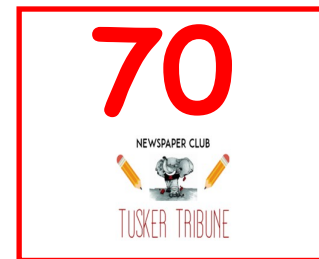


The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER



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Winter 2025

AI: Supporters and Opponents



By Leo Mundis
Tusker Tribune Staff
What is AI?

AI, short for artificial intelligence, is an extremely popular and well-known field of study, especially in recent years, about computer systems that have the capabilities to do tasks that are on-par with, and even exceeding, human abilities. Tasks include problem solving, critical thinking, and reasoning.



Generative AI is one of the most popular types of AI (which is very often confused with AI as a whole), which doesn't just reason, but also creates entirely new content of its own, like writing, art, or music. Famous examples of this include the Chat-GPT and DALL-E by OpenAI, and the Chinese Deepseek.

It has become extremely popular because its abilities under big companies have improved hugely in recent years and has made its way into many distinct aspects of life, including school, work, and day-to-day activities.

Pro-AI Movements

Many people who support the usage of AI, for several reasons and purposes, are in favor of it because they are in favor of the general advancement of technology. AI is expected by many, even some on the anti-AI side, to improve healthcare, make general life easier by allowing people to



focus on more important things than the repetitive tasks AI can do, and help to solve crucial global problems such as environmental catastrophe or clean energy.

In education, people who have a pro-AI stance believe that AI is compatible with authentic, personalized learning, to support, not to replace, human growth, development, and reasoning.

Anti-AI Movements

People who are against the use of AI, either completely or for specific cases (like AI-art, AI-generated images, or using AI to create academic writing) take a wide variety of views, often united by concerns over either sacrifice of human creativity, fear of job losses, or the environment. Another slightly rarer fear is AI singularity, in which AI obtains complete control and exterminates humanity.



They often value humanity as superior to any other kind of intelligence (sometimes called anthropocentrism) and are sometimes worried about privacy and the fact that the WEF estimates 85 million will lose jobs due to AI (although AI is expected to also create new jobs).

In school, people who are against AI think that too many students use generated AI to cheat on papers or tests, where instead of using it to learn or support their academic development, replacing the student's own creativity and intelligence.

What's your Point of View? Should AI, or more specifically generated AI, be embraced or

National Puppy Day is March 23



By Olivia Pelhank
Tusker Tribune Staff

Mark your calendar because March 23 is National Puppy Day! To everyone who has one or just people who love the furry creatures as much as I do, this is an exciting day where you can give a gift to the greatest gift or just celebrate the unconditional love puppies bring to us every single day!

Colleen Paige established National Puppy Day in 2006. She also established National Dog Day, which is August 26, in 2004 to raise awareness about adoption from shelters.

While this is one of the cutest national holidays I have ever heard of, it's important to remem-



ber the reason behind it. Colleen Paige established the holiday to encourage people to adopt from shelters and educate people about the horrors of puppy mills. She also created the holiday to educate people how big of a responsibility puppy's can be.

As someone who has grown up with dogs, they can be very hard work. Everyone in my family has to pitch in in order to take care of my

two dogs. I feed them in the mornings and afternoons and brush one of them twice a week. Colleen Paige wants to bring awareness that puppies are very hard work, and you should do lots of research before adopting.

Continued on Page 3

The 'Her-story' of Women's History Month



**By Mackenzie Picco
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Women's History Month started out as just "Women's History Week" in the small city of Santa Rosa, California. In 1980, a pool of women's groups and historians fought long and hard for the national recognition this powerful week deserved. Finally, later in 1980, President Jimmy Carter declared the week of March 8th National Women's History Month.

"Too often, the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well."

--President Jimmy Carter's message designating National Women's Week.

In 1987, Women's History Week went to Women's History Month with Congress passing Public Law 100-9, designating March as



"Women's History Month." Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional declarations requesting and authorizing the current president to proclaim March of

each year as Women's History Month.

Important Women in History:

Marie Curie: Marie Curie is best known for her work on radioactivity and the discovery of the elements polonium and radium. She was the first



woman to win a Nobel Prize in science and the only person to win Nobel Prizes in two scientific disciplines.

Susan B. Anthony: best known as an American women's rights activist, she was a leader in the women's suffrage movement and an icon of the cause. She never took no

as an answer and pushed for equal rights until her dying days.

Jane Austen: Jane Austen was an English author. She gave a unique insight into the lives of women in the early 19th century. Her works have been adapted into many films, TV shows, and radio programs.



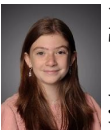
Coco Chanel: Coco Chanel was a French fashion designer and businesswoman who is known for her revolutionary designs, including the little black dress, Chanel suit, and Chanel No.

5 perfume.

There are so many Important women all throughout history and is important to remember the women in all of our lives; including moms, daughters, sisters, cousins, aunts, grandmas, spouses, and any other female figure in your life.



Check Those 'Facts; On Snapple Bottle Caps



**By Charlotte Frankie
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If you've ever had a Snapple Tea, you've probably seen the fun facts that are written on the inside of the caps. Some people find these facts interesting and are usually something they didn't know before. But what if I told you that a lot of the iconic Snapple "Real Facts" are actually incorrect?

Snapple has printed Real Facts on its bottle cap since 2002. Some of them are correct, but many have been proven misleading, outdated, or just factually incorrect.

Even a spokesperson at Keurig/Dr. Pepper, the company owning Snapple, confirmed that not all of the facts written on the caps are true, though Snapple claims to fact-check everything.

Examples of the false facts include things like "elephants only sleep two hours a day" when it is proven that elephants usually sleep up to seven hours a day. Or "The average human walks 18,000 steps a day" which translated to about nine miles.



In reality the average human walks about 5,900 steps a day, which is about 2.5 miles.

People around the world have caught on to the fact that these fun facts aren't actually true, leading to angry social media posts, "investigative" websites, and a viral photo of a fake Snapple cap saying, "Half of all 'Real Facts' are fake." The craziest part about all of this is Snapple's reaction. The company is aware of the problem, but simply denies it, saying that they use a vigorous fact-checking process, and review each one yearly.

People find it funny that Snapple keeps denying sending false information into the world, because of how easy it is to prove the "Real Facts" wrong, by simply looking it up on the Internet. And given how many people have done just that, many people find it hard to believe that Snapple's claims of careful vetting are actually legitimate.

So, the next time you open up a Snapple Tea, and look toward the cap, the "Real Fact" will be there, but be warned, it might not truly be a real fact.

Harry Potter Movie and Book, Explained



**By Mackenzie Picco
Tusker Tribune Staff**

An article of the first movie/book for all the clueless muggles. (NOTE: not all of the events that happened are in this article; you just have to read the book or watch the movie to find out some of the missing details)

In the first book/movie, you are introduced to a young 10-year-old boy named Harry Potter. Harry lives with his mean aunt, uncle, and cousin on 4 Privet Dr. Living with them made Harry upset. From the tiny broom closet under the stairs, to the constant torment of his cousin Dudley, all poor Harry wanted was a different life.

As fate would have it, on his 11th birthday, a giant named Hagrid broke the front door down and told Harry that he was a wizard. Harry thought he was dreaming, but Hagrid reassured him that he really was a wizard, and that he would be attending "Hogwarts, School of Witchcraft and Wizardry"

In his first few months of school, Harry: found out the real reason how his parents died, (from an evil wizard named Voldemort), that he was the first person to survive the killing curse, (Voldemort tried to kill him but it backfired) got into Gryffindor, (one of the four Hogwarts houses, the others include: Hufflepuff, Slytherin, and Ravenclaw) made friends with Hermione Granger and Ron Wesley, (also Gryffindors) made enemies with Draco Malfoy (a rotten Slytherin) and became the new Gryffindor quidditch seeker, (more on what a seeker is later) fought a troll in the girls bathroom, (yes, this really happened) and got gifted an invisibility cloak (it use to be his father's, but Dumbledore did the honor of giving him the cloak.).

In the end of the first book/movie, we find out that Professor Quirrel was hiding Voldemort under his turban. (Harry defeated Voldemort again). Professor Snape was trying to help Harry, not hurt him, and the reason he survived the killing curse is because his mother sacrificed her life for him.

Quidditch

Quidditch is a verry popular sports game in the wizarding world; there even is the quidditch world cup that happens every four years.

Positions:

Chaser— chasers are the players who try to score points for their team.

Beater— the beaters are the players who use a baseball type stick to hit a flying ball towards the chasers, hopefully knocking the chasers off their brooms and/or knocking the ball out of the chaser's hands.

Keeper— the keeper is like the goalie; they

defend the three tall hoops where the chasers try to score.

Seeker— The seeker is the only player who can end the game. They end the game by catching the golden snitch. The golden snitch is a small, almost impossible to see, winged, ball that flies around the quidditch pitch.

Objective—The objective of the game is to get the most points before the seeker catches the golden snitch. The golden snitch is worth 150 points and usually that extra 150 points wins the game for the team who got them. When a chaser scores a goal, it's worth 50 points.

Important Characters:

- **Harry Potter**- the main protagonist/ character in the series
 - **Ron Wesley**- Harry's first and probably best friend at Hogwarts.
 - **Hermione Granger**- another one of Harry's best friends and (by popular opinion) the most insightful of the trio.
 - **Draco Malfoy**- your average school bully who tries at every opportunity to get Harry and his friends in trouble.
 - **Hagrid**- the loveable half-giant who might have wanted a pet dragon too much.
 - **Dumbledore**- the headmaster at Hogwarts and (arguably) the most powerful wizard of all time.
 - **Professor McGonagall** – the head of Gryffindor house and she gifted Harry his very own Nimbus 2000
- Fun Facts:**
- The longest quidditch game lasted three months and ended with no snitch caught.
 - J.K. Rowling and Harry Potter share a birthday on July 31, making them both Leos.
 - The name Harry Potter is mentioned 18,956 times in the entire Harry Potter series.
 - Hogwarts castle is over 1000 years old, it was founded around 900 A.D



Puppy From Page 1

Now, it's super important to remember all of this, but let's not forget the main reason behind National Puppy Day: the puppies of course! While they are hard work, puppies are (in my opinion) the greatest pets you can get! I don't know about you, but I am really looking forward to this national holiday!



Anthony Robles Excels on the Mat



By Laurel Knapp
Tusker Tribune Staff

Introduction:

Born without a right leg, Anthony Robles rose above all skeptics and became a wrestler to go down in the history books. He is in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame as of 2012 and is considered one of the most inspirational athletes in sports history. He had to work three times harder than anyone else to achieve what he did, and he even adopted his own style of wrestling.

One-legged wrestling has never been done before, but with strength and resilience, Anthony overcame setback after setback and showed the world that anything is possible with hard work.

Wrestling and Achievements:

Despite being a two-time Arizona State Champion in high school, not many college teams offered him a scholarship—including Iowa, which he really wanted to go to. He turned down a full scholarship to Drexel University to go to Arizona State, which is closer to home, allowing him to help his mom.

At Arizona State Anthony Robles was a

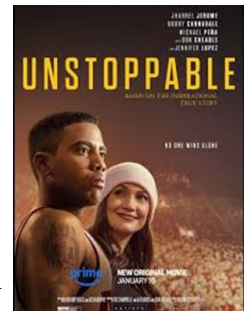


walk-on for the college wrestling team, which means he wasn't recruited for his wrestling skills like many of the others trying out and would have to work twice as hard to make the team. But against all odds, he made the team and earned the respect of his teammates and coach. But then in 2008, his wrestling team got cut due to financial problems. But after a week, it was reinstated.

In 2011—his last year of eligibility—Anthony Robles won the NCAA wrestling national championship in the 125-pound weight class. He defeated Matt McDonough from Iowa 7 to 1. Now, Anthony Robles works as a wrestling coach at Messa High School; the school he went to, as a motivational speaker, and an ESPN wrestling analyst.

Unstoppable:

Released in 2024, the movie Unstoppable is about the life of Anthony Robles including his various struggles and accomplishments. In the film, Jharrel Jerome plays Anthony Robles, Jennifer Lopez plays Judy Robles—Anthony's supportive and caring mother, Bobby Cannavale plays Rich Robles—Anthony's abusive stepfather, Michael Peña plays Bobby Williams—Anthony's high school wrestling coach, and Don Cheadle plays Shawn Charles—Anthony's college wrestling coach. All in all, Anthony Robles is truly unstoppable.



Reporter/sContributors

Ian Dempsey
Charlotte Frankie
Robert Jarrett
Laurel Knapp
Gemma Krissoff
Leo Mundis
Olivia Pelhank
Makenzie Picco
Noah Samuel

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DPappas@somersschools.org.

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SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL
PROUDLY PRESENTS



Book by
DENNIS KELLY

Music & Lyrics by
TIM MINCHIN

ROALD DAHL
Matilda
THE MUSICAL JR.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025 | 7:00 PM
FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025 | 7:00 PM
SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025 | 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

SUNDAY MARCH 23 @ 2 PM IS OUR SHOW DATE IN CASE ANY OF THE PERFORMANCES ARE CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER

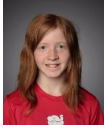
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The Untold Story of Eliza Hamilton



By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff

If you are in my grade, then you would know about Alexander Hamilton because we are learning about American history in social studies. But when I was learning about the founding fathers, I noticed that Eliza, Alexander Hamilton's wife, was not in the school curriculum. So, today I will write about her because she did a lot more than I thought and she deserves more attention.



Eliza Hamilton was born in 1757 to a powerful and wealthy family. She married Alexander Hamilton only a couple months after meeting him, in 1790. They had eight children, but they also took in neglected children and orphans.

In 1797, Alexander's affair with Maria Reynolds was revealed, but Eliza didn't think it was true until Alexander published The Reynolds Pamphlets. In The Reynolds Pamphlets, Alexander said that he didn't commit any political crimes, but he confirmed that he had an affair with Maria Reynolds. This destroyed his chances of getting higher political office and embarrassed Eliza.

After this, Eliza moved to Albany to stay

with her parents. While she stayed in Albany, she gave birth to her 6th son. She soon went back to NYC because her son, Philip, got typhus. In time, Alexander and Eliza got back together and had two more children.

After Alexander's death, Eliza was devoted to preserving Alexander's writings, protecting his name, doing philanthropy, and caring for her family.

Some of Eliza's philanthropy efforts were founding the first private orphanage in NYC and raising money and advocating for orphans. She also joined the Society for the Relief of Poor Widows with Small Children. Her organization is still active today, and it is the oldest non-profit children's welfare program in the US.

In 1818, Eliza founded the first school in Washington Heights—Hamilton Free School. She believed that all children deserved an education even if they were poor. With the help of her son, Eliza published Alexander's writings. Her son, John Church Hamilton, also published 2 biographies of Alexander.

Source:

Mae, Tara (July 26, 2020). *Eliza Hamilton: She Told Their Stories*. Three Village Historical Society. <https://www.tvhs.org/post/eliza-hamilton-she->

What's Happening to Women in Afghanistan is a Travesty



By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff

Because March is Women's History Month, we should learn about what women in Afghanistan must go through because they are being oppressed.

Ever since August 2021, when the Taliban took power, there has been many laws targeting women and girls. Some examples of these laws are girls are not allowed to get an education beyond 6th grade and women are being erased from public life.

Laws like this have impacted women's mental health. Eight percent of women said they know at least 1 other girl or woman who attempted suicide. Sixty eight percent of women say they have bad mental health.

Here are more laws restricting women's rights:

- Women are banned from move around in public unless there is a male relative with them. They can only leave their house for extreme situations.
- There are no safe spaces for survivors of sexualized violence.
- There are forced marriages and child marriages. Families marry their daughters in return for protection or food.
- Women and girls are forbidden from getting an education.

- There are many less job opportunities for women. They are not allowed to be in the judicial system, which means they can't be lawyers, judges, or prosecutors. Before the Taliban took over, women took up 27% of the government, but now there are no women in the government.



- 84% of journalists have quit because of fear of repression, and journalists who continue their work put their lives at risk.

- There are high mortality rates for women giving birth because of young age and poor medical care.
- There is racism against Hazara women. Hazar women are attacked and targeted.

To help women in Afghanistan, you can donate to organizations such as Medica Mondiale. Medica Mondiale helps women in Afghanistan and other countries. Here is the link to their website: <https://medicamondiale.org/en/>

Sources:

-Penn, Dianne. (August 13, 2024) Afghanistan: Taliban rule has erased women from public life, sparked mental health crisis. *United Nations* Retrieved March 3, 2025, from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/08/1153151>

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Weekly Whimsical Bird Facts (Issue 3)



**By Robert Jarrett
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The Sri Lanka frogmouth: This odd cryptic-looking bird is the only one of its family in its range. It looks like a cross between an owl and a nightjar, but with a wide mouth and proportionally smaller eyes.

Intricately dappled in shades of gray and brown, males are gray-brown, while females are peach colored. It's a secretive inhabitant of forests with dense understories, often congregating deep in tangles during the day.

These silly guys are found in Sri Lanka and the southern coasts of Africa. This frogmouth is rarely seen during the day except at roost sites or when flushed. It uses the same roost spot for



months. When alarmed at its perch, it slowly moves its head, pointing its bill upward, and it can easily be mistaken for a jagged, broken branch. It relies on this, and will often sit still a long time before making an escape. It may open its mouth wide in a threat display.

Like birds similar to it, it feeds on insects, catching them in flight or gleaning them from the ground or tree branches. It is sometimes mobbed at its day roost by small songbirds. It is vocal at dusk, with calls/songs that include a horrible scratchy scream and various cooing sounds, often given in series. The call of the female is a loud, screechy "shkeerauuw" which drops in volume and ends in a series of hiccups. Another call is a series of rapid "skwar-skwar-skwar" which is produced by both male and female.

Breaking News: Exploding Pickle Loose in the School!



**By Ian Dempsey
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Editor's Note: This is a fictional story.

This is very serious, as exploding pickles were found roaming school hallways this week. Many unsuspecting students have looked at them and exploded.

Authorities are wondering how exploding pickle escaped containment. There are ongoing investigations throughout the school. IF YOU SEE A PICKLE IN THE HALLWAYS, RUN! If you see the pickle, it is already too late.

This local emergency is as serious as a cool noodle being sad. If you are walking in the hall-



ways and smell pickle juice, DO NOT LOOK DOWN. We are attempting to make explosion suits a required piece of clothing to wear to school.

Please make sure you are always walking with caution and remember that the Pink Baneenee God is watching.

In other news, Cool Noodle is now signing autographs. You can find him in *his lair* which is located . . . Somewhere. Like honestly, I have no idea where it is. Also, Pink Baneenee God is on the school grounds. If you see a walking, talking Pink Banana Overlord, do not eat it. Seriously, don't or else you might get struck down by the other Baneenee Overlords.

Thank you for reading Noodle News and remember, Pink Baneenee God is watching.

The Trip That Became a Bad Decision—Chapter 3



**By Ian Dempsey
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I wake up to red lights flashing everywhere. Everybody is screaming. I was confused and then I heard the automated voice of, "Attention: this is an emergency. Please brace for impact" Then I heard the pilot saying, "WE ARE GOING DOWN—EVERYBODY BRACE!"

The flight attendants are running around telling people and little kids how to brace. Everyone was screaming and yelling. I felt like I was going to pass out from all the noise.

And then it happened. I woke up drenched in sweat. It was just a nightmare, but it felt so real. I didn't have much time to think, though, because



the Youtuber was awake now and charging his phone. *Oh God, not this again. He never ended up playing the noises again. Maybe he changed his mind after all.*

But then I heard it—more babies. Two hours later, I lost it and screamed, "JUST SHUT THAT OFF!" Everybody on the plane stared at me, but hey, no more baby noises!

I decided to fall asleep again, worried that I might have the nightmare again, but it was worth a shot as I was really tired as I barely got any sleep. As I drifted off, I thought of the nightmare last night—not the best thing to fall asleep to.

I'm suddenly aware of red lights and the automated voice again. I knew it was a nightmare so I tried to wake up... but couldn't.

Weird Sports (Part 1)



By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

There are many sports in some parts of the world that are as big as American Football, but maybe not as, well, normal. From chasing a cheese down a hill, to ironing on top of mountains, these are some really weird sports.

Cheese Rolling



This is one sport you might have seen before. Cheese Rolling, which originated in England many centuries ago, is where a large wheel of cheese is rolled down a hill, and people chase after it. The first person

to cross the finish line behind the cheese wins. You might think that it's just any other downhill race behind a cheese, but the hills are *very* steep, making the sport much more dangerous than it seems. But that just makes it even more thrilling.



Skimo (Uphill Skiing)

You might be riding a ski lift, or going down a mountain, and seeing people walking up the mountain with what appears to be skis and wondering what they are doing. What they are doing is called "Skimo". People walk up ski mountains wearing special types of skis that can grip the ground in snow, and you can pick the back of your feet up with. You can then ski regularly down the mountain. Some people like using mini skis for faster, lightweight travel.

Extreme Ironing

Extreme ironing is simply ironing in unusual conditions, such as in extreme cold or heat, in fast moving water, underwater, while bungee jumping, and much more. There is no organized competition, it's just done for fun, and people try to outperform their friends.



Weird sports are a fun way to try something new and different. They are incredibly fun to both watch and play. Make sure to read Part 2! (It's the article below this one!)

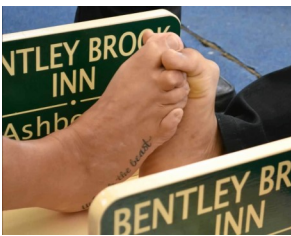
Weird Sports (Part 2)



By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff

If you read the last article, you probably would be thinking that those weren't *that* weird. But carving pumpkins underwater? And wrestling using only feet? It's about to get even weirder.

Toe Wrestling



Traditionally used to settle disputes, but now a sport with its own world championship, Toe Wrestling is self-explanatory. Competitors are seated, and the objective is to pin the other person's feet and toes down using only your feet for a specific amount of time. Usually there are three rounds in a match, each about 30 seconds long, and whoever wins the most rounds is the winner. If nobody wins after 30 seconds, it is considered a tie.

Underwater Pumpkin Carving

Starting in 1995 in Florida, Underwater Pumpkin Carving is a fun event that is now also in The Keys, Hawaii, and Lake Tahoe. Contestants take pumpkins and carving tools underwater and carve them. The events are held in clear water so divers can see their work. Some divers use scuba



gear so they can stay underwater longer, which is helpful as they only get around 20 minutes to carve before the creations are judged on creativity, technique, etc.

Underwater Hockey (Octopush)

One of my personal favorites, Underwater Hockey, or Octopush, is a fun twist on ice hockey. It is hockey played underwater. The players use snorkeling equipment. The puck used is weighted so it stays at the bottom of the pool. Unlike traditional ice hockey, the sticks are shorter, and players only wear gloves as protective equipment. Players must constantly go up to the surface for air and then back down, so Octopush takes great teamwork.

These are just some more sports that seem unfathomable, but they are actually very popular in some parts of the world. After reading this article, would you like to try any of these sports?

