

The Southridge Gazette

January Edition 1/31/2025



Pictured above are Homecoming Queen Molly Schwartz and her court as well as Canyon Rainey and Avahlynn Messmer

Winter Homecoming 2025

By Olivia Rasche, Junior

Homecoming is a tradition that many schools in the United States have. It was originally a college tradition where the alumni of that school were invited to attend a game and "come home" to their old university. This spread to high schools around the nation. Schools made this celebration to

promote community and school pride. Being on the homecoming court is an honor, and it showcases the students with great involvement in their school and respect from their peers.

Homecoming at Southridge this year was a great success. A total of 22 students were given the honor of participating in the basketball homecoming celebration held on January 25. The way homecoming works at Southridge is that every

grade gets representation. Freshmen get 2 students, Sophomores get 4 students, Juniors get 6 students, and the seniors get 10 students voted on by their grades. Then all grades vote on the seniors who will be homecoming king or queen. The runner-ups are the prince and princess. Students chosen for homecoming are not put back in the running until senior year. The awards this year were presented

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by Canyon Rainey and Avahlynn Messmer. Homecoming prince and princess were Jack Boeglin and Isabella Taylor respectively. Homecoming king was Olan Kramer, and and homecoming queen was Molly Schwartz.

Here are the Homecoming Queen and her court:

Senior

- Olan Kramer - King
- Molly Schwartz - Queen
- Isabella Taylor - Princess
- Jack Boeglin - Prince
- Claudia Burton
- Ava Hall
- Alex Huffman
- Kara Schmitt
- Ryan Roby
- Rolan Whitehead

Junior

- Arleth Najarro Pena
- Adalynn Lanman
- Oscar Dubon
- Emma Schroeder
- Chase Ferguson
- Jackson Stegall

Sophomore

- Mya Blackgrove
- Caroline Faarbech Norskov
- Noah Ring
- Max Hentrup

Freshman

- Kate Boeglin
- Grayson Bolling

Preparing for the SAT

By Addison Weaver, Junior

The SAT is approaching fast for the junior class, with the test scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, 2025, during school. This test creates a great opportunity for many students. To support students' success, the school provides a range of resources and opportunities designed to help students excel.

One of the major offerings is the SAT Prep morning course, taught by Mrs. Hopf (math) and Mrs. Eisenhut (English). In this course, students will work with example test questions tailored to pinpoint areas needing improvement. By addressing the students' challenges, the teachers can customize their

instruction, ensuring that each student receives the support necessary to improve their performance on test day.

In addition to the prep course, students can enjoy other valuable resources. Khan Academy offers a comprehensive SAT study course that delves into each section of the test, and the College Board provides practice tests.

Although many colleges and universities have adopted test-optional policies, succeeding on the SAT remains a powerful asset that can help college applications. A strong SAT score may open doors to scholarships and additional educational opportunities. It's also worth noting that the SAT continues to be a graduation requirement at Southridge High School, and it is becoming a necessary criterion for several institutions.

The SAT Prep Course will be held at 7:20 AM in Room 411 on the following dates: January 23, January 30, February 6, February 13, February 20, and February 27. This is a chance to invest in your future, so take advantage of these valuable resources!

For those needing more information about the SAT and available preparation resources, students can connect with their counselors and teachers at Southridge.

Continuation of Raider Basketball

By Robert Bowman

Across Indiana, many basketball courts would have been better used as hockey rinks coming into the new year. With some areas getting upwards of 13 inches of snow and ice. Usually, this kind of disruption might lead to teams losing their flow and rhythm. This was not the case for the Southridge Raiders. After starting the season 7-1, the Raiders have managed to continue on a hot streak, going 5-1 through the end of January. In both losses this season, the Raiders have managed to keep it close, coming within 2 points of South Ripley and within 3 points of Princeton. On the opposite end, the wins have been big. A huge victory against Evansville Christian finished with the Raiders winning 74-41.

A special event at the Heritage Hills game was during halftime, where seniors with 15 or more dual credits and those graduating early were awarded with a certificate. With this ceremony, the Raiders awarded those in attendance with an impressive win, beating Heritage Hills with a final score of 51-36. The Raiders

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will look to extend a 3-game win streak as they are on the road to face Forest Park on the 31st. They will return home on the 6th as they play Gibson Southern.

Southridge Students Participate in Honor Ensembles!

By Izzy Leiberling, Editor

From January 16-18, four Southridge Students participated in two prestigious music Ensembles run by the Indiana Music Educators Association (IMEA). Katelyn Wright and William Dubon were parts of the All-State Honor Choir, and Zack Hillenbrand and Carson Blair took part in the Honor Concert Band.

The band Carson and Zack were in had over 100 students from high schools around the state. They practiced at the Masonic Temple in Fort Wayne in the days leading up to Saturday's performance. Saturday evening, the band performed several pieces at the music conference that was taking place at Purdue's Fort Wayne campus.

Katelyn and William participated in the All-State Honor Choir also run by IMEA. 250 students arrived and would practice for a total of 12 hours leading up to the performance. Also Saturday, the choir would perform their pieces conducted by Dr. Alan Hightower. The choir most notably performed "Changes", a commissioned piece by Sherry Blevins. This means that they were the first to perform this music.

Overall, it was an honor for all four students to perform in their ensembles. It was a new experience for all involved and an excellent learning opportunity.



Chapter Two of the Beginning of the End

By Eleanor McConnell, Junior

The men moved cautiously through the crumbling castle, their way lit only by the faint glow of moonlight through broken windows. Silence enveloped them, broken only by the soft crunch of their boots on stone. Neb gripped the brittle parchment, which he called a map, his eyes darting nervously to every shadow. This place, once a bustling hub of elven life, was now nothing more than ruins and dust—a ghost of its former grandeur.

Ahead of them loomed a tall spiral staircase, twisting upward into darkness.

"Once you hit rock bottom, the only way is up," Atlas quipped, his sarcasm cutting through the tense silence. His smirk was met with groans from the group.

Neb's complexion turned an unsettling green as he eyed the endless staircase. "Rushing up this thing is going to make me sick."

Atlas clapped him on the shoulder. "We don't have a choice, Neb. The rebels won't wait for you to catch your breath. We need to get to the relic before they do."

Neb sighed in resignation, glancing uneasily at the staircase. "Right. Let's just hope my stomach holds up."

The men began their climb, their breaths growing heavy as they ascended in endless circles. By the time they reached the top, they were drenched in sweat and wheezing, and Neb looked terrifyingly sick. Before them stood a double, heavy stone door, faint light spilling out from the cracks. Atlas rushed to push it open, revealing a large chamber bathed in an otherworldly glow and whisps.

In the center of the room stood a pedestal, the Veilshard Crown resting atop it. But what caught their attention was the figure standing before it—a woman. The room, like the rest of the castle, was ancient and overgrown. Vines crept through the cracks in the stone, and the air smelled of damp earth. The men froze as the woman who's bathed in whisps, turned to face them.

Her rose-pink hair shimmered in the soft light, cascading like silk down her back. Her tan, freckled complexion was marred by burn scars that ran along the left side of her face, disappearing beneath her ornate clothing. Gold belts and jewelry adorned her figure, each piece glinting like a trophy. A septum

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piercing caught the light as she smirked at them, her violet eyes gleaming with mischief.

Atlas raised his sword, his tone harsh and commanding. "Drop the Crown, or the Groundger will have its next meal served up fresh."

The woman arched an eyebrow, unimpressed. She tucked the Crown under her arm with casual defiance. "Uh, no? This is my heritage." She tucked her hair behind a pointed ear, its edge adorned with delicate jewelry. "Who do you think you are, barging in here and making demands? Robbers?" Accusations dripped from her tongue.

Atlas scowled, stepping closer to the stairs leading up to the pedestal. "Oh, grow up. Quit playing around and hand it over, rebel!"

The woman tilted her head, studying the group intently. She didn't flinch, even as the men readied their weapons. Then, from the shadows behind her, a dwarf emerged, his axe gleaming as he let out a low growl.

"Me? A rebel?" she scoffed, waving the Crown as if it were a toy. "Gods, no. My loyalty is to whoever pays me the most for these damn relics. You know, I'm a Gilded Seeker. Ever heard of us? We're the ones who do the hard work while you run around swinging swords and playing heroes."

Neb peeked out from behind Atlas, his voice trembling. "You're not with the rebels?"

She rolled her eyes. "No. And if I were, I'd have better things to do than deal with you stuck up bits. This war is as stupid as a drunk toddler." She tossed her hair over her shoulder, her movements as graceful as a predator's. "In fact, you should be thanking me."

Atlas huffed, his patience wearing thin. "Thanking you? For what? Being a pain in the ass?"

She smirked, stepping down from the dais, her cap delicately following her like a pet. The men tensed, their weapons at the ready. "For playing a lullaby for the Groundger," she said casually. "Otherwise, it would've eaten you the moment you set foot in the forest."

Atlas froze, his mouth opening and closing in disbelief. "You—"

But before he could finish, a thick cloud of smoke exploded around them. Coughing and disoriented, the men stumbled, their eyes stinging as the elf and her companion vanished into the night.

Footsteps echoed briefly in the chamber, then faded into the distance, leaving Atlas and his group alone with the bitter realization that the Crown was gone.

Chinese New Year

By Jonathan Perez, Senior

Chinese Lunar New Year is a common holiday celebrated by Chinese nationals, immigrants, and others of Chinese descent on January 29th of this year. This holiday comes from ancient Chinese roots and traditions. Most of the world currently runs on the Gregorian calendar, but many nations have traditional calendars based on lunar phases and other natural cycles. Some Chinese New Year traditions include making and eating foods like bao, moon cakes, and Ba Bao Fan cake. Many also create lanterns and ornaments or enjoy time with family and friends. Chinese New Year is celebrated in southern Asia and throughout the world.

You may be wondering, how does this affect me if I'm not Chinese? Well for starters, anybody can take part in the Chinese Lunar New Year and celebrate Chinese culture. Secondly, the day serves as a reminder of various ethnic groups' heritages. This is similar to how Strassenfest and Latino Fest are celebrated in our local area. Chinese Lunar New Year is a day to celebrate and honor Chinese and wider Asian roots. What better way to celebrate than good food, warm drinks, and fun music?

Here are some foods and drinks you can try during this holiday!



Raider Recognition !

Southridge's production of **Anastasia** is coming up on **February 27 through March 2!**

Get your tickets at

<https://our.show/shsanastasia25>

Highlights

Mrs. Allen's EL Geography Presentations

By Izzy Leiberling, Editor

Recently, students in Mrs. Allen's EL Geography class were able to give presentations about Spanish-speaking countries. They were able to speak in their native language through the presentation. Students also brought in food from their country. According to Mrs. Allen, "They were very nervous but they did AWESOME!"



Book Review: The Way of Shadows

By Sam Stratman, Junior



A world full of magic, consequences, and death. The Way of the Shadows by Brent Weeks will seize all control of your mind. Each new page turn fulfills your need to know what is coming next.

While only being a young boy Azoth wishes to become a deadly assassin. After having to live on the streets for his entire life he needs to find new ways to keep surviving

in this cruel world. Only before reaching the brink of death will he be an apprentice to the notorious Durzo Blint, who will break, build, and destroy Azoth until he can fight for himself.

Be warned, this novel contains many instances of violent thoughts, and tendencies, and goes into detail about triggering events that happen to many of the characters.

Students of the Month

From Staff

Below are the most recent students of the month! Teachers choose students each month for exemplary performance in a certain subject. Congratulations!



Art Submission

By Anonymous

"I am the love that dare not speak its name" is a phrase from the poem "Two Loves" by Lord Alfred Douglas. He was a poet, journalist, and lover or renowned writer Oscar Wilde. Douglas's poems often surrounded the theme of forbidden love. The green carnation has also become an LGBT+ symbol as Oscar Wilde popularized it in the queer community.



Special Features

January Horoscopes

By Sam Stratman, Junior

- **Aries** - It is the time to embrace the new changes in your life. Whether it is about your career or love life.
- **Taurus** - You have been overworking yourself to the point of exhaustion. Take some time for yourself.
- **Gemini** - Having friends is wonderful, but now you have to be honest with them about your innermost desires.
- **Cancer** - Your future dreams are within your grasp! Don't be scared to take that final leap for happiness.
- **Leo** - The month after Christmas is always a busy one. Make sure to complete the most necessary tasks.
- **Virgo** - 2025 will be the year for you—better grades, a higher-paying job, or maybe even a new relationship. If you can think of it it will happen!
- **Libra** - So many new and endless possibilities will present themselves to you. Be careful though and always make the right decision.
- **Scorpio** - Everyone is counting on you to get tasks done. Don't forget to take care of yourself in the process!
- **Sagittarius** - Money has always been very important to you. Let loose and don't be scared to spend an extra dollar to treat yourself.
- **Capricorn** - The month of January is all about what you want to do! Take some much needed time for yourself.
- **Aquarius** - Everything has been go, go, go with you so far into 2025. A little peace and quiet can go a long way.
- **Pisces** - The time is now to focus on what you most love to do!

Bizzy the Turtle

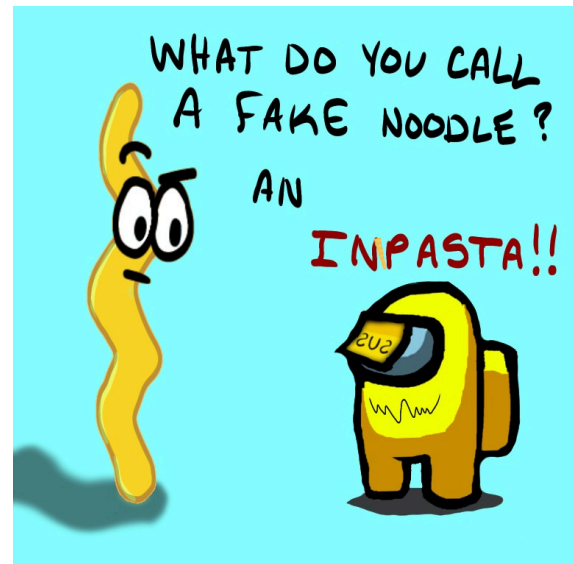
By a Member of the Southridge Dead Poets Society

A turtle can live for hundreds of years
So why would she believe her life ends at fifty?
All goals, achievements, failures, and distress
To Bizzy all looks silly

With the water she flows through life
What a somnolent life for Bizzy
All day she is dreaming
Which is why she's always grumpy

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



Additional Credits

Dad Joke of the Month—Lyndsey Taylor
