



The Tusker Tribune

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Winter 2025

WCPD Supports Matthew Raimondi



Photos by WCPD and Melissa Burstell



A beautiful ending to Operation Good Nights the other night – a visit to Blythedale Children's Hospital and WCPD Cadet Matthew Raimondi. Our Cadets surrounded Matthew in a show of love and support as this courageous young man continues his recovery. We are all rooting for Matthew as he continues medical care for gunshot wounds he suffered in a domestic violence incident at his home. We continue to stand with the Somers community in support of Matthew, his mom Christina and the entire Raimondi family. Please keep them in your prayers.

—Text courtesy of Westchester County Police Department Facebook

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Fun Indoor Winter Activities



By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever been bored during the winter, stuck inside at home and not knowing what to do? Well, there are numerous fun indoor activities to do during the winter months when you need to stay inside and need some entertainment.

One of the most popular options is engaging in games or card games such as Monopoly, Uno, Go Fish and plenty more. Another quite popular indoor activity is watching winter or holiday themed movies such as "The Polar Express" and "Home Alone" while eating some baked treats.

That brings us on to the last popular thing! Baking is also a fantastic way to spend time indoors during the winter. Filling up the house with delicious aromas and baking treats such as chocolate chip cookies, brownies, and muffins!

Some of my favorite indoor activities are indoor ice-skating, which is my personal favorite! It is especially a wonderful way to stay active during the winter months and it reminds me that even when the weather is dreary outside, there are still plenty of things to do.

During the winter, I also love getting crafty with my family. My family and I decorate our cookies together! Another way I get crafty at home during winter is painting on a canvas. You can also sketch or color with a coloring book of your kind!

Winter's chill needn't mean boredom. From classic board games and festive movies to creative baking and indoor ice skating, numerous engaging activities offer warmth and entertainment. Crafting projects, whether cookie decorating or canvas painting, foster creativity and family connection.

Embrace the season's cozy potential. There's fun to be had indoors, regardless of the weather! I hope that you do some of these activities I had mentioned today and have a joyful winter with your family!



My Only Hope (Part 1)



By Tara Goodwin
Tusker Tribune Staff

The Start of Something New

My name is Haley. I am 14 years old, and I am an only child. Also, my dad is an only parent because my mom left me when I was 6. My only hope is for me, and my dad is my dad getting a decent job in an office. Then I can go to a good college. I live in NYC in a small apartment. I also have a dog named Roxie.

My day at school was great, I made the cheer team and the soccer team. So did my best friend Chelsea. She is one of the kids who is rich and has a penthouse. I am the exact opposite. When I got home, Roxie was home and jumped on me. She was so excited she was trying to tell me something. She ran to her cage, and I did not believe my eyes. THERE WERE PUPPIES!!! They were so cute, but what would I tell my dad?

At last, my dad got home at 5:00. His job at the diner took a long time. He was there from 5:00 AM to 5:00 PM. I cheered with excitement. I showed him to the puppies. He gasped. We stood there in silence not knowing what we should do. Would we sell them, or would we keep them? The question remained this morning. My dad is at work now and he trusts me to get to school on time.

When the bus honked at me, I knew the bus driver was mad at me. I ran out of our apartment building yelling, "Wait!" Chelsea came to my rescue and told the bus driver to stop. He did but he gave me a look when I got on the bus. Chelsea yelled, "Sit with me." She was the best friend ever. We talked about the puppies and what we were going to do with them and before we knew it, we were at school.

At school we went to our home room and waited for the teacher to start. She did not start until 10 minutes after 9:00. She ran in with soaked clothes; she was crying, tears ran down her cheek. What was wrong? We all stared at her until she started the class. She sobbed while teaching us new division strategies. She assigned us our homework and then the bell rang.

A few hours later it was lunch. I'm so re-

lieved that I do not have to do schoolwork for 40 minutes. Then I must return to schoolwork. We had homeroom right after lunch, for some weird and unusual reason. At lunch, Chelsea and I talked about the soccer team. After a while, the bell rang and it was time to go to the homeroom. We walked down the halls to our homeroom. Our homeroom teacher welcomed us in. She seated us, and she said, "There is a contest about saving animals about climate change. The reward is \$5,000 for first place".

If I won that money, it could solve our money problems, I thought.

The Beginning Always Has an End

I was excited to start on my project. "What should I do?" I asked Chelsea. I cannot wait to go home and see the puppies, but I have soccer practice today. My dad texted me to come home immediately.

I missed my grandma. She was like the mother I never had. My dad said that we will oversee the funeral.

"Dad, doesn't a funeral cost a lot of money?" I said sadly. I knew my only hope for my dad was to win that contest.

The contest was in Los Angeles. How would I get there? I do not have the money. On my way to school, I walked with Chelsea. We talked about my grandma passing away. She

asked how I was going to get to Los Angeles. I told her I can't, unless I have \$246 dollars in two weeks. Then the idea hit me—I could work for two weeks at a café, or if I do not make enough money, I add a job like babysitting.

My interview starts in an hour. I must prepare. My dad left an hour ago. He works on weekends, just so we can have a roof over our heads. His friend at work texts me. He is having a heart attack. I am rushing to the hospital. I used all my birthday money to get on the bus. I was scared. I saw my dad's friend. He was crying.

My dad was in the room. Not moving, just there in the bed. I asked his friend. He said, "Your dad had a heart attack but, the doctors say he's conscious." I just want to hug him.

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January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month



By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff

Introduction

Each month, there are many national holidays. There are also many national months. For example: March is Women's History Month and February is Black History Month. There are a lot of national months in January, such as National Hot Tea Month and National Oatmeal Month, but one of the most important national months in January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

Since 2010, the president has dedicated January to education about human trafficking and prevention of it. During this month, survivors of human trafficking and anti-trafficking advocates are celebrated.

What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking is forced labor, like slavery. Around 27.6 million people around the world are victims of human trafficking. Similar to human trafficking, sex trafficking is when someone is forced to do a sexual act.

How to fight human trafficking

- Boycott companies that use human trafficking to make products. Make sure to do research on where you are buying from, and don't support fast fashion companies like Shien and Temu.
- Read books and watch documentaries about human trafficking and sex trafficking and be well informed
- Learn how to identify if a trafficker is trying to recruit you or someone else and get out of suspicious situations
- Donate to anti-trafficking organizations
- Learn how to identify human trafficking so you can report it
- Raise awareness about human trafficking and educate others about it
- If you own a business, don't use human traffick-

ing to make products and provide jobs to trafficking survivors.

Companies that don't use human trafficking (as of January 2025)

- Everlane (clothing)
- People Tree (clothing)
- Indigenous (clothing)
 - Patagonia (activities/outdoor)
 - Prana (activities/outdoor)
 - Aruna (accessories)
 - Campos Bags (accessories)
 - Purse and Clutch (accessories)
 - Ben and Jerry's (food)
 - Neet's Sweets (food)
 - Alter Eco (food)
 - Brilliant Earth (jewelry)
 - Fair Tribe (jewelry)
 - Nisolo (shoes)

If you want to find more sustainable companies, visit this website: <https://www.endslaverynow.org/act/buy-slave-free/slave-free-companies>

companies

Conclusion

In conclusion, you should fight human trafficking and do research on which companies use human trafficking to make their products. I hope that reading this made you more informed, and if you would like to learn more about human trafficking, visit this website: <https://www.state.gov/what-is-trafficking-in-persons/>

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<https://www.state.gov/national-human-trafficking-prevention-month/#:~:text=January%20is%20National%20Human%20Trafficking,identify%20and%20prevent%20this%20crime.>
<https://www.state.gov/20-ways-you-can-help-fight-human-trafficking/>
<https://www.endslaverynow.org/act/buy-slave-free/slave-free-companies>

Hope From Page 2

He was fine this morning. Then the terrible news came—he had to stay in a rehab center. I ran home without a second thought. The only thing I wanted to do was cry. I had no idea what was coming next . . .

Chelsea ran to me as soon as I stepped foot in my apartment. Her parents were waiting on the nice fuzzy chair. They told me the most important

news of my life. They handed me a white envelope. I opened the envelope and there was a check for \$246 dollars. The exact amount of money I need to get to Los Angeles. Chelsea's parents said they would take me to Los Angeles. I hugged them so tightly. I never had this type of feeling.

The day came. I waited for this. All the money from my job went to my grandma's funeral. The flight was late afternoon, so I had time to say thank you to Chelsea's parents the whole time I was there.



Space is Constantly Changing



By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever wondered what is going on in space right now? Well today you are going to find out!

First let us find out how many planets there is and what their names are. There are eight planets in our solar system:

Earth, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Uranus, Saturn, and Neptune.

Space is buzzing right now! Stars are constantly being born and dying in spectacular supernovae. Planets are orbiting their stars, some potentially harboring alien life (wouldn't that be awesome?), and galaxies are colliding and merg-



ing in epic cosmic events.

Our telescopes are capturing incredible images and data, helping us unravel the mysteries of dark matter and dark energy. Plus, various space agencies are constantly launching missions, exploring asteroids, and planning future trips to Mars and beyond. It is

a pretty wild and exciting time for space exploration!

In short, space is a dynamic and endlessly fascinating place, constantly evolving and revealing new wonders. By reading this I hope you have learned a lot about what is going on in space right now!

Set Realistic Goals for 2025



By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff

It's officially 2025! The new year! It's an excuse to wake up and make your bed in the morning, to clean your room, or just do something productive.

Every year, people set goals for themselves to make this year better than the last. I made what's called "2025 Bingo". You just simply make a bingo board, but instead of numbers in the boxes you write your goals. That way throughout the year you can check the boxes and hopefully get



bingo!

You can also create a collage or a vision board, or you can just think of some goals in your head. But you don't only create goals for this year, you reflect on the last. For example, last year I never made my bed. Like literally never. So far, I have made my bed every morning of this year, and not going to lie, it feels really nice to be productive.

You don't have to change your life around for new years; it's the small things that count. So, what about you? What is your goal(s) for this year?

Looking For a 2025 Resolution? Here are Some Suggestions



By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever thought of your new year's resolutions yet? if not, here are some ideas for you!

Some people may wonder "what is a new year's resolution?" So first let me answer that question. A new year's resolution is something individuals commit to changing or improving in their lives at the start of a new year.

Now that you know what a new year's resolution is, here are some resolution ideas! You might want to focus on school. For example, focus on your grades and on your career. Focusing on these types of

things can give you a great future. Some more other things you could focus on is being nice to others. Being kind to others is a great new year's resolution because it fosters positive relationships and contributes to a happier and more fulfilling life, both for yourself and for others.

I think these new year's resolutions are great to start doing for a great education and for a better environment, I hope you use some of these resolutions!



Reporters and Contributors

Tara Goodwin
Gemma Krissoff
Allison Posadas
Olivia Pelhank

