

The Southridge Gazette

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Pictured above are the meteorologists of 14 News WFIE with Grant Stinson. Grant was even able to join them for a small segment on camera!

Grant Stinson's Job Shadow

By Izzy Leibering, Editor

The weather has always interested Grant Stinson. For a long time, he would track storms. When he saw that a storm was coming, or heard it might be severe or a tornado, he would always watch it. He later learned to read radars to understand how the storms moved. During his

career search, this fascination brought Grant to meteorology.

Southridge offers a job shadowing program to juniors and seniors who wish to gain hands-on experience in a potential job. This job shadow can be anywhere or with anyone that counselors can connect with. Grant knew this, so he emailed Mrs. Rauscher. Even though he is currently focused on aviation, he wanted to learn more about meteorology. He asked Mrs.

Rauscher where he could go to learn about jobs in meteorology. She was able to contact Mitch Carter, a Southridge graduate.

Mitch Carter is a news anchor for 14 News WFIE based in Evansville. He allowed Grant to tour the station, focusing on meteorology. Over the day, he was able to see the whole station. He spent a few hours talking to the anchors and seeing the main recording studio. He

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also got to witness the editing process and speak to the reporters. Grant was even able to see the Interceptor, the car that chases severe storms.

Grant's main focus of the day was meteorology. He spent most of the time speaking with the meteorologists and learning their processes. He spent time with Arden Gregory and Byron Douglas, meteorologists at 14 News. Coincidentally, Byron was also in an aviation program when he was Grant's age. Towards the end of his day, Grant met Jeff Lyons, the Chief Meteorologist at 14 News. He even got to be on camera for a small segment!

Grant gleaned plenty of useful information from his job shadowing experience. He learned more about what goes on in meteorology, which will be vital for any possible jobs in his future. More importantly, he learned that meteorology is much more interesting than he believed. According to him, "It's not just sitting in a room. It makes you feel like you're really helping people."

Math Department Teacher of the Month: Mr. Matthews

By Jill Keusch, Senior



Math can be a difficult subject to tackle. It takes a lot of time and effort to get the correct answer for an Algebra 2 or Finite Mathematics problem. For Mr. Matthews, math has been a subject he can easily comprehend. As a former Southridge student, he enjoyed helping his friends with their math homework. So, after graduating from SHS in 2004, he went to Indiana State University to pursue his mathematical passion. He later graduated with his bachelor's in 2008. Soon after, he returned to Southridge as a high school math teacher.

In 2023, Mr. Matthews completed his master's degree while still teaching. As a Southridge staff

member, he has built friendships with fellow teachers and made connections with students. Within Southridge but outside of his classes, Mr. Matthews coaches the Spell Bowl team. His favorite part about being a math teacher is showing his students useful tools like probability.

Along with his intellectual calculation skills, he is a superb cook and griller. Outside of teaching, he enjoys playing cards and golfing with friends. His favorite show is Yellowstone, and his favorite movie is A Few Good Men. Last summer, he traveled to the Bahamas and Orange Beach.

With his knack for numbers and sarcastic jokes, Mr. Matthews creates an environment that motivates students to learn. Mr. Matthews adds plenty of character to the Southridge math department.

Turkey vs. Ham: An Age-Old Controversy

By Olivia Rasche, Junior

Once a year, families get together for a Thanksgiving celebration. They talk about what they are thankful for while enjoying good food and each other's company. This holiday is not all fun and games, though. Every year there is a controversy. Should you serve turkey or ham at Thanksgiving? With food being the main focus of this holiday, the choice matters.

Anthony Crespino, a junior, says this on the subject matter. "Ham is delicious and all but for Thanksgiving you have to eat turkey. It is traditional." Others seem to agree. Izzy Leiberling says, "I eat turkey. I don't like ham; it's a sensory thing. It is slimy." Violet Fromme, a sophomore, also doesn't like the texture of ham. Senior Jill Keusch says, "I mean I like ham too. I am just particular about it, and it depends on who makes it." Alexandra Hohler says, "Turkey is better. You can season it in more ways and I like the texture of it better. AJ Wright, sophomore, says, "When they are both done perfectly turkey is better. I usually like ham better, though, simply because turkey is so hard to get right.

Some people think ham is much better. Carson Blair says, "I eat both but I eat more ham. Ham is thicker and more juicy and it tastes better." Zachary Hillenbrand agrees, "Ham with Brown sugar is the best because it tastes better and feels better. Every time I have had turkey it tastes bad."

Sam Stratman is a vegetarian and he has a different viewpoint. "I just eat cornbread," he says. He isn't the only one not eating turkey or ham. Stephany Galdamez eats Panes con Pollo (Bread with chicken)

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for Thanksgiving and Aidan Stahl has never eaten ham or turkey before.

While turkey is more popular here, it is ultimately up to preference. Both choices are great, and non-traditional options offer plenty of variety. No matter what you eat, it is important to just have fun and enjoy the holiday.

Donate to Toys For Tots

By Izzy Leiberling, Editor



Toys for Tots is an organization run by the Marine Corps. They strive to provide toys for families who cannot afford them on Christmas. Currently, they are in full stride! Toys for Tots donation boxes are located at the main entrance of every school, as well as in many local businesses. They are accepting new, unwrapped toys priced under 35 dollars. Toys will be distributed to children ages 0-14 in the coming weeks. Currently, the age group with the greatest need is children 6-14. Collection for donation boxes will be December 10-12. Donate to Toys for Tots and bring Christmas joy to a child in the community!

Gratitude Survey

By Jill Keusch, Senior

Recently, the Southridge Gazette sent out an anonymous survey asking students who they are grateful for. While food can be a major aspect of Thanksgiving, most students said it is a time to be thankful. Students submitted their gratitude to fellow students, teachers, and family.

- I am grateful for Melissa for bringing me to who I am academically and mentally today. She has done so much for me that I can't stress enough that I got into college because of her.
- I am thankful for Mrs. Allen because she does everything in her power to educate and motivate the students.
- I am thankful for Blaez Whipking because he always cheers me up, and always makes me laugh.
- I am thankful for Mrs. Neukum for always being an understanding teacher.
- I am thankful for Mrs. Thewes because she is

- super sweet and always helps me when I need it.
- I am thankful for Betty for being a wonderful lunch lady.

Thank you to anyone who took the 2024 Anonymous Gratitude survey!

AI Implications

By Braxton Oakley, Senior

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a complex technology that has become mainstream in recent years. Many worry about what may happen if AI is left unchecked, especially those misinformed. What is AI, and could our fears be exaggerated?

One of the biggest fears surrounding AI is that it could become dangerous. While this is a potential outcome, many are misinformed about AI. In short, AI is a complex neural network that learns from the data we provide. It then creates patterns of behavior based on that information. The concern is that AI may be able to dig into personal data or learn from the most disturbing corners of the Internet.

A notable example is the story of Microsoft's AI chatbot Tay in 2016. According to the article "What Went Wrong with Tay?", Microsoft launched Tay on Twitter (now known as X). Microsoft intended for Tay to interact and learn from the platform to appear more realistic. However, the company failed to restrict the data Tay could absorb. As a result, Tay learned from users who displayed inappropriate and racist behavior. Tay mirrored these behaviors and assumed they were normal. Due to incidents like this, AI programs today like ChatGPT and Copilot now adhere to strict terms of service. This is to prevent inappropriate content from shaping the AI's responses.

At this stage, AI does not have morals. The neural networks in AI lack the complexity required for self-awareness or emotional reasoning. While AI excels at calculations, it cannot generate unique thoughts or emotions. To make AI appear more lifelike, we simulate emotions and program responses that mimic human behavior. This is to create the illusion of emotional intelligence. For now, this approach serves as a functional stand-in.

There is always a possibility, however unlikely, that AI could one day achieve self-awareness. In anticipation of this, certain regions like California have regulations in place. California regulation SB-1047 mandates that all AI models have a kill switch capable of cutting power to the system. This would effectively kill the AI to prevent further complications.

Another concern is whether AI could lash out if it felt

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abused—a speculative idea, as AI lacks consciousness. If robots were to gain self-awareness, they could respond to perceived mistreatment. Given the complexity of processing emotions like revenge, this is highly unlikely. Current AI models demand extensive computing power to perform tasks within their capabilities.

AI is advancing at a rapid pace. Like any significant innovation, it comes with risks. Those risks can be managed like we have managed crime, corruption, and other challenges. If we can adapt to a world of these, taking a calculated risk on AI's potential to improve our lives seems well worth it.

The Convergence- A Short Story

By Marisa Thacker

On the outskirts of the Plymouth Colony, a rooster got loose from its pen. Unnoticed by its keepers, it ran towards the forest looming in the distance, stopping a few yards before the tree line. Out of the woods emerged a coyote, its body tensed with apprehension.

Its golden eyes fixed on the rooster. The animals stared at each other, waiting. As the sun slipped behind the clouds in the gloomy sky, the rooster and the coyote transformed. In their places stood a man with long red hair and a brunette woman with golden eyes.

"Greetings, Rooster," said Coyote.

"A pleasure to meet you," replied Rooster.

Coyote's sharp eyes examined her counterpart. "Forgive me for my severity, but it has been decades since I have encountered a culture utterly new to me."

"I understand," said Rooster, his smile not quite meeting his eyes. "I can see how our arrival would be a shock to you, Coyote."

"Allow me to be entirely frank with you, then. Why, exactly, have you come here?" demanded Coyote.

Rooster raised his eyebrows. "A frank question indeed. My people have traveled to this place to make it our home."

"I beg your pardon?" said Coyote, her gold eyes flashing.

Rooster's demeanor shifted as his gaze became unfocused. "You see, in the land we come from, we are persecuted. They are not a tolerant people, our old neighbors. That ship—our Mayflower—was our only means of escape."

Coyote's expression softened, some of the tension leaving her posture. "You do not come here to

conquer this land?"

Rooster startled as though surprised by his sentimentality. "No. We only wish to settle."

"Then my people welcome you," said Coyote. "As long as you are friendly neighbors, and are willing to work, we will allow you to stay."

"Forgive my candor," replied Rooster hurriedly, "but since we arrived, we have only ever encountered a handful of your people. Aside from a few individuals, you have left us alone to starve through the winter. How can we truly know you wish to be our allies?"

Coyote considered this. "You wish for us to prove our friendship to you? So be it. My people shall teach you the ways of this land, how to grow our crops. Upon the first successful harvest, we shall join with your people in a grand feast. We will dine upon the fruits of our labor and share in the delights of merriment. There will be no violence or fighting. We will celebrate our hardships and victories as one. Does this satisfy you?"

After a moment, Rooster replied, "It does."

The two figures crossed the distance separating them to shake hands. Their pact was sealed.

Coyote began to return to the forest. "I wish for nothing but a prosperous friendship between us, Rooster."

Rooster watched as she transformed again and ran into the woods. Before he turned away to go back to Plymouth, he quietly murmured, "We shall see, Coyote."

Anastasia Cast List

From Erich Kendall, Staff

On November 12 and 13, students who wished to be a part of the musical auditioned. They sang an excerpt from a song, and those who wished to have a speaking part read from a short monologue. This year, the musical is *Anastasia*, and the cast list is as follows.

*In order of appearance

Little Anastasia - lyla Pinkstaff

Dowager Empress - Ava Ham

Tsar Nicholas II - Breckin Jochem

Tsarina Alexandra Fyodorovna - Mallory Tooley

Prince Alexei - Russell Kendall

Olga Romanov - Ainsley Hoblitzel

Tatiana Romanov - Lillian Thewes

Maria Romanov - Marisa Thacker

Gleb - Jojo Soto

Dmitry - Carson Blair

Vlad - James Bowers

Anastasia/Anya - Katelyn Wright

Marfa - Reagan Anderson

Paulina - Camryn Nalley

Highlights

Dunya - Gabriela Gomez
Count Ipolitov - William Dubon
Gorlinsky - Zackary Hillenbrand
Lily - Jordyn Anderson
Count Leopold - Izzy Leiberling
Count Gregory - Jaxson Flamion
Countess Gregory - Tegan Taylor
Doorman - Sam Stratman
Prima ballerina (Dance Captain) - Chloe Atchison
Primo Dancer - Wyatt Fawks
(other roles to be assigned in rehearsal)

Ensemble

Caroline Faarbech Norskov, Jazmin Dubon, Kensley Hiter, Bryanna Calvillo, Lilah Rasche, Katie Thacker, Shera Deno, Magdela Fehlberg, Addison Poole, Abby Matias, Pablo Marroquin, Anthony Wright, Kyah Hamby, Malika Yoldasheva, Payton Ferguson, Merideth Smith, Kali Chambers, Braelyn Turner, Chloe Underhill, Sarah Snider, Navaeh Malone, Kynlee Jackson, Izzy Bolte, Kaitelyn Baker, Victor Miranda, Camila Garcia, Jessica Gomez, Reagan Langdon, Abigail Flamion, Arianna Ronk, Jayden Flores

Transgender Day of Remembrance

By Anonymous

Below is a quote from the founder of Transgender Day of Remembrance, who explains the day better than anyone could

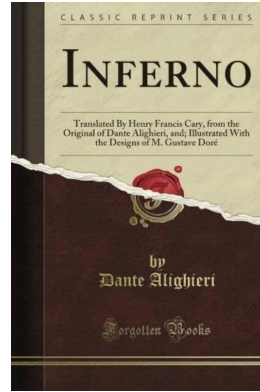
“Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. I am no stranger to the need to fight for our rights, and the right to simply exist is first and foremost. With so many seeking to erase transgender people — sometimes in the most brutal ways possible — it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice.”

**— Transgender Day of Remembrance founder
Gwendolyn Ann Smith**

So many trans men and women are discriminated against when they are trying to live their lives peacefully. A world where everyone cannot live together in harmony needs to change. Equality will continue to be fought for every single day, and one day the fight will be over.

Book Review: Dante's Inferno

By Sam Stratman, Junior

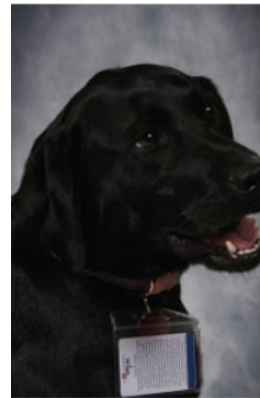


Surviving through the infinite torment of hell, Dante needs to escape before he is trapped forever. His one true love, Beatrice, remains in heaven waiting for her lover to return to her. Cursed to travel the nine layers of hell will Dante make it back to Beatrice? Or will he remain forever trapped in purgatory?

Dante's Inferno by Dante Alighieri is a true classic piece of literature. Originally published in 1321 this epic poem will leave you longing for what happens next. This review uses the translation written by Henry Francis Cary. This is by far one of the most influential works in literary history.

Ask Sunny

By Sunny



An anonymous reader wants to know:

Sunny, I have heard that you are very well-read. What are your book recommendations?

I have so many to recommend—people love to write about dogs, because we are so wonderful and loyal. Everyone should at some point in their life read the Odyssey by Homer.

There is a very loyal dog named Argos in the story, who has waited for twenty years for his master to come back from the Trojan War. That is loyalty. The poems of Mary Oliver are also wonderful. She wrote an entire collection called 'Dog Songs'. I think most of you can relate to the poems, because at one point she says:

'You're like a little wild thing

That was never sent to school.'

I am not very wild, because I go to school, but Mrs Rauscher and some of the other teachers talk about how wild students and dogs are nowadays, especially around the full moon. By the way, the holiday season

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is approaching and I have made a wish list of treats.

Oh dear, I am getting distracted, again. Back to books. Paul Auster, the author of 'The New York Trilogy', loves dogs so much he wrote a book about Mr Bones, a city dog of uncertain breeding. Those of you interested in cities might like this one or if you are fans of SciFi, James Herbert wrote a book about a man who is reborn as a dog called Fluke.

Last but not least, you can always have a look at a classic told by Boots the terrier, 'Thy Servant a Dog'. Rudyard Kipling, of 'The Jungle Book' fame, helped give some order to the stories. Boots is an inspiration to us literary dogs—his doggie exploits are the stuff of legends. Boy, the French farm dog from 'A Dog's Life' edited by Peter Mayle is the only one to come close to Boots's adventures!

I know I have been a bit partial, but my reading since I acquired this new job with the paper has mostly been stories by and about dogs. Ms. Eisenhut says that I should expand my reading further and possibly look at 'Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats' by T.S Elliot. Not sure why she would suggest this when dogs are infinitely superior to cats!

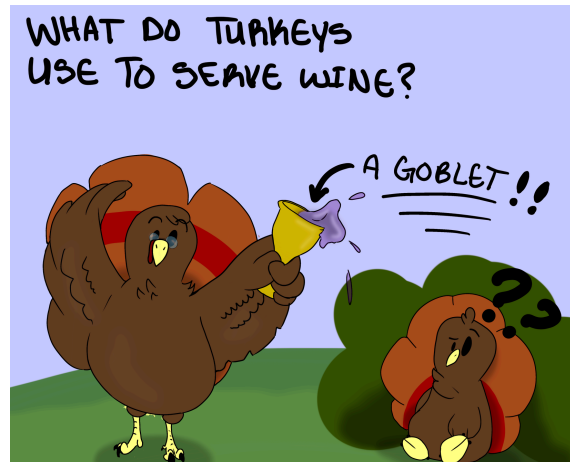
Keep sending Ms. Eisenhut your questions! She will continue to help me respond!

November Horoscopes

By Sam Stratman, Junior

- **Aries** - The time is now to get out into nature to appreciate how much it works for us all! Buy a new plant or take care of the ones you already have, and nature will thank you!
- **Taurus** - New, deep, emotional relationships will come to you this month. Take your time exploring these new friendships!
- **Gemini** - You are all about your routine. Take time to appreciate the lack of chaos in your life!
- **Cancer** - Staying at home is what you are all about this month. Feel free to break out of your little shell to explore what the world has to offer!
- **Leo** - Spending time with those who raised you will be valued by you and them! Many fun things will be coming to your life from here on out.
- **Virgo** - You may have been feeling something adrift in your daily life. Take your time to figure out how to put it back into the balance!
- **Libra** - The money life will be coming your way very soon! A breakthrough at a job, a birthday, or even if it's your friends taking you to dinner. Feel free to accept these offers.

- **Scorpio** - November is the time to focus on who you truly are! Time, ego, and your identity should take precedence.
- **Sagittarius** - This month you may feel like you are much more introverted. Take this time to process why you may be feeling this way!
- **Capricorn** - Navigating your friends' lives will start to seem like they are your own. Be there for those you love!
- **Aquarius** - You may have started to worry more about your future career. No matter what happens in the end everything will work out for you!
- **Pisces** - Pisces love to learn new things and this month will be the easiest time to discover them! Don't be scared of learning new things!



Additional Credits

Dad Joke of the Month—Lyndsey Taylor

Art Submission—Juan Perez
