



SPARTANS, GOBBLE TIL’ YOU WOBBLE

From Our Spartan Table To Yours!

GOOD NEWS

- ★ Kayla Watson has been accepted into Stillman College, Bethune-Cookman University, Claflin University, and Southeastern Louisiana University
- ★ Kaitlynn Wilde has been accepted into the University of New Orleans with a Dean’s Scholarship and Regis University
- ★ Shayla Juge has been accepted into Southeastern Louisiana University, Dominican University of California, University of the Incarnate Word, and Lamar University
- ★ Darryiale Bardell has been accepted into Mississippi State University and University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- ★ Paige Reine has been accepted into University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Dillard University with an Test Option Merit Scholarship
- ★ Andray Smith has been accepted into University of South Alabama
- ★ Jayaide Cosse has been accepted into University of Mississippi (Ole Miss)
- ★ Alyssa Narcisse has been accepted into Southeastern Louisiana University
- ★ Mckenzi Carter has been accepted into University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- ★ Jaeda Newton has been accepted into Loyola University of New Orleans with a Dean's Scholarship, University of Mississippi (Ole Miss), and McNeese State University
- ★ Genevieve DeBarbieris was named Salmen High School’s 2025-2026 Student of the Year
- ★ Mrs. Alexa Yates was named Salmen High School’s 2025-2026 Teacher of the Year
- ★ Allstate Sugar Bowl announces Da’John Howard as the winner of the Manning Futures award — twice in a row this year!
- ★ The Cross Country Team competed at St Thomas Aquinas; the following runners ran a personal best for the 3 miles:
 - Muhammad Abid
 - John Do
 - Riley Orso
 - Noah Hendricks
- ★ Congratulations to Camilla Veloz (22:51), Adam Juneau (18:55), and Andray Smith (18:35) on leading the varsity team!
- ★ The Salmen Drama Club, in collaboration with Abney, Brock, and St. Tammany Junior schools will perform *The Lion King Jr.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ★ **November 4:**
Blood Drive- Juniors & Seniors
- ★ **November 7:**
Senior Night Football vs Chalmette @Salmen 7:00 PM

Pep Rally

- ★ **November 12:**
April Bergens - TOPS and FASFA Night @Salmen Cafeteria
- ★ **November 13:**
Salmen High Theater Presents *The Lion King* @Salmen Cafeteria 9:00 AM/ 7:00 PM
Girls Soccer vs Covington @Covington 7:30 PM
Boys B.Ball vs Walker @Salmen 7:15 PM
- ★ **November 14:**
Salmen High Theater Presents *The Lion King* @Salmen Cafeteria 9:00 AM/ 7:00 PM
- ★ **November 17:**
Volleyball Tournament at Both Lunches @GYM
Boys B.Ball vs Walker @Salmen 7:15 PM
- ★ **November 18:**
Volleyball Tournament at Both Lunches @GYM
Boys B.Ball vs D’Iberville @D’Iberville 7:15 PM
Girls B.Ball vs D’Iberville @D’Iberville 6:00 PM
- ★ **November 19:**
Volleyball Tournament at Both Lunches @GYM
Salmen High Future Focus Night @Salmen 6:00 PM
- ★ **November 20:**
Volleyball Tournament at Both Lunches @GYM
Girls B.Ball vs Riverdale @Riverdale 6:30 PM
- ★ **November 21:**
Volleyball Tournament Pep Rally
Girls Soccer vs AOL @AOL 5:30 PM
Boys Soccer CYSA Tournament
Boys B.Ball vs Archbishop Rummel @Archbishop Rummel 6:45 PM
- ★ **November 22:**
Boys Soccer CYSO Tournament
Girls B.Ball vs Warren Easton @Salmen 1:00 PM
- ★ **November 24-28:**
Thanksgiving Break - No School

Weather Watch with Robbi: Pretty Cool

BY ROBBI-RENEE’ WILLIAMS



We open November on comfortable terms: the weather is cool, the humidity is down, and people are happy. Hello, happy people! Ready to read about the weather? Let me tell you about Mr. Weather—he’s a pretty cool guy, but only for half the year.

November is a month of crunchy leaves and fewer complaints. When I say complaints, I mean the general displeasure toward humidity and, more specifically, the way people express it: “It’s so muggy out here,” or “Why is it so muggy out here?” Worry no more;

humidity levels are on a downward trend. The chance of having a muggy day at the beginning of November is 25 percent, dropping to 11 percent by the end of the month. The temperature is no threat either. The air feels cool with highs in the mid-70s and lows in the mid-50s during the start of the month. By the end of November, highs will be in the 60s and lows will be in the low 50s or high 40s. Also, less rain is expected, since November is traditionally a dry month. Never say never, though—about 4.22 inches of rainfall is expected throughout the month, with hurricane season coming to a close on November 30. Did you know that only 7 percent of all named storms happen during November?

Overall, conditions are pleasant this month with cooler, drier air and less rainfall. The months are flying by, and the weather is barely keeping up. Ladies and gentlemen, heat is a thing of the past. So find your coats and settle in for November.

Spartans Beat Patriots

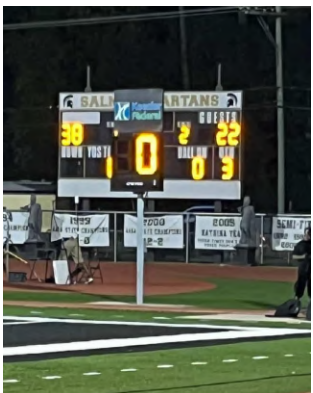
BY PAIGE REINE & JAEDA NEWTON

From the classroom to the field, Salmen Spartans are giving everyone something to cheer for! The Spartans hosted their first home game of the season, facing off against the Liberty Patriots in a matchup that kept fans on their feet until the final whistle blew. As your fellow students and reporters, we, Paige Reine and Jaeda Newton, are here to walk you through the action, highlights, and memorable moments that made this game one to remember.

Hello Spartans, I'm Jaeda Newton. Let me walk you through the stats of the game. Throughout the game, the Spartans' offense showcased a strong attack, mixing run and pass plays to maintain control. Salmen's offense totaled steady yardage while converting three of nine third downs, showing both efficiency and areas for improvement. Our top three offensive players of the game were Da'John Howard (QB), Jimmy Chanzy (RB), and Rey'sean Coleman (WR). Starting with Howard, he demonstrated control in the pocket by delivering accurate throws under pressure. Because of this, he finished the game with 172 passing yards and two touchdowns. Next is Jimmy Chanzy, whose consistent yardage and versatility contributed to the Spartans' offensive success. His touchdown in the third quarter was a critical moment that helped Salmen extend their lead. Chanzy completed the game with 26 carries, 156 rushing yards, six additional offensive yards, and two touchdowns. Finally, we have Rey'sean Coleman, who provided a reliable target for Howard and made several key receptions. Coleman ended the game with four receptions, 23.5 yards, and two touchdowns. *Geaux Spartans!*



This is Paige Reine coming to you with the postgame breakdown. The Spartans' numbers tell the real story. On defense, Salmen's unit came up big, stopping Liberty on third-down attempts and breaking up multiple pass plays. Their front line consistently pushed back the opposing team's running game, while defensive backs stayed alert to knock down passes. These stops helped swing momentum and kept the Patriots from making a comeback. Our top three defensive players of the game were Tyree Burton (DB, CB), Savolia Callahan (DE, WR), and Delaney Taylor (OLB). Starting with Burton, he recorded three tackles and one interception. Callahan ended the game with one sack, and Taylor finished with 2.5 tackles. Great job, defense, for holding strong!



A few honorable mentions we would like to highlight: Da'John Howard's 30-yard pass to Korde Harris (OLB, RB), Imon Howard (NG, DT) with a fumble recovery, and Da'John Howard with another 44-yard pass to Rey'sean Coleman. With efficient teamwork

and excellent field play, Salmen took home the victory with a total of 428 yards, consisting of 172 passing yards and 256 rushing yards. Keep up the great work, Spartans!

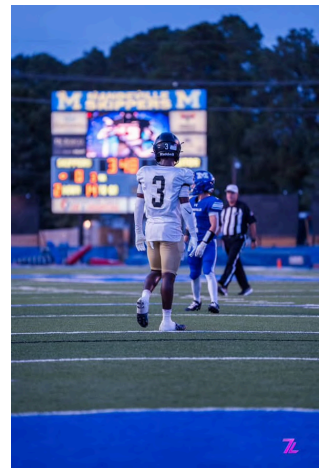
The Spartans' determination and endurance were put to the test against Liberty, proving that this team has the heart and bravery to take on any challenge. As more games roll in, including Senior Night and district matchups, our players will need the continued support of classmates, teachers, and the rest of our community as they bring home more victories. Let's keep cheering them on, because from the classroom to the field, the Spartans are setting an example of what "Pride is Power" looks like.

Salmen vs. Slidell: The Real SHS

BY PAIGE REINE & JAEDA NEWTON

As the lights shine bright and the stands fill rapidly with proud fans, the city of Slidell comes alive for one of the most anticipated rival games of the season: Salmen vs. Slidell. This annual matchup between the Salmen Spartans and the Slidell Tigers brings the community together in a display of pride and determination. Both teams are hungry for a win and have something to prove. This game is not just an ordinary football game; it is a night of teamwork, grit, and emotion.

Covering this game was more than just reporting the final score. It was about capturing the essence of this legendary rivalry and what it means to fans. Many key factors and moments stood out throughout the game. For starters, our quarterback, Da'John Howard, was an important factor in this matchup. Howard made four touchdowns—three passing and one rushing. He threw for a total of 223 yards, connecting with multiple players: Kashius Sampson (WR, CB), Korde Harris (RB, OLB), Rey'sean Coleman (WR), and Terrance Mitchell (WR, QB). Coleman scored a touchdown in the first quarter, and Mitchell scored in both the second and third quarters. After Slidell tied the game, Salmen immediately responded with a quick three-play scoring drive. Both teams' defenses held strong in the fourth quarter until the final touchdown was made by Jimmy Chanzy (RB), leaving no chance for the Slidell Tigers. Not only did these young men take home a victory, but Salmen's record also improved to 5-3 overall and 2-1 in District 7-5A, and this win marked their 15-game winning streak against Slidell. Congratulations to our Spartans! *Pride is Power.*



Stats are not the only focus; we also wanted to know how our players felt. I, Jaeda Newton, interviewed Camron Robinson (CB, RB, KR), or as many Spartans know him, C-Rob, to see how he felt after the game. Win or lose, his favorite moments were when the defense made plays and when he heard the fans scream and cheer for them. "I want to give a shoutout to the secondary, Tyree Burton, also known as Reedy, Jace Gaines, and Noah Dietrich. All of us made big plays for our team." The perspectives did not end there. I, Paige Reine, interviewed Jimmy Chanzy (RB, KR) and Da'John Howard (QB) to get their insights on this huge victory. Chanzy, who has been recognized in multiple online sports articles for his outstanding performance, was impressed by the loud cheers and the huge support from fans. It is a proud moment before stepping on the field to face reality. "I felt the support from my teammates when Slidell planned to stop us. We stepped up to influence the team to win." We love the team's support! As for Da'John, he emphasized that despite all the mistakes made, his proudest moment was seeing his teammates play. As the



Spartans took home the victory, seeing them excited after beating their rival opponents also brought a sense of happiness to his heart. Howard has received plenty of awards and recognition, but he believes his individual success is directly tied to his team's performance. He expressed that his offensive line is protecting him, his running backs are doing their job, and his receivers are making plays down the field. "I look at all my awards as team awards."

The Salmen Spartans' victory against Slidell was more than just a win; it was a statement that showcased perseverance, teamwork, and school pride. While interviewing these players, they reflected on the focus and drive that led them to a celebratory win over their everlasting rivals. From clutch plays to unbeatable defense, the Spartans demonstrated why their unity set them apart under the Friday night lights. As the whistle blew and the cheers echoed, these young men walked off the field not just as winners, but as a team that has made their school and community proud.

Native American Heritage Month

BY PARKER JACKSON

November is dedicated to the celebration of Native American Heritage Month. Native Americans lived in America long before it was colonized. This month is meant to recognize their culture, traditions, history, and the hardships they have faced throughout generations. Native American Heritage Month was established by



President George Bush in 1990 and serves as a tribute to their resilience and the continued relevance of their history through the changes in their homeland.

On October 12, 1492, Christopher Columbus accidentally arrived at a foreign land that was said to be "discovered" for the first time. He

landed in the Bahamas, where his first interaction was with the Taíno tribe. The Taíno greeted Columbus and his crew with kindness and curiosity. However, they did not know the true intentions of Columbus and the Europeans. From that day, the Taíno and other tribes experienced mistrust, hardships, removal from their land, diseases, and many more challenges. There is still a lot of misinformation today, such as the celebration of Columbus Day and the claim that he "discovered" the land, when in fact Native Americans were already living here. Many important events occurred during colonization, one of the most significant being the Trail of Tears.

The Trail of Tears took place from 1830 to 1839 and involved the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole tribes. Although many people are familiar with the story, it is important to remember this part of American and Native American history so it is never forgotten. The forced removal began in the southeastern United States and moved westward, caused by the Indian Removal Act of 1830. The tribes were forced from their homes and endured terrible suffering, including harsh weather conditions, shortages of supplies, exhaustion, long journeys on foot, illnesses, starvation, violence, and more. The main causes were racism, settlers' desire for land and gold, and broken promises. Despite these hardships, Native Americans were able to preserve their culture and way of life.



The Chickasaw tribe, in particular, faced mistreatment by Europeans, who tried to change the Chickasaws' religion, culture, agriculture, and language. Nevertheless, the Chickasaw persevered and maintained their traditions. The Chickasaw had deep roots in the arts, such as storytelling, singing, painting, sculpting, and writing. Spiritually, they honored four things: the clouds, sun, clear sky, and Aba'Binn'li, which means "dweller above." Their traditional practices included sacred fires, busk festivals, purification rituals, and animal symbols. Traditional foods included grape dumplings,

Indian fry bread, and pishofa. They also followed a diet called the "three sisters" crops: corn, beans, and squash, and hunted animals like deer, rabbit, and turkey. A fun fact about the Chickasaw is their legacy as warriors and skilled hunters.

Despite all the hardships faced by Native tribes when Europeans arrived, they were able to preserve their culture, way of life, and true identity. Native American history should never be forgotten and should always be taught. Their culture and history are still celebrated today, not only through Native American Heritage Month but also on their reservations and within their communities, keeping their ancestral traditions alive. If you know anyone who is Indigenous, consider talking with them about their culture and history.

NOVEMBER HALLOWEEN

BY AISHA MIAN

Everyone is familiar with the October holiday, Halloween. But what about the holiday similar to Halloween in November? Originating in the Celtic regions of Europe and associated with paganism, Samhain is considered the Halloween of November. It begins on the last day of October and continues through the night as November begins. Samhain celebrates the end of the harvest and summer, as well as the arrival of winter. If you enjoy Halloween, then without a doubt, you will enjoy its predecessor, Samhain.

During Samhain, it is common to dance and dress up. Observers of this holiday enjoy special meals and participate in various rituals, such as taking nature walks, especially fitting with the crisp autumn weather. Other rituals include building altars to honor ancestors, and each element on the altar holds its own symbolism. People place autumn fruits like apples and pumpkins to represent the end of the harvest, skulls and bones to symbolize the dead, and even photos to remember loved ones. Some also bake and prepare food for the spirits. Samhain is similar to Halloween, as both revolve around themes of the dead and dressing up.



It is believed during Samhain that the supernatural world becomes visible to humans, allowing gods and spirits to cause mischief and



frighten people. This is just one of many beliefs associated with Samhain. Other traditions include the belief that the veil between the human and spirit worlds becomes thin, bonfires are lit to ward off evil spirits, and costumes are worn to avoid being bothered by spirits. Similarly, Halloween is rooted in the belief that the boundary between the spiritual and human

worlds thins, making it important to wear costumes to ward off mischievous spirits. In many ways, Halloween is the direct descendant of Samhain.

Samhain can be enjoyed in the same manner as Halloween. After all, Samhain is the parent of Halloween and is still celebrated today with a similar aesthetic. So what makes it different to celebrate? It's simply a November Halloween. This means you can enjoy Halloween twice a year. Go out, mark the end of the harvest, and welcome winter by acknowledging Samhain.

Día de los Muertos: A Joyful Tradition of Life and Death

BY ESSIX CHANDLER

While many cultures mourn the dead in silence, families celebrating Día de los Muertos believe that the veil between worlds lifts for two joyful days, turning grief into a vibrant reunion filled with food, music, and memories. This annual tradition, rooted in ancient Indigenous rituals and Mexican culture, is not a time for sadness but a chance to lovingly remember and celebrate the lives of those who have passed on.



Although Día de los Muertos is often mistaken for Halloween, the holiday's growing popularity in the United States is fueled in part by pop culture that has revealed its true meaning. Movies like *Coco* and public festivals across the country have helped people understand that this day is not about fear or darkness but about honoring life. By showcasing altars, marigolds, sugar skulls, and lively parades, media and community events highlight the holiday's celebratory spirit and distinguish it from Halloween's spooky associations.

At its core, Día de los Muertos is about remembering loved ones with joy. Families build colorful altars decorated with photos, candles, and the favorite foods of their ancestors. These offerings are



believed to welcome the spirits back home for a visit. Beyond tradition, the holiday provides comfort to grieving families, reminding them that love transcends death and that memories keep connections alive.

Día de los Muertos is more than a Mexican holiday; it reflects a universal human experience. Around the world, people search for ways to honor those they've lost. The holiday's rise in the U.S. shows how its message resonates across cultures. Grief does not always have to be quiet sorrow; it can be transformed into celebration, laughter, and lasting connection.

This year, take time to learn more about Día de los Muertos. Visit a local celebration, create a small altar at home, or simply share the stories of loved ones you've lost. By keeping their memory alive, you carry forward the holiday's powerful message: love and life are stronger than death

Blood Drive - Spartans Give The Gift of Life

BY JAEDA NEWTON

Attention, Spartans! Gear up for the Annual Blood Drive! Every few seconds, someone, somewhere, needs blood. Your donation isn't just a way to earn that beautiful graduation cord; it's an opportunity to help our community and save lives. With every blood donation you make, you are giving someone else a chance they desperately need.

This "Blood Rushing" event will take place on Tuesday, November 4th, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the library. See Ms. Fritscher or Mr. Marlborough at the concession stand during your lunch for the required paperwork.

You must be 16 years or older to participate. If you are 16, you must weigh at least 130 pounds and have both a school permission slip and an additional parental slip. If you are 17 or older, you only

need the school permission slip.

Seniors, to receive the graduation cord, you must have donated blood three times during your high school career.

Don't be afraid to help the community! This is a simple but powerful way to make a difference.



Veterans Day

BY AMIYAH SHANNON

November is here, and so is the time to show appreciation to our veterans! Even though we should always appreciate those who have served and sacrificed for our country, November 11th is the day we specifically celebrate and honor our veterans. Join me in recognizing and appreciating our fellow veterans here at Salmen, along with some information about Veterans Day.

Veterans Day, which falls on November 11th, was established to honor and thank all veterans who have served in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, whether living or deceased. We use this day to thank them for their service and all the sacrifices they made for our country. Let's take a moment to honor our fellow veterans here at Salmen!

Mr. Labee, Salmen's band director, knew from an early age that he would join the military. As a child, he had many experiences that solidified his decision, such as having family members in the military and visiting the Pensacola Naval Air Station and Eglin Air Force Base. He first joined the Navy for two years as part of the SAMS program. After the program was discontinued, he joined the Army National Guard to help pay for college, spending an additional five years in that branch. Reflecting on his service, Mr. Labee shared that his proudest moments were being the Education Leader in Basic Training and a member of the drill team. The military taught him the value of patience and provided many opportunities to sharpen skills he already had. Mr. Labee believes that many civilians take what military service personnel do for granted, emphasizing, "The freedoms we have are largely due to the sacrifices made by our service members." He expressed his frustration when people do not stand for the pledge or respect the playing or singing of the National Anthem, stating, "If people only knew of the sacrifices and lives lost or impacted by our service members while maintaining our freedoms, they might have a different perspective."

Our principal, Mrs. Jacobs, also served in the military. She joined because her parents couldn't afford to send her to college, and she needed a job that could support her. She chose the United States Marine Corps (USMC) because she liked a challenge and saw the Marines as the most formidable physical challenge. Like Mr. Labee, leadership played a key role in her experience, and her proudest moments were all the times her natural leadership abilities were recognized with leadership and promotion opportunities. Mrs. Jacobs wishes civilians, especially young people, understood the many benefits of the military, even after leaving the service with an honorable discharge, such as money for education, civil service job benefits, and a resume boost.



There you have it! In honor of Veterans Day, I hope this article has given you greater awareness and appreciation for veterans. Perhaps it has inspired you to consider military service or given you a new perspective on those who have served. Veteran appreciation is very important and very much needed. Never forget those who risked their lives for our country. So, if you see any of these staff members in the hall, be sure to thank them for their service!

FUTURE FOCUS 2025

BY MADISON KNIGHT

The path to a successful future doesn't start after graduation; it begins years earlier, with the decisions made by families and students in junior high. Future Focus Family Night gives junior high students the opportunity to learn about high school and what it has to offer. These events are important because they prepare students for high school, inform families about opportunities, and help everyone plan for a successful future.

Future Focus Night will take place on Wednesday, November 19th, at 6 p.m. The goal of this event is to help middle school students become familiar with Salmen's campus and everything it offers, including extracurricular activities, sports, clubs, Dual Enrollment classes, and more. This event has a positive impact on students; you won't regret attending. For example, by participating in this event, students can get a head start on figuring out which pathway they want to take in high school, making things easier for both counselors and students. Events like this are common at high schools to help 7th and 8th graders get acquainted with their future schools.

The theme for this year's Future Focus Night is "Passport to Success". You can expect a full house, with the superintendent, Mr.



Frank Jabbia, our principal, Liza Jacobs, other administrators, and various clubs and organizations in attendance. Guests will receive a complete tour of the school. Ultimately, attending this event gives families a chance to see what we offer and what the campus looks like.



In conclusion, Future Focus Family Night matters because it guides students into high school, shows families the many opportunities available, and helps everyone plan for a successful future. This event is an important way to prepare for high school, giving both students and parents key information about classes, activities, and opportunities. These events ensure families know what steps to take. Attending Future Focus Night is a small step today that can make a big difference in a student's tomorrow.

Circle of Life - The Lion King

BY SARA MITCHELL

Hakuna Matata, what a wonderful month! Hakuna Matata, ain't no days pass without a play. It means no worries, for the rest of your days! While the outlook of The Lion King is emotional and features powerful thematic music, "The Circle of Life" represents the concept of all living things going through the cycle of birth, life, and death. Insights from interviews reveal the vibrant creative process, using story ideas and themes to make The Lion King into a meaningful production.

The core theme of The Lion King is the responsibility of leadership and the balance of nature. The dark, smoky elephant graveyard introduces the greed and jealousy of Scar. After the death of his father, Simba flees and embraces the "Hakuna Matata" philosophy to escape his responsibilities. Simba's final confrontation with Scar about reclaiming the kingdom serves as the pivotal moment of Simba's character development, where he discovers his true identity and accepts his role as king. Through these significant scenes, the movie reveals that personal growth and a better future begin when you face your past with courage.

I had the opportunity to interview Andray Smith, who plays the role of older Simba. He describes playing Simba as "cool" since he gets to act in the scene where Simba returns home, finds love, and finally becomes the king he was always meant to be. The play taught Andray that everyone has a talent for acting, even if they don't know it yet. The secret is just to say 'yes' and not be afraid. When you step out of your comfort zone, you become better and more comfortable with new things. The Lion King play is a great way to discover who you are. Simba learns that when you accept your real identity, it can change everything. Through action, Simba shows who he is—from hanging out and having fun to stepping up and taking on the leadership role of king. Taking on responsibility requires a greater level of courage than any other act.

In the end, interviews demonstrate the success of The Lion King and its deep understanding of what makes a story special. Do you wish to seize power like Scar or rule with the heart of the land like Mufasa? Remember who you are.

Fall in Love with your Wardrobe

BY SARA MITCHELL

Goodbye, heatwaves and sweaty shirts; hello, crisp leaves and fuzzy socks. As you fall into style, you'll need the finest autumn attire guide. Your new wardrobe starts here! While seasonal trends



come and go, the heart of fall attire lies in versatile pieces that prove wardrobes offer more style than simply chasing fleeting fads.



"Must-haves" are always the highlight of autumn fashion. When you look good, you feel good! You might be wondering, "What exactly are the must-haves for autumn?" Think of warm and earthy tones like pumpkin, amber yellow, goblin green, deep burgundy, and golden brown. Mixing different items like sweaters,

jeans, and coats in autumn shades allows for fun layering and texture combinations, giving your outfit extra flair.

In fall, layering is an art form for staying warm while expressing your creativity. To create a balanced outfit, pair a solid color or patterned base with a thick, chunky sweater. For a more polished look, add a long trench coat or leather jacket for structure and style. What's ice cream without the cherry on top? Accessories like a colorful scarf, slouchy beanie, or belt can add texture and personality to a baggy fit. A stylish autumn outfit is all about mixing textures, experimenting with different lengths, and adding cool statement pieces.



Versatile wardrobe pieces breathe new life into fleeting seasonal trends and form the heart of fall attire. The fall 2025 apparel collection creates well-proportioned outfits with cozy and modern pieces. Have you fallen for fashion yet and tried any of these style tips?

A Glimpse Into School Clubs

BY KIERRA MCCOY

Are you a social butterfly with great editing skills and a passion for creativity? Well, consider joining this year's club spotlight—the Yearbook Club! The Yearbook Club at Salmen High School is responsible for creating your beautiful yearbooks, organizing fundraising bake sales, and taking photos to represent not only our school but you as well. This month's club spotlight interview features Ms. Seruntine, the sponsor for the Yearbook Club and Digital Media class.

Let's get to know a little about the sponsor of the Yearbook Club, Ms. Seruntine. She has been involved with yearbooks since her first year here, which was four years ago. Surprising, right? Ms. Seruntine says she truly enjoys working on the yearbook: "I am lucky to have a wonderful team of students who collaborate with me to get coverage and publish our book each year." After four years sponsoring the yearbook, Ms. Seruntine explains that she got involved because she "wanted to be involved in extracurricular activities, but I don't have an athletic bone in my body. I thought that this would be something I could contribute to our school." Although Ms. Seruntine manages the yearbook, she also juggles digital media as well. She admits, "It is a lot to balance," but she wouldn't have it any other way. Yearbooks are a challenging task to commit to, but they can also be fun and rewarding.

Being in the Yearbook Club is a lot of work, but it's more than just making yearbooks and taking pictures. In Yearbook, you can participate in fundraiser bake sales, selling cakes, drinks, and other sweet treats. You can also check out a camera and take photos of students and events during pep rallies, spirit week, Red Ribbon Week, Christmas, October, and many other occasions throughout the school year.

Learning about cameras and capturing the happy moments of Salmen High School is a rewarding experience, especially because there's always a lot going



on that deserves to be remembered. According to Printivity, “the first official yearbook was made in 1806”, but instead of digital, it was all physical. Salmen High School’s first yearbook was made at least as early as 1965, though there is no exact date for when the first yearbook was published.

If you’d like to join the Yearbook Club, Ms. Seruntine was asked what advice she’d give to students interested in joining or just learning more about the club. She replied, “Apply to join in your freshman or sophomore year, so that you can grow into a leadership position as an upperclassman.” If you have questions about the Yearbook Club and can’t reach Ms. Seruntine, you can speak to senior editors Aabrah Abid, Adriana Manzanares-Zaldivar, Carolina Salinas, Genevieve Debarbieris, and Jada Ibanez. They are wonderful resources for additional information about the yearbook.

From sketchbooks to journals, memory books to regular books, physical to digital, you too can be included in the Yearbook Club. Use your creativity, social skills, and editing abilities to help our school create the best yearbooks in the parish. Join the Yearbook Team now!

Teacher Spotlight - Ms. Dedeaux

BY JAEDA NEWTON

The human brain is often described as a supercomputer, but in Biology II and Health Science, it’s seen a bit differently. We’re back on our program, Spartans! This month’s spotlight features a very special teacher, one of our newer faculty members on the Spartan campus, Ms. Dedeaux. Let’s take a deep dive into her brain (get it, brain and science?) and see how she’s enjoying her experience as a new Spartan teacher.



New to Salmen, but not new to teaching, we introduce the “gene-ius” herself, Ms. Dedeaux. As we power through this year, I want to showcase our newer teachers in the “Teacher Spotlight.” Before coming to Salmen, Ms. Dedeaux taught for seven years. During our interview, we discussed what makes Spartans unique and how we’ve impacted her. Describing herself as easy-going, inquisitive, nerdy, and approachable, she finds the culture at Salmen different from all the other schools she’s worked at. Ms. Dedeaux states that students here are more interested in taking ownership of their learning while still holding themselves and each other accountable. Great job, Spartans! Through this, she’s learned that connecting with students is essential for building a positive classroom environment.

As we journey along like blood cells flowing through the bloodstream, I wanted to know what motivates Ms. Dedeaux. She’s inspired by her passion for showing students the many forms science takes in everyday life. “The world around us is full of scientific wonder, and I want to show my students that.” Her personal hobbies, drawing, reading, singing, playing video games, and writing short stories, reflect her approachable personality. As she continues her career at Salmen, she strives to foster students’ interest in science by showing how it connects to the world around them.



I truly enjoy getting to know our new teachers, don’t you? Taking time to welcome and connect with great teachers is both fun and valuable; most importantly, it helps them feel at home. As our November interview wraps up, Ms. Dedeaux’s work proves that sometimes all you need to solve problems is a little cellular reception! And that concludes this edition of “Teacher Spotlight” with Jaeda Newton. Okay, okay! Before we go, here’s a quick joke: Why did the physicist break up with the biologist? There was no chemistry.

Voices of Tomorrow

BY PAIGE REINE

November at Salmen isn’t just about turkey—it’s about Spartans making memories. Welcome back, Spartans, and happy November! From new beginnings to exciting goals, November is all about growth and gratitude for our Spartans. To kick things off, I sat down with Laila Berry to talk about her journey as a transfer student, her upcoming plans for softball, and what she looks forward to this fall.

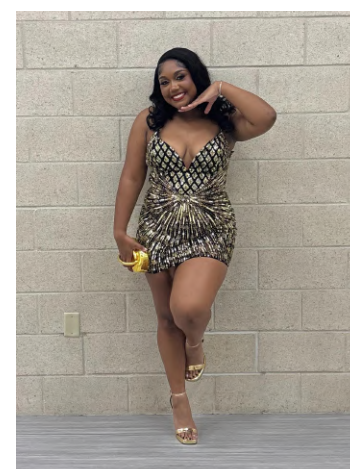
Laila is a new student at our school. She transferred from Northshore High to try out for our softball team and hopes to play volleyball next year. As a new student at Salmen, there are many things you might expect and hope for. For Laila, she expresses that she loves how inviting the teachers are and admires the way they explain lessons rather than brushing them off. “I believe that’s really important when learning, having a sense of reassurance about the information we’re learning.”

Laila has been playing softball for about six years. As the season slowly approaches, she is excited to make new memories with friends, make good plays, and possibly work toward a scholarship. Joining another team can be a different experience compared to the one before. Laila stated there is a big difference between Salmen’s and Northshore’s softball teams. “Salmen’s softball team was more inviting; it’s okay to make mistakes.



Everyone on the team admits their faults and never fails to help one another, which is highly needed in players. It helps build up the players and the team itself.”

Thanksgiving is a time when family and friends come together to relax, share gratitude and grace, and be thankful. Most importantly, we want to be more open to all new opportunities coming our way. Laila shared that she’s excited for new beginnings and carrying on further blessings with her family while growing each day through faith and strength. It’s always enjoyable to create more memories with the people in your circle.



When asked about her favorite Thanksgiving memory, she expressed getting to spend time with her grandmother before her passing. “A week before her passing, she was able to spend her last moments with her family. During a time when everyone knows how deeply they’re appreciated and loved, I am grateful that she was able to feel loved and secure with us before she passed.” This serves as a reminder to pause, cherish the moments we have with loved ones, and appreciate the connections that define our lives.

Through her experiences as a transfer student, Laila’s story is just one example of how Spartans continue to leave their mark here at Salmen. From transferring to Salmen to starting her softball season off strong, Laila is making her mark as a true Spartan! As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded to be grateful for growth, opportunities, and pride. November encourages us to be thankful, and Salmen can be proud to have students who bring talent, positivity, and determination to our Spartan family. Stay inspired, Spartans!

The First Thanksgiving

BY ROBBI-RENEE WILLIAMS

November 27th creeps up, and turkeys creep away in fear for their lives... or do y’all eat ham for Thanksgiving dinner? Aside from the cuisine, Thanksgiving is a very special holiday dating back over 400 years to a time when Americans were still pretty much British. Thanksgiving tells a story of unity and humble beginnings for American colonists in the early 1600s. Ladies and gentlemen, let me recount to you the first Thanksgiving.



Popular culture describes the first Thanksgiving as a day of pleasantries between English settlers and the Wampanoag tribe: two very different cultures who occupied the same land, Plymouth Rock. Though both peoples inhabited Plymouth, the Wampanoag tribe had lived on the land for centuries before English settlers arrived and started building their population. In 1620, when English colonists landed on Plymouth Rock, they noticed their new neighbors and saw an opportunity to gain some advantage. The colonists didn't know anything about the land they now called home. They were in dire need of agricultural knowledge and were unfamiliar with the available resources, weather, and terrain. This ignorance of the land led to the sickness, starvation, and death that occurred on Plymouth Rock during the winter of 1620.

The Wampanoag tribe, however, was very knowledgeable about the land. Just as the colonists needed information about the area, the Wampanoag needed something too: protection against other local tribes. From this, a mutually beneficial relationship was formed. The colonists used their militia to protect the tribe, while the tribe used their wisdom to help establish the colonists and show them how to survive in this unfamiliar terrain.

The colonists' first corn harvest was a time of celebration and deep gratitude to the Wampanoag people, whose aid led to the success of the harvest. Governor William Bradford, who organized the first Thanksgiving, decided a feast was the perfect way to show appreciation and unity, so he invited the Wampanoag people, led by Chief Massasoit. Sometime between September 21st and November 9th (the exact date is unknown), the English colonists



hosted a three-day feast where the two groups united and celebrated. On the menu were venison, duck, geese, lobster, clams, beans, corn, squash, and pumpkins. The exact foods eaten are heavily debated, but one thing's for sure: they didn't have any turkey.

The story of the first Thanksgiving is a simple tale describing friendship and feast, though this isn't the entire story. History shows the real relationship between the English settlers and the Wampanoag was less of a friendship and more of a contract. Sometime after the first Thanksgiving, this relationship crumbled and later disputes arose, but together in 1621, they made history.

Meet Our Editors - Paige Reine & Robbi Williams

BY NIA OWENS & SEVEN FERNANDEZ

What impacts a child's future goals? Is it cherished memories from childhood influencing your dreams, or is it the eagerness to chase your future ambitions? Paige Reine, a 17-year-old from New Orleans, a senior at Salmen High School, and our November editor, is a future forensic nurse who is motivated by her drive to pursue her goals. As time passes and the future unfolds, Paige's dedication is rooted in her formative years. She enjoyed a happy childhood, filled with experiences that shaped her perspective on growing up as she traveled to different places.

During her early years, Paige visited fun places such as parks for picnics and play, the Children's Museum of New Orleans, the aquarium, and went on family road trips. Her fondest memories involve spending time with her grandparents during these outings. These moments fostered strong family bonds, laughter, and quality time—values she continues to cherish as a young adult.

Today, Paige spends her free time listening to music, watching movies, and working at Burger King, a job she sometimes enjoys.



“The environment is okay, but the customers usually give me a hard time,” Paige admitted. As she learns how to handle the work environment, she receives guidance from her father, her role model. Her mother, the most important person in her life, teaches Paige to



be independent and hardworking. As Paige's mom advises, “Don't let stress get to you and keep going.”

Looking ahead, Paige is interested in becoming a forensic nurse, a professional who provides medical and legal support for victims of violence and trauma. She is drawn to

this career because it allows her to assist people who have experienced hardship, and she wants to help them recover. Paige is excited to open a new chapter in her life, driven by her passion for helping others.

In the next year, Paige envisions herself attending one of her top college choices, majoring in nursing. In five years, she sees herself graduating and entering a specialized nursing program, determined to succeed by staying organized and setting clear goals. Paige's story reminds us of the importance of thinking about your future early to increase your chances of success.



It takes a special person to become a forensic psychologist, and Robbi is just the girl for the job. What shapes a young person's dreams? Is it how they spend their free time, their childhood experiences, or the steps they take toward their ambitions? Robbi Williams, 16, is a junior at Salmen High from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and our October newspaper editor. As she prepares to become a senior, Robbi is giving serious thought to her future.

Robbi describes her childhood as delightful, filled with cherished days at the beach with her grandparents. They would take day trips



to Florida, driving in their little blue minivan with their dog. These memories are special to her because family time is essential and forms the core of her values. Robbi believes that life is too short not to cherish the moments you have and the memories you create with loved ones. Her childhood experiences have helped shape who she is today.

In August, Robbi held a job at Cracker Barrel, but she had to quit due to poor working conditions and excessive downtime. In her free time, she enjoys drawing, painting, and playing with her dog, Teddy, a seven-year-old, brown, fluffy companion. Without a job, Robbi relies on her dad for support; he is also her role model because “he gets things done.” Her father's work ethic inspires her determination.

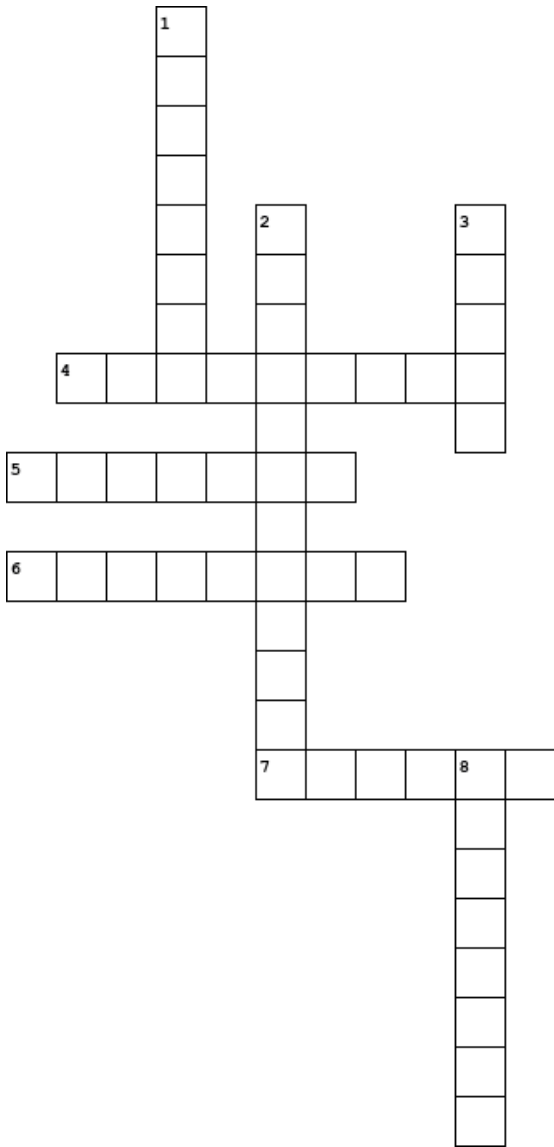
Looking to the future, Robbi aspires to become a forensic psychologist. In one year, she will be a senior, and in five years, she hopes to be studying at LSU. “I'm going to get very educated and save my money for my education,” she says, demonstrating her commitment to her academic goals.

With a best friend who is always there for her, supportive grandparents, and a driven father, Robbi has a strong support system that plays a



vital role in her high school life and beyond. As she prepares for her senior year and college, Robbi is determined not to let anything stand in the way of achieving her dreams.

THANKSGIVING CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

- 4 Another name for the settlers of Plymouth
- 5 The gathering of crops, represented by the holiday
- 6 English settlers who arrived on the Mayflower
- 7 The act of showing gratitude and generosity

Down

- 1 A feeling of appreciation
- 2 The fourth Thursday in November
- 3 A large, celebratory meal with family and friends
- 8 The month in which Thanksgiving is celebrated

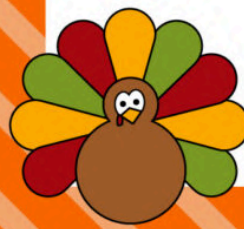
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