

The Southridge Gazette

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Pictured above is Katelyn Wright, playing Anya, waving at the camera during a dress rehearsal.

Southridge Theater Presents : *Anastasia*

By Izzy Leiberling, Editor

Southridge's musical production of *Anastasia* has begun! The Bolshevik Revolution has come and gone and the Romanov family is long dead, except one. The rumor in St. Petersburg is that the Princess Anastasia is alive! In 1927, con men Dimitri and Vlad realize that this lost Princess will be their

ticket out of poverty-stricken Russia. While finding a girl to play Anastasia, they meet Anya. Anya is a street sweeper with memory loss who believes she may be the real Anastasia. Audiences from February 27th through March 2nd will join the cast and crew on this story of home, love, and family.

Musical season starts in November. Prospective actors will sing a song from a Broadway musical, and those who want a

speaking part will act out a designated monologue. Soon after, the cast list will be posted. Typically, they end that semester with a read-through of the script. This year, they began rehearsals early and added one rehearsal before winter break. After the break, the cast started seven weeks of singing, dancing, and arranging scenes. These weeks boil down to four 2-hour performances.

Featured articles

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This year brings a particularly unique aspect to the show. Because the auditorium has been recently renovated, many visuals will be new and improved. The auditorium received a new lighting system and new curtains. More excitingly, the auditorium now has large projectors that can project moving images into the background. This can create more immersive images like snow or a moving train.

Everyone found a different aspect of the show the most rewarding. Sam Stratman, a junior, likes to see the show come together. He says "Seeing our show put together as a whole on the first show night" is the most rewarding because it shows that the cast's hard work has paid off. Katelyn Wright, who plays Anya, agrees. She finds that performance can feel fulfilling and validating. She explains, "It's a moment where everything comes together, and all the effort feels worthwhile because it has the power to entertain, move, and inspire others." This seems to be a common theme among cast members who feel the reward of their hard work when show week finally arrives.

Most cast members also find that another aspect of every show makes their performance worth it. The audience makes each show come alive in a whole new way. Lyndsey Taylor, the stage manager, shares "I think hearing the applause and the audience's reaction to certain scenes is most rewarding." When performers can see the audience react to certain points, whether that is funny beats or emotional moments, it brings a whole new meaning to each act. When actors can share a story with a room full of people, it breathes new life into the show. Katelyn says, "Watching people connect with and enjoy the performance is the best part, as it validates all the hard work and dedication I've put in during rehearsals."

Actors work hard to connect with the audience and to make them part of the show. Jaded townspeople spread rumors with the audience, and Dimitri turns the auditorium into St. Petersburg as he shows Anya his hometown. This translates to every show that the Southridge Theater Department puts on. Each student involved in the show works very hard and any support to them would be appreciated!

Raider Basketball Team Continues Win Streak

By Robert Bowman

In a fantastic month for the Southridge Raider Basketball team, February has been a time of winning. Going undefeated since a close loss on the 18th of January, the Raiders have moved to 19-2 overall. This makes them 2nd in the conference. Scoring an impressive 379 points to 262 throughout the month, the wins have been big once again. Multiple games have had a point differential over 10. Two of these wins had a differential of over 20 points, one against Tell City (96-39) and the second against South Spencer (63-40). These wins have propelled the Raiders to an undefeated record on the road. The Raiders will play Boonville on the 27th at home.

Senior Tate Whitehead set a new school record, with an astonishing 10 three-pointers. This beat the old record by 3. The excellent performance helped lead the Raiders to their incredible 96-39 win against Tell City, extending the win streak to seven. With the regular season coming to a close, the Raiders will look to continue this hot streak into the playoffs.



English Department Teacher of the Month: Mr. Mundy

By Jill Keusch, Senior

Mr. Mundy, an English teacher at Southridge High School, is known for his friendly personality and booming voice that motivates students. While not teaching, he is a pet owner of two golden retrievers named Ember and Hank and loves to spend time outdoors, like hunting or fishing. His favorite TV show is Yellowstone and he enjoys dining at Briar Patch restaurant in Owensboro. Mr. Mundy's love of reading inspired him to become an English teacher. He got his degree in health and safety and English from Indiana

Featured Articles

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State University (ISU).

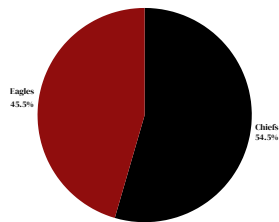
As a teacher, Mr. Mundy likes to watch his previous students at graduation. He would love for Southridge to add even more opportunities for students. He finds that it would be amazing for students to find interests, and their "niche" at SHS.

"Always try your best and continue to work hard everyday to get better."

— Mr. Mundy

Super Bowl Survey

By Marisa Thacker, Sophomore



In the days leading up to the Super Bowl, the Newspaper Club released a survey asking students how they thought the game's events would play out. 54.5% of students said they thought the Kansas City Chiefs were going to win, and 45.5% said they

thought the Philadelphia Eagles were going to win. This data is interesting in hindsight because the Eagles ended up winning this year's Super Bowl.

The survey also asked why the students thought the team they picked was going to win. Both sides made good arguments. One person said, "I think that the Chiefs will win because they are favored and they hold a 6-5 series edge against the Eagles." Someone in favor of the Eagles commented, "There has never been a 3 peat champion in football and I don't think the Chiefs will be the first. Also this match up has happened before and the Chiefs barely scraped by. The Eagles' roster is significantly better and the Chiefs' roster is downgraded a little." It is also interesting to note that several of the people who voted for the Eagles said that the reason they did so was because they didn't like the Chiefs.

Whatever side you were on, it's clear that Super Bowl season has been a fun opportunity to liven up our time at Southridge with some friendly competition!

Hooray! For Musicals

By Sunny

I know all of you missed me in the last edition of the 'Gazette', but I was so busy playing in the snow that I did not have time to sit down and write. Mrs Rauscher said that I had to write an article this month about musicals, because there is a performance of Anastasia (doesn't have a dog in it) that has got rave reviews! So, just as George III said I'd 'be back', so here I am! Although Hamilton doesn't have a dog in it either, I have to say it is one of my favorites. Mrs Allen likes Hamilton too and says that it is a good way to understand the American Revolution, especially if you have a test on it in History. Why didn't Lin-Manuel Miranda give Aaron Burr a dog—he might have been a bit nicer!

To learn more about musicals, so that I fully understand Anastasia, I talked to Mrs. Neu about all of the musicals she has seen. She says that her favorite is Wicked. It sounded a bit scary to me, but it does have a lion in it. She then started talking about 'something wicked this way comes...', but I think that is in a play by the man who wears a cone of shame. Oh no, I am distracted again, but at least that guy wears a cone of shame and put a dog in one of his plays. Ms. Eisenhut says the play is called Two Gentlemen of Verona and the dog's name is 'Crab'. Don't ask Ms. Eisenhut about Shakespeare, because then she started to talk about beagles mentioned in Twelfth Night and how the beagle was Queen Elizabeth's favorite dog. Honestly, I know she loves dogs, but have you ever tried to escape from her when she starts talking about the guy in the cone of shame?

Back to musicals. I do not get upset about many things, but I heard that there is a musical about Cats. I didn't dare ask Ms Eisenhut about this one, so I did some research on my own—not an easy task when you have paws. I barked at Alexa in the house, because a sophomore girl told me that Alexa can bark. It took a while, but can you believe it, there is a musical called Cats. The nerve of someone to create a musical about those antisocial furballs. I listened to some of the songs and it is stuck in my 'Memory' forever. This is the reason I have not been at school recently. Mrs Rauscher has told people I have been away because she was busy sorting out all of the sophomores' schedules. Nope. I am writing a musical. You can probably guess what it is about, so watch this space. In the meantime, I hope everyone enjoyed the fabulousness of Anastasia!

Love, Sunny

Featured articles

Chapter Two of the Beginning of the End

By Eleanor McConnell, Junior

Aurion's Haven rose among the towering trees of the Western Isles, perched outside the Sapphire Graves. The hub, built two thousand years ago by the legendary Aurion, served as a sanctuary for the Gilded Seekers. Once hunters of traditions and relics, the Seekers had grown into a faction of adventurers and scholars, preserving history while selling lesser finds to fund their pursuits.

The Haven's structures were circular huts. They were built at varying heights in the trees, interconnected by wooden walkways and spiral staircases that wound around the trees. Each hut had an open design, with colorful quilts in place of doors and windows that welcomed the breeze from the Bluzing Sea. The air smelled of ginger and salt, mingling with the warmth of candlelight that illuminated the nights.

Kalais laughed mischievously as she and Thakor climbed the spiral staircase. Their trophies that they wear jangling noisily with each hurried step. They ducked under a purple quilt and flopped onto the worn couches in their shared quarters, still buzzing with energy from their latest venture. Across the way, the Haven's tavern still bustled with activity, its lively sounds carried by the salty air.

"That trick ye pulled, lass, was mighty fine," Thakor said, lighting his battered pipe. A cloud of smoke floated lazily out the open window, illuminated by the pale light of dawn.

Kalais smirked, lifting the Velishard Crown to admire it. "That's the thing about mages—always a surprise." She glanced down as Ember, her miniature dragon, waddled in and chirped. Picking her up, Kalais grinned. "What do you think, Ember? Pretty, huh?"

Thakor puffed his pipe thoughtfully, giving the dragon a pat on the head. "Pretty, aye. But that's trouble, that is. This war's gettin' worse if folk are pokin' 'round Elven ruins for relics like that."

Before Kalais could reply, Eldrin stepped into the room, smiling warmly. "Nice to see you two in one piece." He pulled Kalais into a hug, pressing a kiss to her head. "Now, what do we have here, Little Wisp?" His sharp eyes landed on the Crown glinting in the soft candlelight.

Kalais beamed, eagerly skipping to the table. "This," she said, placing the artifact down with dramatic flair, "is something I'd like the best Elven scholar in the

world to examine."

Eldrin chuckled, lifting the Crown with care. "I'll take a look, but you need rest. Your lungs don't sound too good."

Kalais waved off his concern. "I'm fine, Papa. This thing is way cooler than my lungs."

Thakor snorted, exhaling a puff of smoke. "Reckless as always, lass."

Eldrin frowned, his brows knitting with worry. "You're not invincible, Kalais."

"Maybe not," Kalais teased, flopping onto the couch beside Thakor, "but I'm closer than you."

Thakor grumbled something under his breath, though his words were lost to Kalais as her father carefully examined the Crown. The footsteps echoed from the staircase outside, accompanied by a muffled voice muttering complaints.

Viper, the High Seeker, entered through the quilt with practiced ease, his hand resting casually on the pommel of his blade. His presence commanded attention. Cloaked in deep purple and black, his attire was accented with gold from countless legendary exploits. A hood shrouded his face, and a mask concealed his features, leaving only the dark skin around his sharper eyes visible. It was said that no one beyond his parents had seen his unmasked face.

Kalais, Thakor, and Eldrin turned toward him, offering warm smiles. The sun rising behind him cast a pink glow over the room, masking the identities of the four shadowed figures following closely at his heels.

"Always up with the dawn, eh?" Viper's voice was smooth but carried a hint of sharpness as he stepped into the room. His gaze flicked briefly to the Crown on the table before settling on Kalais. "I hear the tomb was quite the adventure."

Kalais smirked, leaning back against the couch with a casual shrug. "Just another day for us, High Seeker. Though I'd say the stairs are a more dangerous foe than any curse I've faced."

Thakor snorted, puffing another cloud of smoke. "Stairs, aye. Never-ending, those were."

Viper chuckled softly but said nothing, his attention shifting to the Crown. "And this? You've brought us the artifact everyone's whispering about." His tone was measured, but something in his eyes gleamed with curiosity—and perhaps concern.

Eldrin stepped forward, the Crown still in hand. "It's a dangerous relic, High Seeker, far more than I expected. We'll need to handle this with great care." Viper nodded thoughtfully, but his expression behind his mask was unreadable. The four figures behind him

Highlights

continued...

remained silent, their faces still obscured in shadow.

"Then we'll discuss it in full," Viper said at last, his voice cutting through the quiet. He motioned toward the figures behind him. "But first, meet the others who will be joining us. They're eager to see what you've uncovered."

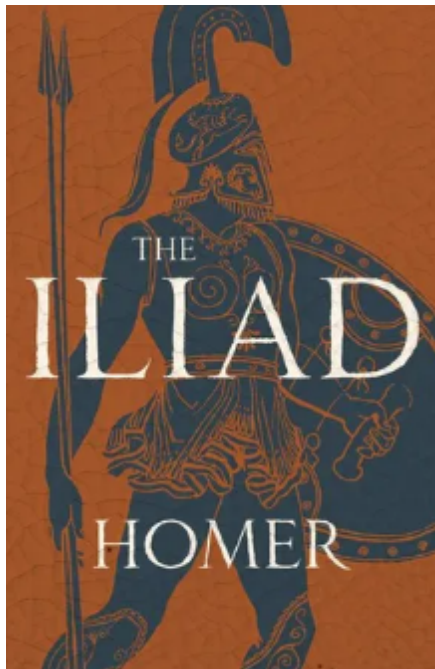
Kalais raised a brow, exchanging a glance with Thakor, who simply muttered, "More company, huh?" under his breath.

Book Review: The Iliad

By Sam Stratman, Junior

Nine years after the battle of Troy, Achilles needs to rise and change the fate of history. His love for Patroclus rivals his love for clashing with the enemy side. Only a true hero can determine the outcome of the war.

How will Achilles handle his love for Patroclus vs. his need for Briseis? Only you can find out by reading The Iliad by the Greek philosopher Homer. Although a bit more difficult to read it will stick with you for the rest of your life.



February Horoscopes

By Sam Stratman, Junior

- **Aries** - Every little thing you've been tasked to do lately has been strewn with obstacles, with many delays, changes, and general roadblocks to reach a goal. Despite this, you must keep pushing forward and do what you must.
 - **Taurus** - You have just entered one of the most important months of the year for your career. It may be a new opportunity for extra cash or that promotion you have been working for!
 - **Gemini** - Opportunity glitters for you as you start February. Your hard work is beginning to pay off as you roll into the new year.
 - **Cancer** -focus on managing your money, and be careful of what and how you spend your hard-earned money. Something may come up where you need that extra cash.
 - **Leo** - Your collaborator in business or your spouse or steady sweetheart will be on your mind—and quite a bright spot in your life. Take time to see how this person affects your daily life, and enjoy every second of it.
 - **Virgo** - When it comes to career progress, you are racking up spectacular gains. Take some of that and take a day for yourself.
 - **Libra** - February seems tailor-made for you. You love to be out and about, seeing friends and meeting new people. Don't forget to take care of yourself this month. Sit back, relax, and enjoy some peace.
 - **Scorpio** - Your home, property, and family are where your heart and mind will be this month. Appreciate all that you have and how you achieved it.
 - **Sagittarius** - You have a lot of emphasis on your home and other property you may own or rent, or you might be focused on a family member, most likely one of your parents. Do something nice for them this month, they will truly appreciate it!
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Special Features

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- **Capricorn** - You have an extraordinary opportunity to increase your income, whether it be some extra chores or starting a new job. I wish you luck.
- **Aquarius** - It is time for your birthday to happen, and your new personality will begin to reflect your age. Enjoy where you are in life.
- **Pisces** - Your February will begin in solitude, but by the end of the month, you will be bursting with energy and friends.

Want to submit your own creative works, even if you aren't a member of the Newspaper Club? Contact Mrs. Rauscher or Izzy Leiberling. All submissions welcome!

— The Southridge Gazette



THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

Special Needs Festival
& Resource Fair

March 29th, 2025
11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Huntingburg Event Center

Games
Food Trucks
New Resources
& Other sensory friendly activities

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Art Show**

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MARCH 6TH FROM 5-7

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JASPER ARTS
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THIS IS NOT A DRILL!

Additional Credits

Dad Joke of the Month—Lyndsey Taylor