

The Southridge Gazette

	November Edition 11/26/2024	
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Pictured above are the Raiders against Pike Central in their record breaking game.

Raider Basketball 2024

By Robert Bowman, Senior

Oh, basketball. For every new season that starts, you always bring about an air of unique vibrations to the city. Good, bad, crazy, you name it. When a team starts 3-0 going into the first home game, the general energy lands somewhere between good and crazy. The season started on

the road against Washington. After a high-scoring first half, leading the Hatchets 29-21. Despite a tight scoring second half, the Raiders were able to hold on for a win and a final score of 48-39. Following the Washington game, the Raiders were again on the road against Mater Dei, where we picked up another win with a score of 57-36. The following weekend would be the first home game, but there was still one game to play. It would be a

contest against South Knox, and we would pick up yet another road win. Finally, we would play our first home game against Pike Central.

It was a rainy, windy night in Huntingburg. Memorial Gym was filling up with fans and students alike, ready to watch the first home game of the 2024-25 season. From the first 3 we scored, it was apparent to everyone in attendance that this

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would be a blowout. After the first, we were already up 23-3, and up 49-6 at the end of the half. As the score went up and we substituted our players, the scoring leveled off, leading the Raiders to a crushing victory, with a score of 76-14 over Pike Central. This 62-point lead is a school record! All in all, a great finish to the first home game of the year, and an impressive win to continue the win streak. With another big game against Jasper this week, we shall see how far the Raiders can take it.

Social Studies Department Teacher of the Month: Mrs. Allen

By Jill Keusch, Senior



It's not every day that someone is tempted by bribery. Well, it's not as unusual for Ms. Allen when recalling one of her favorite, unique memories from her career. Years ago, one of her students did not complete his homework for Ms. Allen's class. In an attempt to save his grade, he decided to tape a dollar on the incomplete assignment when he turned it in. She still laughs at the incident to this day.

Ms. Allen is a proud teacher, mother, and owner of a cat named Weenie. She loves to walk, read, and spend time with her children. Along with this, her favorite movie is The Notebook. While in school her favorite subject to teach about is the time between WWI and WWII. She is fascinated by how both of the wars happened, and the culture of the 1920s. In fact, she finds American culture throughout history interesting overall.

Back when she was a student, she had amazing teachers who inspired her to go into an education career. Now, she is a social studies teacher at Southridge, being a positive influence on students. For college, she attended Oakland City University and obtained her bachelor of science. At first, she wanted

to major in physical education, but later on decided to change it.

She creates a warm, supportive class environment. The atmosphere she creates encourages students to do well, not just in school but in life. Ms. Allen tries to help students succeed in any way she can and is always willing to lend a listening ear. Her presence at Southridge positively impacts many students' lives.

Winter Activities Survey

By Olivia Rasche, Junior

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Percentage of students
that prefer winter to
summer.

The first day of winter this year will be on December 21. Not everyone here at Southridge is happy about this. 62% of the 50 Southridge students who responded to the Newspaper Club's winter survey said they prefer summer to winter. With winter comes the snow. 87.8%

of Southridge students like snow. They like snow for many different reasons such as:

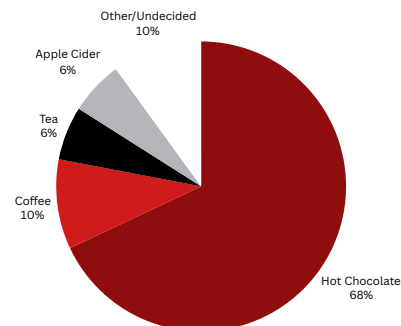
- 77.1% like it because it gets them off school
- 64.6% like it because it is pretty
- 62.5% like it because it gets them in the holiday spirit
- 52.1% like it because they can play in it.

There are many things that students do at home when it is a snow day. Many people responded that they liked to sleep on snow days or snuggle up and watch a movie. Others took this opportunity to hang out with friends and family playing games and having fun in the snow.

The favorite drink for cold snowy days was hot chocolate with a whopping 68% of the votes. This was unsurprising considering its warm, comforting nature. 10% said coffee was their favorite, 6% said tea and 6% said apple cider. 10% of responses enjoy something else on cold days, or they couldn't choose just one.

Question:

What is your favorite thing to drink on cold, snowy days?



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When asked what their favorite thing to do in the snow was, the most popular answer was sledding with 40% of the votes. The next most popular answer was staying inside in the warm admiring the snow with 30% of the votes. 20% of people responded that snowball fights were their favorite thing to do in the snow. The rest of the responses were split between a few different options like making ice cream and snow angels.

In the end, no matter how you like to spend your winter, make the most of every opportunity and have fun this winter break.

National Honors Society Induction Ceremony

By Izzy Leiberling, Editor

The National Honors Society has recently inducted new members into the Uberakademisch Chapter, which is our local chapter of the oldest and most prestigious organization here at Southridge. At the beginning of the school year, students were chosen based on how well they portrayed the four pillars by which the NHS conducts itself. Those are scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

The ceremony began with an introduction by Mrs. Allen, the staff leader of the organization. Then, the student officers gave short speeches highlighting each pillar of the NHS. They each lit a candle to symbolize a pillar. Before the ceremony, each inductee was given a small candle as well. NHS president James Bowers lit a few of those candles. Audience members watch and saw as the symbolic flame of life spread throughout the students. With candles in hand, the students recited the NHS pledge. Finally, each inductee signed a registry and recieved a certificate recognizing their achievement. The National Honors Society is a prestigious organization and new inductees have accomplished a great feat to join this group.



First Annual Psychology Fair

By Izzy Leiberling, Editor

Southridge's first annual Psychology Fair served as a way for students to showcase what they have learned in a semester of Mrs. Rauscher's Psychology class. In groups of two or three, students chose a topic to research and present in a science fair- style gallery. Staff judged each project and ranked as follows:

- **1st** - *Stroop Effect* - Kenia Dubon, Rebecca Gutierrez
- **2nd** - *Bystander Effect* - Mallory Tooley, Kiernan Sturgill
- **Honorable Mention** - *Gender Stereotypes* - Judit Riera, Carmen Calderon
- **Honorable Mention** - *Decision Making* - Xiamara Vazquez, Rosi Serrano

First and second place groups received gift cards to the Huntingburg Grind.



Exerpt From the Beginning of the End

By Eleanor McConnell, Junior

Destruction. Blood. Betrayal.

These words define the kingdom of Aurora as it crumbles under the weight of civil war. Homes lie in ruins, loyalties are shattered, and the people's passion has turned to despair. The light of hope fades, and with it, the kingdom's morale. If the heir to Aurora's throne rejects his destiny, who will lead them from the brink of chaos?

Amid this turmoil, the Veilshard Crown lies in restless slumber within its ancient tomb. Forged during the Sapphire Graves War by the Elvhen of the Western Isles, the Crown's power is both awe-inspiring and unforgivable. It is said to hold the strength to annihilate everything in its path. In the wrong hands, its power will bring devastation so complete that even death would seem merciful. The Crown once destroyed its creators —now, it threatens to destroy the world.

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Chapter 1

The blue labyrinth glistened under the watchful gaze of the Lady of the Moon. The ancient Elvhen woods, steeped in untold histories, whispered secrets to those brave—or foolish—enough to enter. Few who ventured into the Sapphire Graves lived to share their discoveries—those who did returned with trembling hands and a single name on their lips: the Groundger.

The Groundger was the guardian of these haunted woods. Survivors spoke of its sapphire glow, as brilliant as the graves it prowled, and a form as terrifying as legend claimed: three rows of knife-sharp teeth, talons that could rend steel, and wings spanning the length of four men. Its eyes gleamed with an unforgiving intelligence, and its favorite prey was man. Like a dragon, it consumed flesh with a wicked smile before swallowing its morsels whole. Yet the Groundger had not yet deterred Atlas from leading his party into the heart of the Sapphire Graves. Determined to find the Veilshard Crown—a weapon too dangerous to fall into rebel hands—Atlas pressed onward. The ancient Elvhen artifact, forged during the Sapphire Graves War over five millennia ago, was said to hold devastating power. Some claimed it was the very reason the elves lost their immortality, cursed by King Farthrod, who created the crown in a bid to protect his kingdom at any cost. The Crown showed crimson, red as blood. As the legends foretold, once placed upon a head, it grants the destruction of its wielder. Eventually, it will turn on the one who awoke its slumber. Some say they'd go nsane like wild animals, and others die. This curse does not deter the Rebels, who also are tracking the relic down.

Neb, the group's scholar, and Atlas's longtime companion, broke the heavy silence. "We should be approaching the ruins soon, according to the map," he said, his voice tight with nervous energy. He carefully folded the parchment and tucked it into his robes. "And thank the gods the Groundger hasn't caught our scent." Atlas scoffed, his voice a low growl. "We'll see if the Groundger's even real. For all we know, it's a bedtime story to keep fools from wandering too far into these woods." He tied back his unruly black hair, his steel-gray eyes scanning the dense canopy above.

"If it's not real, then where did those stories come from?" asked the warrior to Atlas's left, his eyes darting to every shadow. "This forest is ancient, filled with things we don't understand. I wouldn't dismiss the tales yet."

The second warrior nodded grimly, his hand gripping the hilt of his sword. "Best not to tempt fate."

Neb adjusted his royal blue robes, his expression unreadable. "In a place like this, caution is our only ally." He fumbled with his compass as he reached for his satchel on the horse trotting alongside them.

Atlas smirked, his fingers tightening around the pommel of his blade. "Caution won't find us the Crown. Keep moving, we'd be the best meal its had in decades"

The group trudged onward, the eerie silence of the woods broken only by the rustle of leaves underfoot and the occasional, haunting call of distant creatures. Overhead, the moonlight filtered through the canopy, casting ghostly patterns on the forest floor. Every step brought them closer to their goal—and the danger lurking in the shadows.

Moments later, they discovered an opening in the dense forest. Two silent statues stand as sentinels, guarding the overgrown garden of an ancient castle. Blue and purple leaves weave their way up the walls and spill on the broken stone path. Shattered windows and dusted panes reflect faintly of the moonlight. Wisps floated gracefully through the courtyard, their soft glow adding an eerie enchantment to the scene beneath the Lady of the Moon's gaze. The men stopped in their tracks to examine what lay before them—all gapping at the wondrous architecture of the Elves of Old.

Atlas broke the silence with a grin tugging at his lips. "We've found it, gentlemen: the Anacroploise Castle of the Elvhen. Hard part's over. Now, don't go triggering any Elvhen curses. I'd rather not spend the rest of my days haunted by some pissed-off elf spirit."

He strode forward confidently, boots crunching against the moss-covered stones. As he neared the main entrance, something unusual caught his eye—a shadow shifting in the moonlight. Atlas froze, his sharp gaze narrowing on the figure scaling a trellis and slipping through a shattered window.

"Someone's here," he muttered under his breath.

The metallic hiss of swords being unsheathed pierced the still air. Neb stepped forward, urgency lacing his voice. "We need to get to the Veilshard before the rebels lay their filthy hands on it. If they're already here—"

The scholar didn't need to finish. Atlas gave a curt nod, and with a gesture, the group moved as one. Their boots clanked against the stone pathway as they hurried toward the entrance, their eyes darting to every shadow, every flicker of movement.

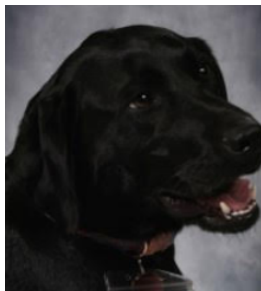
Whatever lay within the castle would decide the fate of the war—and perhaps their own lives.

Highlights

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Ask Sunny

By Sunny



' Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat'... all I want to know is where this Christmas is located and who is going to share the goose. I thought the recent Psychology fair in the cafeteria just might be this thing called Christmas, because by the

end of it, I think I must have eaten my weight in cookies. Hearing this song playing has made me realize that Christmas must be somewhere else and there is goose and something called 'figgy pudding' on the menu. I am really not sure what 'figgy pudding' is supposed to be, but they said that they won't go until they get some, therefore it must be good.

Mrs Rauscher says that I really need to watch my figure over the 'Hollyday Season'--not sure eating holly is going to make me fat, but I did overhear the editor of the Southridge Gazette say something about ham, so I am beginning to like this 'Season' even more. I wonder what type of season the chef uses for the ham. I like it plain and simple--no honey roast for me.

As always, I am getting distracted. Now back to this 'figgy pudding' business. What is this thing that makes people insist on staying until they 'get some'? I have done some research--well, I asked some people. Mrs. Rauscher just said: 'No, Sunny'. Izzy Leiberger thinks it is 'a warm, comforting dish like bread pudding, but with figs'. I didn't think the 'no, Sunny' was a very useful answer and I have no idea what bread pudding is, but I like the sound of it!

Mr Gogel was too busy to comment because he was trying to make sure the teacher's didn't sabotage the bells so we could all leave early for the weekend. I think it is supposed to be a really nice long weekend. Oh no, off track again. Good news, though, Mr Gogel did manage to give me a little bit more of an insight into the elusive pudding. He thinks it might be the mashed up stuff from fig newtons in pudding. I hope the pudding is chocolate. That sounds good, but I am not sure I would stay somewhere for it--remember there is also a fat goose.

Ms Eisenhut said that I should read Charles Dickens's 'A Christmas Carol'. There is lots of figgy pudding in that one. The editor said I had to hurry

with this article, so I do not have time to read an entire novel--she does expect a lot out of all of us with all of that reading. (I did watch the Muppets version of 'The Christmas Carol'.)

Luckily, as I was wandering the hallways, I ran into Becky, the amazing lunch lady. She looked it up for me and found a picture. That is all for now. Have a Happy Christmas one and all.



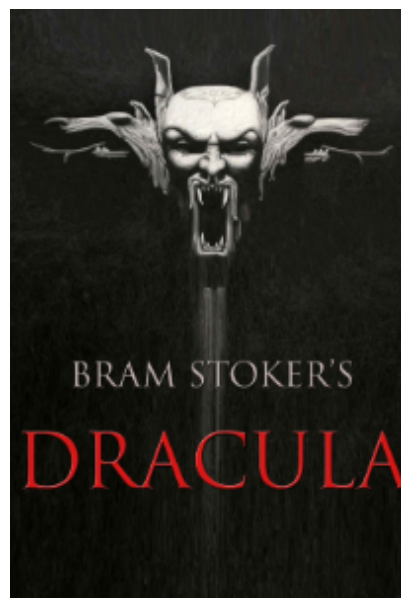
Book Review: Dracula

By Sam Stratman, Junior

One letter is the deciding factor between life and death for the residents of England. A businessman, Jonathan Harker, has received a letter signed by Count Dracula of Transylvania. A long hard fight between good and evil has led Mr. Harker to vow to destroy everything Count Dracula has ever stood for.

Will Mr. Harker make it back to his fiancé? Will he be fatefully turned into a servant of Dracula cursed to forever hurt those he loves?

Dracula by Bram Stoker is a book for the ages. To this date, it remains on my must-read list for individuals who are into the supernatural. Although a classic, nearly everyone should sit down and enjoy this novel.



Special Features

November Horoscopes

By Sam Stratman, Junior

- **Aries** - December is when your night begins to shine! Don't be scared to adventure into new nightly activities, but most importantly have fun!
- **Taurus** - Your love language is all about making and spending money. Take time to notice the fine details when it comes to your Christmas shopping.
- **Gemini** - Be careful about the words you say. Bringing people up rather than down is what this month is all about!
- **Cancer** - Stay on the lookout for new career opportunities! Your best option is sure to come to you this month.
- **Leo** - New relationships will continue to show themselves during the month of December. Make sure to embrace these wonderful changes.
- **Virgo** - As finals start to come closer and closer, take your time to prepare for that one subject properly you aren't so sure about!
- **Libra** - That one spot has been calling your name for ages! Take this time to finally treat yourself this month.
- **Scorpio** - This month is all about you! Set some personal time for yourself aside and enjoy every second of it.
- **Sagittarius** - The end of the new year means new bold changes for you! Don't be scared to try them.
- Capricorn - Nearing the end of the month the longing for some peace will arise. Take this time to enjoy it.
- **Aquarius** - Your social life going into the new year will be flourishing. Reach out to new people they may be your new lifelong friends!
- **Pisces** - Your career is where you thrive! Create a path for newer employees to follow in your footsteps.

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!

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Rules and Consequences

By a Member of the Dead Poets Society

- Forevermore All rules have Consequences
So If there are no rules there are no consequences
And If there are consequences there are rules

There should be a rule for there to be no consequences

However, If it's a rule there will be consequences

Therefore, All rules have Consequences and Forevermore-

P R E S E N T S F R K T D V
F R C Y N A E N R Q N H H S
F R I E N D R O G H R Y B T
H F P L E G T W R O T P L A
J B D R S S D F Y T O R F R
R L L T S Y H L U C O L D M
Q I J F S T Q A C H P E G N
W Z C H A U O K F O Q V Z B
U Z V R W M K E G C R F I K
O A A C H R I J A O A L W T
P R H R Y A H L T L J A U R
D D R O A T E Y Y A L D G E
C H R I S T M A S T F Q S E
L K D S C X R E T E D T U Y

**Cold Christmas Snowflake Tree
Hot Chocolate Blizzard Family
Star Friend Presents**



Additional Credits

Dad Joke of the Month—Lyndsey Taylor

Word Search—Lindsey Mendel