Cast Members:

Ariel: Elowyn Dawson (understudy TBD)
Ursala: Bryan Hewitt and Vanessa Wuench
Prince Eric: Abagail Graham and Liley Manypanda
Grimsby: Nicole Marinho (understudy TBD)
King Triton: Jameson Kleplado and Camryn Carbonaro
Sebastian: Evan Mallamud and Audrey Green
Flounder: Elenor Newman and Peter Mcormack
Scuttle: Penelope Berger and Caitlin Goodwin
Flotsam: Natalia Steiner (understudy TBD)
Jetsam: Kyli Daniels (understudy TBD)

There are also ensemble roles (sea chorus merfolk lagoon animals, etc.) According to Club Advisor Mrs. Williams, "The cast split and understudies will be decided by winter break."

Drama Club Officers

President of Drama Club: Nicole Marhino
Vice President: Natalia Steiner
Treasurer: Lila Maneyapanda
Secretary: Elowyn Dawson

To our cast, we say there's no small part in a show. Break a leg! And congratulations to our officers and cast members!

By Maksym E. Chorny
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hurricanes Weekly Issue #4

Hurricane Debby (2024)

After Hurricane Beryl dissipated, the Atlantic Ocean was very quiet. While Beryl was active, Tropical Storm Chris formed and lasted from June 30-July 1 and had a minimum pressure of 1,005 millibars at landfall in Mexico. There, Chris caused five direct fatalities. Which shows that if Chris could cause five deaths, imagine what a category 1 hurricane could do. That is what were here to learn about today. We are here to learn about Hurricane Debby.

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) began monitoring a tropical wave on July 26. On August 2, the system was named "Potential Tropical Cyclone Four", due to its potential for tropical development. A day later, Potential Tropical Cyclone Four became a tropical depression, receiving the name "Tropical Depression Four".

While over the Gulf of Mexico, Tropical Depression Four intensified to tropical storm status, receiving the name "Debby", the next name on the rotating list of hurricane names. Then, on August 4, over a day after it became a tropical storm, Debby officially became a category 1 hurricane (74-95 miles per hour), which made it the second hurricane of the season. (The first was Beryl).

Debby then reached peak intensity with wind speeds of 80 miles per hour and a minimum pressure of 979 millibars, which meant that Debby peaked as a minimal hurricane. However, Debby was approaching landfall in Florida. Debby made landfall slightly west of Steinhatchee, Florida. Like all hurricanes, Debby weakened after landfall (Debby weakened to tropical storm status). On August 6, Debby began to exhibit characteristics of a subtropical cyclone, which was the best way to classify Debby on August 7.

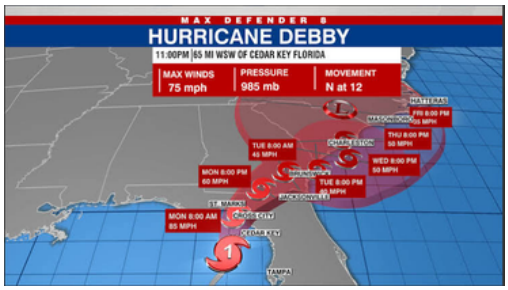
Later that day, Debby had a secondary peak intensity with wind speeds of 57 miles per hour. Like after its first peak intensity, Debby made a second landfall soon after the next day in Bulls Bay, South Carolina. Debby then weakened over land, before becoming extratropical on August 9. Debby then later dissipated on the same day. But its remnants did make it to Canada on August 10. On August 11, Debby's remnants merged with a new area of low pressure in the northern Atlantic Ocean.

In total, Debby caused 10 fatalities, double the amount caused by Chris. Also, Debby caused over $2 billion in damage across the United States. Besides this, Debby also caused a tornado outbreak just like Beryl, with 24 tornadoes being confirmed.

Next issue: Learn about category 2 Hurricane Francine, the damage it caused, and its meteorological history.

Sources: National Hurricane Center (NHC), Kiddle.





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Andrew Tatto
Samantha Thomas
Ava Vala
Weston Volpe

