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SUMMER 2025



It's Just About Time . . . School is ALMOST OUT!!!!



By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff

School is almost out! In just a few more days, school will be over! This year, summer starts TODAY. June 20! I have so many summer plans! If you don't know what to do this summer, I came up with a list full of fun things!

- Go on a nice bike ride! The warm weather won't last forever; make the best of it!
- Go tubing with friends! This one is my favorite, and I will certainly be doing this!
- Go swimming! Swimming with friends or even alone is super relaxing, peaceful, and calming!



• Try a new hairstyle! Experiment over the summer 'cause that's what summer is for!

• Outdoor sports! I will certainly be playing lots of volleyball over the summer, but there are tons of summer sports! Pick up a new hobby over the summer!

My last activity is hit the beach! Relax with friends, enjoy the sunset, tan, go swimming—the beach is the perfect place to go!

There is a bit left of school until I can do these activities, but once school is out, you can find me at the beach!

The Whopper Plopper—as Fun to Say as it is to Use



By Cole Dolan
Tusker Tribune Staff

The Whopper Plopper is a topwater fishing lure that many anglers love to use, especially when trying to catch bass. This lure is known for the loud, splashing noise it makes as it moves across the surface of the water.

Its spinning tail creates a “plop-plop-plop” sound that grabs the attention of fish from the end of the lake. Fishermen use the Whopper Plopper in lakes, ponds, and rivers, especially during the early morning or evening when fish are feed-



ing near the surface. It works best in calm water and can be casted out for long distances. The fun part is that you can often see the fish jump out of the water when it strikes the lure!

The Whopper Plopper comes in different sizes and colors. Some look like small fish, while others have

bright, flashy designs. People like it because it's easy to use just cast it out and reel it in steadily. Whether you're new to fishing or have some experience, the Whopper Plopper is a great lure to try. It's exciting, simple, and can help you catch some big fish!

A Day to Remember: 8th Grade Trip to Lake Compounce



By Camila Sacoto
Tusker Tribune Staff

End of the year trip, every 8th grader dreams of that one special trip before high school—a day filled with fun, laughter, and no worries. For us, the 8th grade class at **Somers Middle School**, that dream came true with our end-of-year trip to **Lake Compounce** in **Bristol, Connecticut**. Known as the oldest continuously operating amusement park in the United States, Lake Compounce delivered a day full of unforgettable experiences.

We started bright and early, meeting at school with backpacks, sunglasses, water bottles, and plenty of snacks. You could feel the excitement in the air as we climbed aboard the buses. Some people were talking about which rides they were going to try, while others were



just excited to hang out with their friends outside of school.

When we arrived, the park seemed huge and full of energy. There were colorful rides everywhere, the smell of popcorn and fried dough in the air, and the sound of people laughing and screaming on roller coasters. After a quick check-in with our chaperones and some group photos, we were off to explore.

One of the first stops for many of us was **Boulder Dash**, the legendary wooden roller coaster that races through the forest. It was fast, bumpy, and so much fun that many of us rode it twice! Others ran to the water park section, **Crocodile Cove**, to hit the wave pool and giant water slides.

It was a warm day, so splashing around in the water was a perfect way to cool off.

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Tusker Tribune 2024-2025 Wall of Fame

Thank you to all of our Incredible Writers!

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Names in Red and Bold are Contributors to this last issue.

The Crankbait: The Hardworking Hunter of the Water



By Cole Dolan
Tusker Tribune Staff

If lures were people, the crankbait would be the one always on the move, never sitting still and always ready to get the job done. Crankbaits are fishing lures that look like little fish, and they're made to swim fast and wiggle just right to trick hungry bass and other predators.

They're built with a plastic lip that helps them dive deep or stay shallow, depending on what you need. Using a crankbait is kind of like playing tag with fish. You cast it out, then reel it



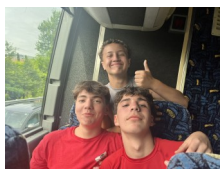
in steadily or with a stop-and-go rhythm. The crankbait does the rest, darting and wobbling like a scared bait-fish. Fish see that and think, "Dinner!"

There are different types, too. Shallow crankbaits swim near the surface, while deep-divers go way down where the big ones hide. You can even find square-billed ones that bounce off rocks and logs without getting stuck. Crankbaits are like the detectives of

your tackle box searching wide areas quickly and finding where the fish are hiding. If you're looking to cover water and catch fish fast, crankbaits have your back.

Lake Compounce

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Throughout the day, we also enjoyed other rides like the ****Thunder N' Lightning****, ****Ghost Hunt****, and the spinning teacups. Some of us even dared to ride the terrifying ****Down Time**** drop tower. It was scary, but the view from the top was amazing — for the few seconds before we dropped screaming back down!

Aside from the rides, we had a blast just being together. There were arcade games, souvenir shops, and tons of food options. Whether we were eating soft pretzels, snow cones, or sharing cotton candy, it all tasted better surrounded by friends. We even caught sight of a few teachers trying the rides — which was just as entertaining as the roller coasters!

As the afternoon went on, we found



shady spots to sit and talk, take selfies, and laugh about the day. It was a chance to enjoy being kids one last time before moving on to high school.

By the time we got back on the buses, most of us were sun-tired but smiling. Everyone had a favorite moment — whether it was conquering a ride, getting soaked on a water slide, or just walking through the park with friends. We knew we'd be talking about this trip for a long time.



Our Lake Compounce trip was more than just a field trip. It was a celebration of how far we've come, and a chance to make lasting memories with the classmates we've grown up with. As we say goodbye to middle school, we'll always remember the laughter, the adventure, and that one amazing day at Lake Compounce.

