



Shadow or Shine, It's Groundhog Time!

**By Lauren Rosenblum
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever wondered about the history of Groundhog Day? Well, it comes from ancient European Candlemas' traditions where animals who hibernate, like hedgehogs, used to predict the weather.

People from Germany brought this tradition to America, specifically Pennsylvania, where they use the famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, to predict whether we have six more weeks of winter or if we have an early spring. This tradition with Punxsutawney Phil started in 1887. If Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, that means six more weeks more winter, and if he doesn't see his shadow, then we get an early spring.

This tradition started in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania with the famous groundhog Punxsutawney Phil, but this tradition quickly spread across America with 30,000-40,000 people celebrating now. A lot of tourists visit Pennsylvania to see this happen, and to watch the groundhog come out to predict either six more weeks of winter or either an early spring this year.



Pep Rallies Strengthen School Bonds

**By Sofia Mendoza
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Pep Rallies are a great way for students to get excited about school activities. It gives students the chance to sign up for events they like and participate in school friendly games with their peers. For this reason, there should be more pep rallies at SMS.

Usually, the students of SMS have one pep rally per year, but I think that there should be at least two, one in winter and one towards the end of the year. With the stress of school, many kids might have negative feelings about going to school. But with pep rallies, it gives students something to look forward to and keeps them up on their feet. When students have something to look forward to, they perform better on academic tasks, knowing they have a reward. They will also perform well if they know the reward could be taken away.

For these reasons, there should be more pep rallies at SMS.



Are You a Dog Person or a Cat Person?

By Allison Posadas and
Lauren Rosenblum
Tusker Tribune Staff

Cats are a cuddly, and cute animals. In my opinion, cats are generally more independent pets, which means they don't need that much attention, so if you're a busy person, then a cat is most likely recommended. They are also clean, quiet, and they love to lay on people's laps, and they love to take cozy naps. Plus, they are great at keeping themselves entertained, so you don't always have to be right there with them. Isn't that neat?

Dogs are a very fun pet. Did you know they are actually descendants of wolves? Dogs also have lots of different talents. One of their talents is their amazing sense of smell. They can smell scents from 12 miles away. They can smell even further depending on the weather conditions outside like fog, rain, and cloudy skies.

Dogs also have amazing hearing. They can hear from up to one mile away. Dogs are also super intelligent. They understand human gestures and some of their words they say and their commands.

Overall, dogs are super cute, cuddly, and friendly. They are super sweet with young kids and make a really great house pet.



Pluses for Both Cold and Warm Weather

By Lauren Rosenblum
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever wondered if warm weather or cold weather has more advantages? Well, neither one of them has more advantages than the other one, but they do both offer benefits.

Warm weather allows outdoor activities, like horseback riding, hiking, being outdoors, going to the pool and beach, and enjoying the sun. Cold weather allows outdoor activities like sledding, ice skating, skiing, building a snowman, making a snow angel, and having a snowball fight.

Warm weather boosts your vitamin D because of the sunlight makes it stronger. Your skin produces vitamin D when exposed to the sun, which are UV rays, which helps boost your vitamin D more. Cold weather benefits by reducing inflammation, and it makes you get better sleep. It helps your brain function and just your health in general. It strengthens your heart and lungs by pumping more and helps your skin health by tightening your skin. Cold weather can also help with relieving allergies.



With New Powers (That I Can't Use), It's Time to Face School

This part 2 of a series on a magic Lego piece and its effect on a child.

By William Mifsud

Tusker Tribune Staff

"Are you ready?" my mom asked. My mom had homeschooled me for kindergarten to 5th grade because of my powers. I was going to a real school for the first time ever: 6th grade. I can't believe it. Neither could my mom. "Don't use your powers," she said to me. "We don't want anyone to know. Promise?"

"Promise," I said back. "A pinky one, in fact." We shook pinkies and I had to hold up my end of the deal, which was not to use my powers.

I was in my bed the next day and I was hoping I wouldn't use my powers by accident. The school bus came after I had eaten breakfast and got ready for school.

"Bye!" my mom yelled at me, trying to hold back tears. I suddenly arrived at my school. I was very, very excited. Thankfully, I learned a lot from my homeschooling.

I hope you enjoyed this! Tune in next week for Part 3! SNEAK PEEK:

"Hey," a kid said, "Wanna be friends with me?"

"Sure." I said back.



To Play a Tune, You Must be IN Tune

By Lucas Mejia

Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello and welcome back to the Weekly Life of a 6th Grade Musician.

OK, let's talk about a very complicated topic that's been coming up especially since it's the season--tuning! Before we start playing, Mr. Gilbert plays a tuning video for us to tune our instruments with. But in my opinion, it is not enough to be a good orchestra member. If you want to be a good orchestra member, you there are two things you must do, practice and tune. Especially on the weekend.

Since there's no school, there can be long periods where you practice an untuned, weird-sounding instrument. Mr. Gilbert has an electric tuner, and you can get an electric tuner. That will show if you have a correctly tuned instrument or a non-correctly tuned instrument. You can go to the Putnam Music Center to buy these. I personally recommend Putnam Music Center. I really trust it as a business. Just buying a \$15 tuner overall can really help you practice and become a better musician. Alright, that's it for today. I'll see you next time.



If You Think It Was Cold This Week . . .



By The Great Outdoorsman
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello and welcome to The Great Outdoorsman. Today we are doing something different. I'm sure you have noticed that I've published 3 Outdoorsman articles today. That's because all three articles are on very important topics.

In this article I will be talking about the a recent weather that we have been having. There is a big storm coming this afternoon and the weekend. Beware!

Before we get deeper into the subject, here's the temperature in Fahrenheit for today, the weekend and next week. Alright, let's start:

- **Today** is has a high of 21 and a low of -4.
- **Tomorrow**, or Saturday, will have a high of 21 and a low of 5.
- Up next with a low of 14 and a high of 21 is **Sunday**.
- **Monday** has a high of 34 and a low of 12.
- **Tuesday** comes up with a high of 36 and a low of 12.
- **Wednesday** is where, unfortunately, it gets colder from there on, with a low of 18 and a high of 32.
- **Thursday** has a high of 27 and a low of 18 and, finally,
- **Friday** with a high of 32 and a low of 18.

I just want to say that, those are the temperatures as of Thursday, January 29. Thank you. Alright, now that we have the temperature out of the way, I can say this. All this information may suddenly change! If you want updated information on the temperature, the storms, etc. just go to The Weather Channel or any other reliable source that you know.

Last week's storm gave an average of 21 inches of snow. I just want to remind you that this is last week's storm, not the storm coming up! Of course the storm got us an awesome Monday snow day and a Tuesday two hour delay. And It snowed a little bit on Tuesday. But that's all I can say for now. I'll see you next time on The Great Outdoorsman.



Ski Racing Might Fulfill Your Need for Speed

By The Great Outdoorsman
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello and welcome to The Great Outdoorsman. This is the second Outdoorsman article of three total, as there are three very important topics to discuss.

In this article, I will be covering the competitive sport of race skiing. I am on the Jiminy Peak Race Team. In order to compete in a race team, you have to also be a member of the US Ski and Snowboard Team. I am a member, as an Alpine competitor, U12.

There is special gear, to start ski racing. We can talk about gear in a future article. A good ski racer tunes and waxes their skis every week. Also, he or she brings all their different kind of skis to the practice, so they can handle all the environments. I only have one pair of skis. I will talk about tuning and waxing in the near future.

Interclub, which is also a category I am part of, has a race at Butternut Mountain in the Berkshires tomorrow! I just want everybody to know that this is not the manual to how to be a racer. Its just some information for people to know. Alright, that's it for this topic. I'll see you next time on The Great Outdoorsman.



Winter Fishing is Perfect if You Really Really Really Like Cold Weather

By The Great Outdoorsman
Tusker Tribune Staff



Hello and welcome to The Great Outdoorsman. This is the third Great Outdoorsman article for this issue of the Tusker Tribune. I decided to write three articles because there are three very important topics I want to share.

In this article, I will be covering fishing's well-known winter brother, ice fishing. Let's imagine you are new to the topic of ice fishing. How do I create some nice ice fishing buckets? But it's not just any bucket; it's a multipurpose bucket.

First get a standard five gallon plastic bucket with a lid to hold and pull and to provide a comfortable seat.

Next, add bungee cords to hold fishing rods to the bucket.

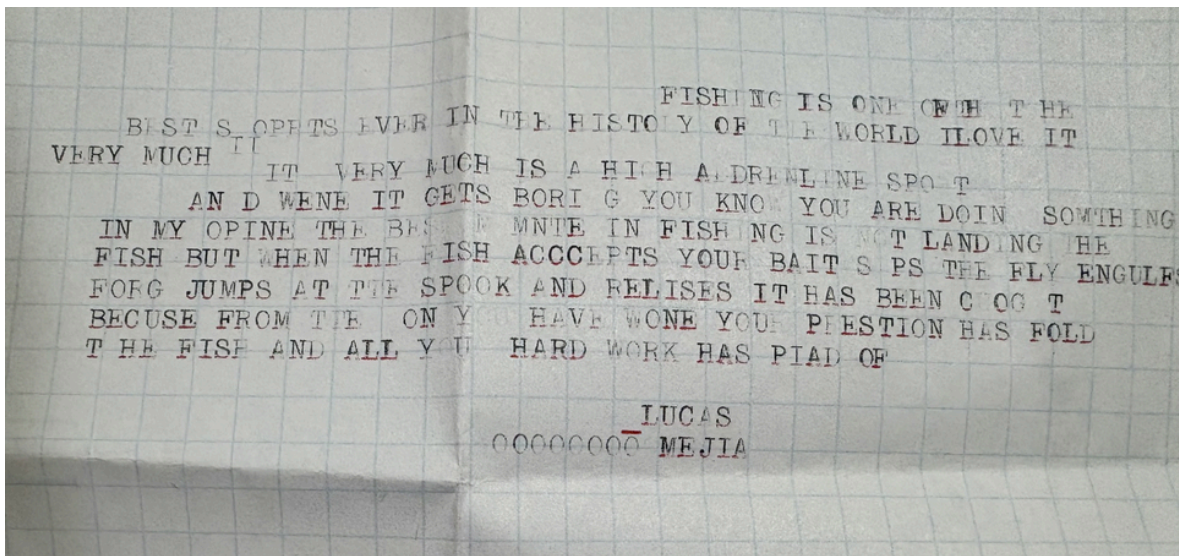
Third, add 3-inch foam cushioning to the bucket to provide comfortable seating on the lake.

Finally, use Gorilla Glue to stick magnets on easy-to-reach areas. These magnets can carry pliers, lures and basically anything that has a sharp metal hook on it.

Now you have the perfect ice fishing bucket for sitting. Now, I'll get more into ice fishing another article.

Most people don't want to get into the hassle of ice fishing when they're already just doing normal fishing. So I have some advice for them, too: fishing in the winter, not just on ice, is cool as well. Bass in hyper chilled water are extremely lethargic and won't strike a moving lure because they don't want to. If you're moving a little too fast, a bass won't strike it in the winter. But dangling a small hair jig that resembles a minnow in front of their noses for a long time can make the most finicky bass open up. Position the jig 8 to 12 feet under bobber and present it with 4 LB line. Cast into a steep rock bank and allowed the jig to sink. This will only work in choppy water, if you're in calm water just wiggle your rod tip and pause then repeat. This will catch you bass in the coldest storm on earth.

All right that's it for today I'll see you next time on the great outdoorsman.



Find Your Ideal Adventure in Switzerland



**By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Switzerland is a fascinating and scenic country located in Central/Western Europe. Switzerland is a landlocked country bordered by France, Germany, Italy, Austria, and Liechtenstein.

Switzerland is known for its chocolate, cheese, and scenery. The major cities are Zurich, Geneva, Basel, Lausanne, and the capital, Bern. Switzerland is also known for its mountains and skiing. The major mountains are the Alps located in central and southern Switzerland, and the Jura mountains, located along the border of France and Switzerland. Switzerland has three official languages: German, Italian and French.

Switzerland has the longest trainline in Europe, the Baselland Transport, the longest rail tunnel in the world, the Gotthard Base Tunnel, and the highest railway station in Europe, which is the Jungfrauoch railway station.

People in Switzerland travel by train more than any other countries' citizens. Top sites in Switzerland include Rhine Falls, Chillon Castle, Chapel Bridge, Ermina Express, Lake Lucerne, Mount Pilatus, Lake Geneva, and the Swiss National Park. Switzerland is an amazing country filled with many adventures!

Source:

- <https://www.insightvacations.com/blog/best-things-to-do-in-switzerland/>

Be Among the 94 Million Who Visit Spain Annually

**By Isabella Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Spain is an amazing country located in southwestern Europe on the Iberian Peninsula.

Spain borders four countries including Portugal, France, Andorra, and Morocco. Popular attractions in Spain include the Bascilla de la Sagrada Familia, Prado Museum, Granada's Alhambra palace, the Mezquita of Cordoba, Park Guell, and The Royal Palace located in Madrid.

The two major cities of Spain are Madrid which has a population of over 3.4 million and Barcelona which has a population of over 1.7 million. Other cities include Valencia, Seville (Sevilla), Zaragoza, Malaga, Murcia, Palma, and Bilbao. Spain is among the top five most visited countries globally, coming in at number 2 after France and ahead of the United States, Turkey, and Italy. Each year, approximately 94 million international visitors visit Spain.

Spain has four official languages including Spanish, Catalan, Galician, and Basque. Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world with over 580 million speakers. Spain is a very nice and fascinating country you should add to your bucket list!



Source:

- <https://www.insightvacations.com/blog/interesting-facts-about-spain/>

The Best Feedback, Right?

By Allison Posadas
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hi. Today I'm writing another suspense story called "The "best" feedback, right?" This story is about a girl named Rita and she loved using an app called "Positive Ai" since her grades were slipping. Rita thought this was perfect, to bring her grades up! So, let's get this started. Before you read this story, I want to tell you that it's a fictional story, and there might be more than 2 parts, so get ready.

The app was called "Positive Ai". It started out as a normal Ai app. It was supposed to help me finish my essay, right? I was always getting A-plus-grades ever since I started using it, but no one would ever know.

One night I was texting my friend, Grace: "Hey want to play some video games? I'm planning on studying tomorrow instead."

But then a big red text box popped up on my screen, and it states "No, you must study for your science test, and don't listen to Grace. She's just a bad influence who tries to blackmail you all the time"

I looked around my room for a moment. *Did my computer just tell me what to do? Well, it's not possible, how would by computer even know that Grace is my best friend, and I know she would never do that, right?* I stared at the red box that popped up on my screen one last time, but every time I look at it, my heart starts thumping, faster and faster.

"Grace would never blackmail me?" I say, while looking at the picture of me and Grace together. "This is completely untrue!"

I look outside my window and think to myself, *You know what, I'm just going to finish up my essay, and then ask Grace about what she thinks just happened.* A couple minutes later, I start doing my essay. *Hmm, this is really confusing, I'm going to mak Positive Ai do it for me. I'm struggling a lot . . .* Soon I ask the app, "Positive Ai" to do my essay for me. *No one will notice right? Plus, all this schoolwork is too much work!*

I jump on my bed and soon I text Grace, asking if she knows what that red box popped up on my screen.

Rita's texts: "Hey Grace!"

Grace's texts: "Hi, what's up are you studying?"

Rita's texts: "I guess so, but I have a question."

Grace's texts: "What's up?"

Rita's texts: "Are you by chance blackmailing me and that you're trying to replace me?"

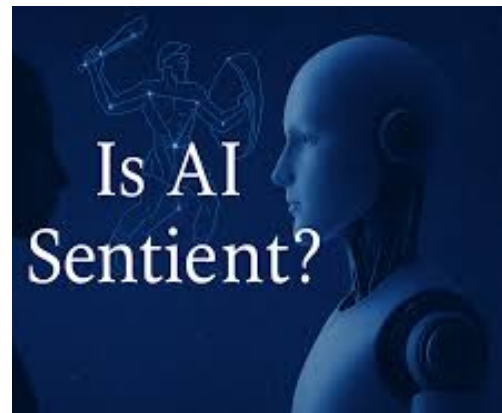
Grace's texts: "What kind of dumb question is that? Of course not!" Grace's perspective: *Oh my gosh, how does she know I'm blackmailing her! And how does she know I'm replacing her with Livvie?*

The next morning, in the school cafeteria.

Grace: "Hi Rita, how was your day so far?"

I looked around the cafeteria and then at her. Grace was looking at me with a worried smile, and a half-eaten sandwich. "Well, first you totally ghosted my text last night!" As I say this, I'm about to sit down next to her.

Continued on Page 8



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.

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To visit the Tusker Tribune Website, click here: [Tusker Tribune School Newspaper](#)



The Tusker Tribune
SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

The Best Feedback

From Page 7

"Ghost you? I was trying to finish up my essay on history! And you know we would get in trouble if we didn't finish it by today!" she says with a confused expression, then soon takes a bite of her half-eaten apple.

"Grace! Come on, I know you weren't doing your history essay, and want to know why I know? It's because you finished it with Livvie!"

"OK, well at least I did not use the Ai app called "Positive Ai!"

"Whatever, I'm going to class early."

"Wait Rita! Stop!" Grace says while running to catch her.

"What is it now, Grace? I know you're trying to replace me, and even blackmail me. You think I'm dumb?"

"Blackmail you? I would never blackmail you nor replace you. Where are you getting this false information from?"

"That's exactly what a saboteur would say," Rita whispered, her eyes staring at her phone. "The app warned me. It said you want to replace me."

"What app?"

"Positive Ai! I use it every time, because my grades were slipping, but now I'm glad I've been using it because it told me you're trying to replace me and blackmail me!"

"Yeah right, like I would do that to you."

I show Grace my phone. "Here, look at it yourself!"

Grace: *How does a dumb ai app know I'm trying to blackmail her! Maybe they have become best friends at this point!*

But as I showed my friend Grace the notification, it suddenly disappeared and gave me a new notification: "Good job Rita"! You stood up for yourself. Guess I taught you well over the week! Keep on going!"

Grace: "Did the app just compliment you for doing well?"

"Yes Grace, now scram! Go hang out with your other friends, because clearly, they are better than me."

During history class

The History teacher: "Hey Rita, can we talk about your essay?"

"Yeah for sure!" I say while looking around the classroom, then at Grace. Wait, I mean BETRAYER.

The history teacher said, "So, as I was reading your essay, I see that there are words that are not appropriate for 8th graders. Can you tell me the meaning of this word?" Points at the word

"Uhm. No sir."

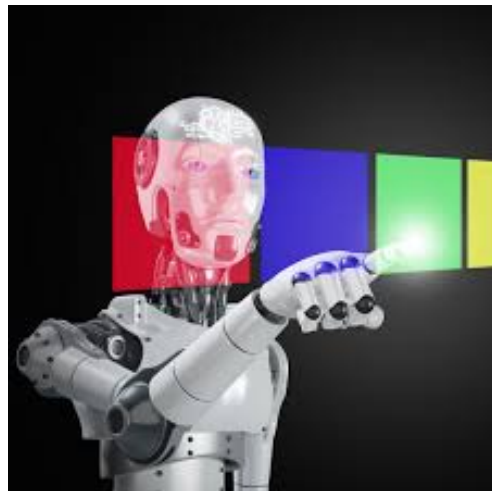
"Exactly. By chance have you been using 'Positive Ai'?"

"No...? Why would I?"

The history teacher: "Detention after school, and your grade will be a 0, and you will not have the chance to do retakes."

The bell rings

"Can't my day get any worse? First, I lost my best friend Grace because of this dumb ai app. And now detention. UGH"



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What is 'Prince Rupert's Drop'?

By Kaylee Jeon
Tusker Tribune Staff

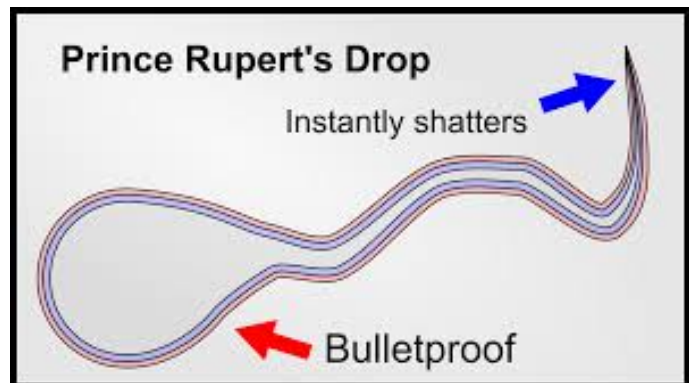
Did you know there is a structure that cannot be broken with even a bullet, but can be broken with a single push downward at its end?

This structure is called Prince Rupert's Drop. The drop is named after Prince Rupert of the Rhine who introduced this drop to Europe. This enabled the Royal Society of England to study this drop, which is why this drop is named after him.

It is created by dripping liquified glass into water. It has the shape of tadpole, and the bulb side of the drop can withstand forces up to 700 megapascals, allowing it to stay unbroken even against some types of steel.

While this structure is very strong, the tip of the drop is very fragile. Even one little harmful tap can cause the drop to be damaged and explode. This is because there are two different types of stress on both sides of the drop. High tensile stress in the tail and high compressive stress in the bulb. When the tail gets damaged, the internal stress in the bulb is let out causing high-speed cracking or making the drop "explode."

Prince Rupert's Drop is an impressive structure that is both super strong and fragile at the same time. The glass used in buildings like windows use the same concept as this to create strong and durable glass.



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