

# The Southridge Gazette

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February Edition 2/29/24

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Pictured above are Carson Blair and Penelope Roy, who play Captain Georg von Trapp and Maria Rainer respectively. They are dancing the Ländler, a traditional Austrian folk dance reworked for *The Sound of Music*.

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## Southridge Presents: *The Sound of Music*

By Izzy Leibering, Editor

Maria Rainier, played by Penelope Roy in Southridge's rendition of the musical *The Sound of Music*, is a free-spirited woman who aspires to be a nun. She is sent from the Nonnberg Abbey to live as a governess with

widower Captain Georg von Trapp and his seven children. She spends the coming months bringing music and joy back into the von Trapp household with the threat of the Nazi regime looming over them.

The musical season starts in November. Actors will sing a song from a Broadway musical, and those who want a speaking part will act out a designated monologue. In the next week, the cast list will be posted, and scripts will be handed

out to those who need one. They end that semester with a read-through of the script. After winter break, they begin seven weeks of singing, dancing, and putting together scenes. These weeks will boil down to four 2-hour performances.

Everyone involved found something different to be their favorite or most rewarding aspect of the musical. Some enjoyed a particular scene, while

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others found the more technical aspects rewarding. Others enjoyed performing a musical they knew well. William Dubon, a freshman and ensemble captain, enjoyed the ballroom scene. It was the only ensemble dance scene of the show. Stage Manager Lyndsey Taylor went into this with a different perspective. Lyndsey found setting scenes most rewarding, as many required rather large or heavy props to be moved onstage in a short amount of time. She also had fun dancing backstage while the actors were singing onstage. Senior Addison Bradley, who played Frau Schmidt, took a more sentimental approach. She liked "doing a musical I know and care about."

This year's musical added a very important new aspect to the show. Typically, the cast of Southridge's musicals will consist of mostly high school students and a few middle schoolers. This year required four elementary school children to play the youngest of the seven von Trapp kids. Russell Kendall, Iyla Pinkstaff, Chloe O'Brien, and Bella Hernandez played Kurt, Brigitta, Marta, and Gretl von Trapp respectively. Bella, the youngest of the four, was only in third grade. All of them learned their lines and performed alongside their older cast members with minimal prompting from the staff.

The show did quite well with audiences as well. The show was quite immersive, and at many times actors moved through the audience. Nuns entered the show from the back of the house, and a whole wedding procession went through the audience to the stage. Cast members even got to interact with the audience as they looked for the von Trapps. This was a hit with the audience. Olivia Rasche, who saw the Thursday show, said, "I felt like I was part of it." All four shows ended with a standing ovation from the crowd.

The Southridge Theater Department never fails to put on a great show, and this year was no exception. Southridge's performance of *The Sound of Music* has only continued this tradition of greatness.

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## **Raider Recognition!**

**BPA State is approaching! They will leave for Indianapolis at 6:30 am on March 10. Wish them luck!**

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## Spotlight on Ms. Julian

By Jill Keusch, Junior

Ms. Julian is a special education teacher at Southridge, who self-describes herself as a firm yet fair teacher. She loves to read, book folding (which is folding pages in books to make intricate art), and likes a good puzzle to solve. She has a 7-year-old dog named Callie that she adopted from a student a few years ago. She's traveled to quite a few places across the U.S. such as Myrtle Beach, Chicago, and Memphis. She had always been interested in teaching, especially since a large portion of her family is a part of the education field.

When Ms. Julian went to Western Kentucky University after high school, she was going to major in Home Economics. However, that job field fizzled out, resulting in her changing her major many times. She did volunteer work and student taught at Southridge Elementary, and she felt pulled toward special education. She eventually went on to minor in special education, and then later on majored in it. Beth Muscler and Linda Sang, two of the teachers who worked in the elementary school at the time she volunteered, had inspired her to pursue special education.

When Ms. Julian first went into special education, she spent all day in self-contained classrooms with her students. Due to this, she was told that there was usually a nine-year burnout for special education educators. Soon after, they started to integrate the special ed classes with the rest of the school. Now, 30+ years on the job, she still loves taking on all of the different challenges she gets every day. Now, she says that Southridge is a very inclusive school.

"It's amazing how kids treat the kids," she says.

"The students are very individual," says Ms. Julian. She loves how there is something different every day and loves to figure things out.

For her job, she is given a group of kids that she is with throughout their 4 years in High School. At the beginning of each year, she and her students determine the goals that they try to reach throughout the year. She usually works with her kids during their study halls to assist them with their schoolwork. She also teaches a life skills class to students. A part of this class is that they go out in the community and buy groceries, then cook with their groceries in their kitchen on Friday. She likes to see how independent her students are.

Much like figuring out the picture of a puzzle, she likes to figure out how people operate. When she

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starts on a puzzle, she usually begins with the border and then works her way in. When she saw one of her students start with the smaller pictures inside of the puzzle and then work their way out from there, she was brought a new perspective on how to solve the puzzle. Ms. Julian's job has taught her that there are many ways to approach the same things.

Ms. Julian is a very experienced teacher who gives her students tough love. She teaches her students important life skills so they can be independent young adults. Her passion for her job is evident through her festive classroom and her eagerness to understand how each of her students tick. Ms. Julian's experience and knowledge are an essential part of Southridge.

**"Be cautious how you treat people  
because you don't know what their  
story is"**  
— Ms. Julian

## Prepare for the Upcoming SAT

By Olivia Rasche, Sophomore

The SAT test is coming up soon. All of the Juniors at Southridge will be staying here at Southridge on March 7th to take the test. Now is a great time to start preparing to do your best. The SAT might be intimidating but here are a few tips to help you do your best.

### 1. STUDY, STUDY, STUDY

a. It may seem intimidating to study for the SAT, but the SAT is a standardized test. It rotates through the same concepts with a similar format. On average, if you study for 80 hours you will have a 200 point improvement. Khan Academy is a great resource for studying. You can help refresh yourself on concepts you may have forgotten or teach yourself new things you didn't know. It is also completely FREE.

### 2. Get a good night's sleep.

a. Studying is good but don't stay up the whole night before cramming for the test. This will hurt you more than it helps. Make sure you go to bed at a reasonable time so your brain will be refreshed and ready for the test.

### 3. Complete the questions you know first!

a. Since the SAT is timed it is important to complete the questions you know first and

- skip the rest at the beginning. This will allow you to not miss the easy questions.
- Don't leave questions blank.
  - If there are 4 answers you have a 25% chance of getting it right even if you don't know! This percentage can increase if you eliminate the answers that don't make any sense. Don't make the chance 0 just because you don't want to take the time to fill in the answer.
- Don't Stress!

The SAT can be a great way to show off your smarts to potential colleges and scholarships. That being said, it is not the end of the world if you don't get the score you want right away. Many colleges are "test optional" and don't require you to send in your scores. You can also retake the test to improve your score. This is actually recommended because many people do better the second time. If you still don't get the score you want you can take the ACT. Maybe the ACT's style of questions is better for you to succeed.

## President's Day Survey

By Marisa Thacker, Freshman

What's the most popular February holiday? Obviously Valentine's Day! It quite literally generates the most love out of any holiday in the year. What if you were told that February holds yet another great celebration, one that is very underappreciated? What is this mysterious festival? you might ask. Introducing: Presidents Day.

Presidents Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February. It used to always be on February 22 (George Washington's birthday) until Congress changed it. Presidents Day is a celebration of all the former presidents of the United States. Workers and students get a day off, and government offices are closed. A survey was sent out at Southridge High School about Presidents Day. Here are a few statistics!

The consensus around the school seems to be that Abraham Lincoln is the favorite president. He received 41.7% of the votes. Other presidents also appeared in the results, including Donald Trump, George Washington, Douglas MacArthur, John F. Kennedy, Theodore Roosevelt, and Thomas Jefferson. When asked why they voted the way they did, a common response for those who chose Abraham Lincoln was that he freed the slaves. Students also admired him for his leadership skills and felt a special connection to him because we live where he grew up. A student who picked Thomas Jefferson had this to say: "I'm pretty

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sure that guy brought mac and cheese over to the states and was a founding father, and I love mac and cheese so much.”

The survey also asked how Raiders believe we should celebrate Presidents Day. Some people suggested a dress-up party to look like their favorite presidents. Others said we could share stories about them or watch media related to them. Most agreed that the best service everyone can do for these past presidents is to keep them in our memories. Who is your favorite president, and how do you think we should celebrate Presidents Day?

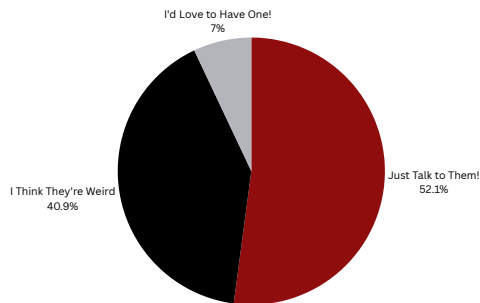
## Survey: Valentine’s Day at Southridge

By Jill Keusch, Junior

# 70

Percentage of Students that believe Valentine’s Day is a day for Prom Proposals

**Question:**  
**How do you feel about secret admirers?**  
*Based on the responses of 27 students*



**Top Responses: What would you like to receive as a Valentine’s Day gift?**

1. Flowers - 19 votes
2. Food - 17 votes
3. Chocolate/ Candy- 13 votes

## Black History Month

By Sam Stratman, Sophomore

February is Officially Black History Month, which was founded to both celebrate and educate those about the struggles of African Americans and how they came to have equal rights. ASNLH (Association for the Study of Negro Life and History) was founded by Carter G. Woodson. It was him who in turn created the first ‘version’ of Black History Month.

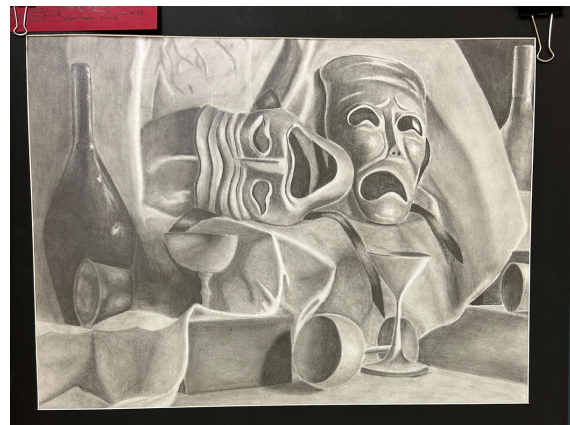
Black History Month was originally called Negro History Week. The first official celebration took place in February 1925. In 1976, the celebration for Black History was extended to the whole month of February.

Teachers everywhere began to demand new material to teach their students about the Black History of the United States. Before, there were very minimal requirements to teach them about Black History, as the US at this time was still very discriminatory towards those of different ethnic backgrounds. Even in today’s social studies classes they are predominated mostly by White History, despite the progress made.

## Bryan Wahl Wins People’s Choice Award at Raider Arts Night

From Mrs. Barclay, Staff

At a recent basketball game, Raider art students were able to display their art for all attendees to see. People from both Southridge and South Spencer, the opposing team, were able to vote for their favorite piece. Bryan Wahl received the most votes, and his artwork can be seen below.



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# Highlights

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## Recipe of the Month

From Sam Stratman, Sophomore

Spiced German Cookies

Ingredients -

1 cup Butter softened

1 cup Sugar

2 large eggs, room temp

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1 teaspoon lemon extract

3 ½ cups all purpose flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoon each cardamom, coriander, cinnamon, and cloves

½ teaspoon salt

¾ cup slivered almonds

Directions - In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Beat in eggs and extracts. In another bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, spices and salt; gradually beat into creamed mixture. Divide dough in half. Shape each into a disk; wrap and refrigerate 1 hour or until firm enough to roll. Preheat oven to 350°. On a lightly floured surface, roll each portion of dough to 1/8-in. thickness. Cut with floured 3-in. cookie cutters. Place 1 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets. Decorate tops with almonds, pressing to adhere. Bake 9-11 minutes or until light brown. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool.



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## Raider Recognition!

The Southridge Music Department is hosting their 10th annual mattress sale! Contact your nearest band or choir member if you need a mattress and want to support these organizations!

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## Solo & Ensemble State Finalists

By Izzy Leibering, Editor

ISSMA allows band and choir members who perform at the Group I level at Solo & Ensemble to advance to the state competition. On February 17 & 25, the choir and band members that advanced traveled to Indianapolis to perform. Due to weather on the 17th, most of the choir members that qualified were not able to attend, but Katelyn Wright managed to go and earned an 11 on her solo. Carson Blair was the only band member to perform in Group I, and he performed on the 25th. He got a 13 on his trombone solo. Carson also played Captain Georg von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*, and he performed a show later that day!

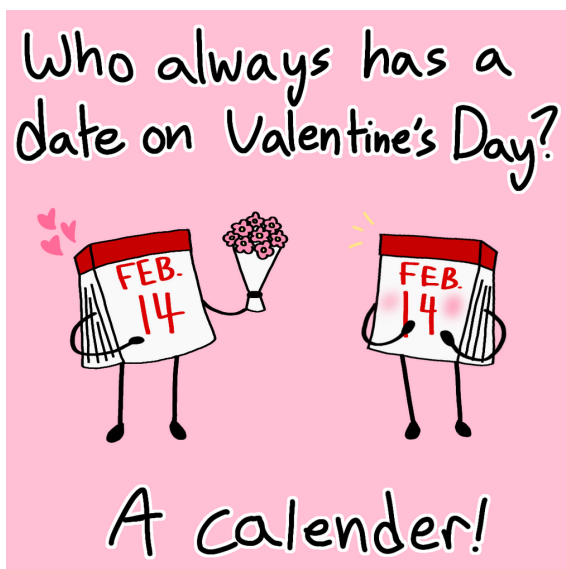


# Special Features

## FFA Week 2024

By Izzy Leiberling, Editor

From February 19 - 23, FFA chapters around America celebrate FFA Week. Each chapter has their own traditions depending on the area, but each one strives to recognize rural culture. Below is Makenzi Ring on Bring Your Tractor To School Day.



## February Birthdays

### Freshmen

Kali Chamber 2/11	Hayden King 2/24
Andy Dubon Bonilla 2/26	Kalyn King 2/24
William Dubon Ramirez 2/21	Caden Klein 2/21
Manuel Duron 2/9	Layne McWilliams 2/18
Violet Fromme 2/24	Christian Nataren Ortiz 2/27
Daniela Garcia 2/15	Jesse Sakofske 2/17
Braelynn Turner 2/9	Karson Wibbeler 2/12

### Sophomores

Jake Buening 2/13	Justin Leathers 2/11
Anthony Crespin 2/10	Elizabeth Mehrlinger 2/27
Brogan Fuhs 2/11	Alejandra Reyes Martinez 2/14
Madeline Graber 2/17	Jasmyn Rogers 2/8
Clayton Greene 2/6	Olivia Wagner 2/7
William Greene 2/6	Cecelia Young 2/8
Kevin Haven 2/27	Addison Weaver 2/25
	Breckin Jochem 2/12

### Juniors

Elizabeth Cruz 2/26	Braxton Oakley 2/3
Luis Dubon Bonillia 2/8	Katherine Quintanilla 2/3
Alex Huffman 2/10	Christopher Rust 2/12
Eli Meyer 2/28	Kiernan Sturgill 2/11
	Rolan Whitehead 2/8

### Seniors

Paige Bell 2/3
Erica Frank 2/14
Sohpia Gentry 2/18
Braelyn Houchin 2/17
Kelsey Wibbeler 2/23

## Additional Credits

**Dad Joke of the Month**—Lyndsey Taylor and Annabel Eatherly

**Birthdays Graphic**—Kaitelyn Baker