



COUGAR REVIEW

FEBRUARY



LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Homecoming King and Queen and couple Chaney Brown and Kody Smith

By Gracie Spurling

It's almost that time again! The season of love, February 14. Whether this means spending the day with your significant other or having a Galentine's day, this is truly a special day to show others your love and appreciation towards them. Typically, most choose to express this through gifts, with 57% of people purchasing chocolate to show their love to their partner. When questioning couple, Kody Smith and Chaney Brown, who have maintained a steady relationship for approximately a year and 4 months, they were asked, "What was one thing that has helped them grow as a couple?" Senior Chaney Brown stated, "We have been trying to better our relationship through Jesus, individually and together." While no high school relationship is perfect, every couple will have to learn and grow from things together. In this case, sharing the faith has strengthened their commitment to each other.

Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to reflect on and appreciate the moments that have brought couples closer together. They often take for granted what's right in front of them. This day serves as a reminder to slow down and gives couples time to truly appreciate each other. Some choose to go out for a much needed date-night—such as Chaney Brown and Kody Smith—while others may just show their love through something as simple as a letter.

This day serves as a beautiful reminder to cherish the relationships that bring purpose and happiness into people's lives. By simply taking the time to participate in the celebration of this day, couples can reaffirm their commitment to one another and look forward to the many adventures that lie ahead.

SUPER BOWL

By Molly Cofer



Super Bowl LIX is on the horizon. On Feb. 9, 2025 NFL fans from all over will gather in New Orleans at Caesars Superdome to watch the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles battle it out for the Vince Lombardi trophy.

On Sunday, Jan. 26, the final playoff games wrapped up, revealing the two teams going for the coveted trophy. The Washington Commanders lost to the Philadelphia Eagles 55-23. Later that day, the Buffalo Bills faced off against the Kansas City Chiefs leaving the Chiefs victorious with a 32-29 score.

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INAUGURATION

TRUMP INAUGURATION: “THE GOLDEN AGE OF AMERICA BEGINS RIGHT NOW”

By Cougar Review Staff

On January 20, 2025, Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 47th President of the United States, marking his return to the White House for a second, non-consecutive term. Due to extreme cold brought by a polar vortex, the ceremony was held inside the Capitol Rotunda, the first indoor inauguration since Ronald Reagan’s in 1985. The president’s inaugural address was a call to action, invoking themes of patriotism, unity, and divine purpose. He laid out a vision for America that he promised would herald its “golden age.”

From the first words of his speech, President Trump addressed the crowd, speaking of restoring the nation to unmatched strength and prosperity, vowing to prioritize the needs of hardworking citizens over what he termed “globalist agendas.” “The golden age of America begins right now,” he proclaimed, “This moment belongs to the people,” he said. “We will rebuild our nation from the ground up, and we will make America greater than it has ever been.”

Central to Trump’s vision was his focus on securing the U.S.-Mexico border, which he called “the front line of our nation’s sovereignty.” Declaring a national emergency, he emphasized the importance of combating illegal immigration, human trafficking, and drug smuggling. “America cannot thrive while our borders remain porous,” he said. “We will build the wall. We will restore order. We will protect our citizens.”

President Trump announced his intention to direct federal agencies to recognize only two genders—male and female—as a matter of official policy. According to Trump, this initiative will serve as a defense of traditional American values. “We will stand for biological truth,” he declared. “And we will protect the integrity of family, faith, and freedom.”

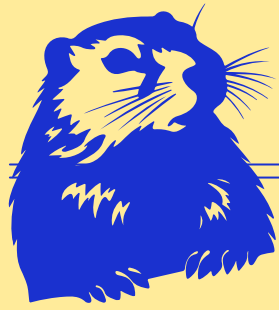
Shifting the focus to the stars, President Trump unveiled a commitment to reignite the American space program, pledging to “plant a flag on Mars.” Calling space exploration a symbol of national ambition and innovation, he promised significant investment in NASA and the private space sector. “The pioneers of tomorrow will carry the American spirit to the cosmos,” he proclaimed. “And the first footsteps on Mars will be made by American astronauts.”

In a poignant and deeply personal moment, President Trump invoked his faith, describing America’s current struggles as a test of divine destiny. “This is a nation saved by God,” he said, his voice echoing with conviction. “And I stand here today because I believe I was saved by God to rescue America.”

The president concluded his speech with his proclamation to, “Make America Great Again.” While the full impact of President Trump’s promises remains to be seen, his inauguration will undoubtedly be remembered as a pivotal moment in American history. Whether it fulfills its promise of a golden age or deepens the nation’s divisions will depend on how these bold visions are translated into action in the years ahead.



Chief Justice John Roberts swears in Donald Trump as the 47th President of the United States.



HOLIDAYS

EARLY SPRING?

By Azaiyah Cook

Groundhog Day is celebrated on February 2. In Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, people wake up early to see if the groundhog will see its shadow. If it does, it means there will be six more weeks of winter. If not, spring will come early! According to USA Today, the groundhog has seen its shadow 107 times, while it hasn't seen it 20 times. This stark difference illustrates how the groundhog is more likely to see his shadow, meaning it'll stay colder for longer!

February 2 isn't just a random date with a made-up holiday; it's what's known as cross quarter time, as it falls on the midpoint between winter and spring. The very first Groundhog Day took place in 1886 and was hosted by a group of people known as the Groundhog Club. Although there is no scientific evidence connecting the groundhog and the weather, it has become an American tradition to eagerly await the day when Punxsutawney Phil places his prediction.





SUPERBOWL

REMATCH OF THE YEAR

By Molly Cofer



ESPN's Super Bowl LIX graphic.

The Chiefs and their quarterback, Patrick Mahomes, will face the opposing Eagles and quarterback Jalen Hurts. According to U.S.A Today, the betting predictions put the Eagles at a +180 chance to win and the Chiefs at a +200, meaning the Eagles are predicted to claim victory over the Chiefs.

The Chiefs started their win streak by beating the Eagles in 2023. This will be the first time the Eagles will return to the Super Bowl since then for a heated rematch. If the Chiefs claim victory, this will be their third consecutive Super Bowl win, making them the first team in NFL history to do so and bringing their total count up to five wins. On the other hand, if the Eagles win, this will be their second win overall, with their first in 2017 and claiming revenge over the 2023 game.

When interviewing Keygan Dalton, a sophomore at Greenfield-Central High School and a Chiefs fan, he said, "I was really happy when the Chiefs made it [to the Super Bowl]." He is a major fan of the team and was overjoyed when they beat the Buffalo Bills and became the AFC champions. He also predicts that the Chiefs will win it all.

Kam'ron Martin was also interviewed; he is a sophomore and a Baltimore Ravens fan. He was rooting for the Bills in the last round of playoffs and was disappointed when the Chiefs beat them. "I thought they were going to win because they were making a comeback. Both teams were playing well that day; the Chiefs just had a better day." As for the big game, Martin doesn't have a prediction for the Super Bowl, but he believes it will be a close game no matter what.

Ellie Ketchen, a freshman and a Miami Dolphins fan, is rooting for the Eagles, "I don't know much about football, but I really want the Eagles to win." She said that she was surprised that the Chiefs made it to the big game for the third year in a row.

Whether fans are rooting for the Chiefs or the Eagles, it's sure to be a captivating game full of action that fans all around the country will be tuning in to watch.



WRESTLING

ONE LAST TAKE DOWN

By: Trinitee Fitz

As the wrestling season comes to an exciting close, the Cougars—both the girls' and boys' teams—have put on an amazing show, showcasing a mix of impressive victories and tough defeats. Each loss has been a valuable opportunity for growth and improvement, demonstrating the athletes' incredible resilience and determination. We couldn't be prouder of our wrestlers and the hard work they've put in throughout the season!

In a recent interview, senior Ella Harpold, one of the standout wrestlers, proudly shared her achievement of placing 5th at the state competition. This accomplishment is a testament to her dedication and skills. Harpold has committed a significant portion of her life to wrestling, dedicating the last six years to training and competition. Her season runs from October to mid-January, with practices happening six days a week. On top of that, she also participates in off-season training that includes freestyle and Greco wrestling styles. "I knew that if I wanted to be really good, wrestling had to become a huge part of my life," she explained. This kind of dedication is what sets successful athletes apart. Motivation plays a crucial role in Harpold's journey as a wrestler. She often reflects on her past experiences saying, "I remember who I used to be. When I was younger, I didn't participate in any sports and was overweight. When I first started wrestling, I struggled a lot and only managed to win a few matches during grades 7 and 8. That memory drives me to succeed and reminds me of how unhappy I felt back then." This perspective showcases how overcoming challenges can fuel one's determination to improve.



Ella Harpold bring us a win!
photo credit: Alpha Sports

Harpold draws inspiration from her mother, who has been a significant source of support throughout her wrestling journey. "My mom has sacrificed so much for me to be in this sport. Every time I win, I see how happy it makes her, and that definitely motivates me," Harpold shared, emphasizing the joy she feels when she sees her mother's proud smile following her successes. This bond highlights how family support can impact an athlete's performance and motivation.

To help her stay focused during competitions, Harpold turns to a powerful verse that resonates deeply with her: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" - Philippians 4:13. "Before every match, I pray this on the mat," she added. This spiritual connection gives her strength and helps her maintain a positive mindset. As the wrestling season comes to a close, the hard work and dedication has been truly remarkable, let's continue to support the Cougars and look forward to even greater achievements in the future!

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BOYS BASKETBALL

GAME OF THE YEAR

By: Juliann Jones

The Hall of Fame Classic is one of the most notorious tournaments a team can play in, and Greenfield-Central almost won it. Over the winter break the boys basketball team was invited to play in the largest high school gym in the world, New Castle Fieldhouse. Quickly advancing to the final round, the Cougars faced off against the number one ranked team in the state and 14 in the nation, Fishers High School (9-0). Greenfield ranks third in the state and possesses a record of (7-2). A thrilling game of 85-80 the Cougars fell to the defending state champions.



Mikey Johnson preparing to shoot the ball.

The Cougars did claim victory with a few pieces of hardware; the MVP award was bestowed on number 1 leading scorer of the tournament Braylon Mullins who scored 72 points between the two games on Saturday Jan. 14. A new transfer for the Cougars and a key role player, Mikey Johnson, joined the All-Tournament team. Finally, senior Brady Johnson brought home not just a trophy but the honor of achieving the Richard B. Jennings Scholarship Award, named after the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame who passed away in 1995.

As basketball season is reaching its peak, continue to show up and show out for the Cougars. Earlier in the year senior Boston Willard said, "My favorite part of the game are the huge crowds." Continue to fuel the Juice Box and show the love this program deserves! Go Cougars!





GIRLS BASKETBALL

GAME OF THE YEAR

By: Juliann Jones

Ending the holiday season, the Greenfield-Central women's basketball team crushed Lebanon's Holiday Classic Tournament. For the first time in four years, the Lady Cougars dominated the tournament and came out on top. Naming two MVP awards to the Lady Cougars: Izzy Silcox and Maddie Sonsini, the athletes deserved all the recognition after their display of talent and execution.

Wrapping up their season the Greenfield-Central girls basketball team is ranked higher than any previous Greenfield team; they stand in the top 50 of Indiana teams after dropping rapidly earlier in the season. With a loaded team of seniors they celebrated eight graduates on January 28 for senior night against Yorktown High School. They now approach their sectional, drawing Richmond in the first round. Mt. Vernon (Fortville) will be hosting the Cougars throughout the sectional and play them in the second round, if the team claims victory over Richmond. The Lady Cougars are excited to compete for a sectional title, the last one brought home was in 2016.



Maddie Sonsini taking a shot.

Photo Credit: John Kennedy

Thanking all the support from the community, families, administration, and students, the Greenfield-Central Basketball Team attacks Richmond on DATE.



WEATHER

WINTER WONDER LAND

By Ellie Ketchen



January was a frigid month, between the snowstorms and temperature dropping below freezing. This caused many schools, including Greenfield-Central, to issue snow days and two-hour delays. Due to the snowstorm, GC ordered two E-Learning days on Jan. 6 and 7, to the delight of the students. The snowfall accumulation was 7 inches, the most snow Greenfield has seen since the snowstorm on February 15, 2021. Greenfield gets roughly 5 to 15 inches a year, so 7 in one snowfall was surprising for Greenfield.

In addition to the significant snowfall, on Jan. 21 and 22, frigid temperatures caused two-hour delays. With sub-zero wind chills, temperatures were well below normal, with highs of 4 degrees and reaching lows of -8. The following day, Hancock County schools resumed class as the windchill and temperatures rose, reaching a high of 29 degrees.

When interviewing freshman Brooklyn Wing about the snowstorm, she firmly stated that she hates cold weather and favors warmer weather. She attended color guard practice and babysat her siblings. Freshman Jenna Ballenger stated that she prefers E-Learning days. She stayed cozy in her home with a cup of hot chocolate and played video games to pass the time.

Snow days are rare and always exciting because not only do students get to stay home and work in their pajamas, they can go out and build a snowman or start a snowball fight. Indiana doesn't see this amount of snow very often, so when it happens make sure to go out and have some fun!





COUGAR TALK

CONVERSATIONS FROM THE HEART

By Kamarina Davis

This month, Cougar Talk spoke to students about their plans for Valentine’s Day. Whether it’s spending it with someone special or a group of friends, GCHS students share their plans for this yearly tradition.

Ethan Bryson

Q: Who do you plan to spend Valentine’s Day with?

A: I plan to spend Valentine’s Day with myself.”

Q: What are you planning on doing?

A: “I plan on playing video games.”

Q: What do you think the most appropriate gift is for Valentine’s Day?

A: “Flowers.”



Haylie McElvoy

Q: Who do you plan to spend Valentine’s Day with?

A: “I plan to spend Valentine’s Day with the guy I’m talking to.”

Q: What are you guys planning on doing?

A: “We plan on going out to eat.”

Q: What do you think the most appropriate gift is for Valentine’s Day?

A: “Flowers, chocolates, and a teddy bear.”

Q: How long have you guys been talking?

A: “Three weeks now.”





COUGAR TALK

CONVERSATIONS FROM THE HEART

By Kamarina Davis

Alayna Morrison

Q: Who do you plan to spend Valentine's Day with?

A: "I plan to spend Valentine's Day with my friends and family."

Q: What are you planning on doing?

A: "I plan on going out to eat or just hanging out with my friends at their house."

Q: What do you think is the most appropriate gift for Valentine's Day?

A: "Flowers, a teddy bear, and a card."



Jake Oakley

Q: Who do you plan to spend Valentine's Day with?

A: "I plan to spend Valentine's Day with me, myself, and I."

Q: What are you planning on doing?

A: "I plan on just hanging out with my friends."

Q: What do you think is the most appropriate gift for Valentine's Day?

A: "Flowers, a teddy bear, and a basket with her favorite things in it."

