

# COUGAR & C REVIEW

September/  
October

THE YEAR OF THE COUGARS

2025

## GAME ON! COUGARS RALLY FOR HOCO 2025

BY: ZOEY BLOMBERG

The fall season at Greenfield-Central brings with it traditions that spark excitement and Cougar pride, and nothing highlights that more than Homecoming Week. Each year, the celebration stands out as one of the most anticipated events for students, creating lasting memories and reinforcing school spirit. This year's theme, "Game On," set the stage for a week packed with activities. From spirited dress-up days to the highly anticipated football game, the entire school buzzed with energy and participation.

Throughout the week, students embraced creative dress-up days, turning classrooms into colorful displays of Cougar spirit. One of the highlights, the boys' powder puff volleyball tournament, brought laughter and competition as students cheered on their classmates.

Classes also showed off their creativity with a banner decorating contest, each designing a "Game On" theme. The result was a vibrant display of Cougar pride that transformed the school's hallways.

Of course, no homecoming week would be complete without the football game and the dance. The Cougars took the field under the Friday night lights as the community gathered to cheer them on. The week concluded with the Homecoming Dance, where students enjoyed spending time with friends, listening to music, and dancing.

Last year's graduates, Chaney Brown and Kody Smith, earned the titles of Homecoming King and Queen, and this year, a new group of deserving candidates carried on the tradition.

Representing each grade level were:

- Freshmen: Ali Munden and Kyson Nicholson
- Sophomores: Zoey Baur and Gavin Smith
- Juniors: Trenton Smith and Kylie Larrison
- Seniors: Carson Anderson and Juliann Jones, Cooper Hinton and Olivia Cleveland, Shawn Hopkins and Kylie Mayberry, Carter Wilson and Delaney Ball



2025 Homecoming Court



2025 Homecoming King and Queen, Delaney Ball and Carter Wilson



Carter Wilson and Delaney Ball were announced as this year's Homecoming King and Queen, a recognition of their positive impact and Cougar pride.

Homecoming at GCHS continues to be more than just a week of fun—it is a celebration of school spirit, unity, and tradition. With events that bring students together and memories that last well beyond high school, this year's "Game On" theme made Homecoming 2025 a week to remember.

# HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS

BY TREVOR LEONARD



Drums pounded, floats rolled, and the crowd cheered as this year's Homecoming parade set the stage for an unforgettable weekend at Greenfield-Central. Spirit week brought energy and excitement into the halls, and by the time Friday night arrived, Cougar pride was on full display at the football field.

On Friday, September 19, the GCHS football team faced off against the Shelbyville Golden Bears in what became one of the most memorable Homecoming games in recent years. The Cougars edged out Shelbyville with a 28–27 overtime victory, sending the packed stands into celebration.

The game started tough for Greenfield-Central, as the Golden Bears jumped out to a 14–3 halftime lead. But the Cougars weren't finished. In the third quarter, the offense came alive, scoring 15 unanswered points to swing the score to 18–14. Shelbyville answered back, tying the game at 21 by the end of regulation.

In overtime, the Cougars struck first, scoring to take a 28–21 lead. Shelbyville quickly matched with their own touchdown, bringing the score to 28–27. With the game on the line, the Golden Bears chose to go for a two-point conversion and the win. The Cougar defense held firm, shutting down the attempt and sealing the victory. The stadium erupted in cheers as fans and players alike celebrated the thrilling finish.

Statistically, several Cougars had standout performances. Draven Nolting threw for 43 yards and added 13 on the ground. Cooper Hinton carried the ball for 145 yards and scored once, while Braylen Benavente ran for 72 yards and added two touchdowns, powering the Cougar offense when it mattered most.

The victory not only gave the team momentum but also added to the spirit of the weekend. The win carried into Saturday's Homecoming Dance, where students celebrated not just their school traditions, but also their football team's grit and determination.

This year's Homecoming weekend proved to be one for the history books—a perfect combination of tradition, community, and Cougar pride.



**Soaring High!** A pre-game tradition at GCHS Homecoming, skydivers glided onto the field carrying the American flag and setting the stage for a night of excitement as GCHS pulls off the win against Shelbyville, 28-27.



Senior, Zach Waterman pulls in the catch to score for the Cougars.

# RILEY DAYS

BY ADDISON BRUNSTING

Every fall, the streets of Greenfield fill with floats, shopping booths, and fair food as the town comes together for Riley Days. What started as a small celebration honoring James Whitcomb Riley has grown into something huge, bringing the community together through parades, art, and much more.

Greenfield is known for being the home of the famous author, James Whitcomb Riley. He was an American writer, poet, and best-selling author who was also born in Greenfield, Indiana, in 1849. The people of Greenfield take much pride in this and gather in October to celebrate him. This year's date is set for October 2-5.



## FARMERS MARKET

BY LAYLA LONG

A diet of fresh fruits and vegetables can lower blood pressure, reduce the risk of heart diseases and stroke, prevent some types of cancers, lower the risk of eye and digestive problems, and have a positive effect on blood sugar, which can help keep your appetite in check.

In the town of Greenfield, Indiana, a market is held at the Hancock County Fairgrounds, located at 620 N. Apple Street. The primary purpose of the market is to provide consumers with an opportunity to purchase fresh, locally grown produce, meat, dairy products, and other food items from local producers. Year-round Farmers Market - local meats, produce, baked goods, and much more. The market is open Saturdays from 8 am to Noon from May to October. The winter market starts in November and runs through April, on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, from 10 am to 1 pm.



Photo of the Greenfield Farmer's Market



Vendors from every corner with their variety of selections and goods, from Blue River Natural Foods with their milk, meats, cheeses, eggs butter, honey, maple syrup, to Boo-Z Biscotti. And from Phyllis Swango's intermittent vender of plants, to Terri's Tastee Treats of cookies, brownies, and more!

*Come to the Greenfield Farmer's Market for a fresh variety of fruits, vegetables, and many other organic goods from the many dedicated farmers and vendors presented at the local market.*



# PINEY ACRES

## *The Perfect Fall Hangout*

BY BRODY ASH

If you're looking for the perfect fall hangout spot, Piney Acres in Indiana has just about everything you could want. Between the huge corn maze, hayrides, and pumpkin patch, it's basically a fall bucket list all in one place.

The corn maze is the main event, and it's even bigger than it looks from the outside. Students who visited said it felt like a real adventure, with twists and turns that make it nearly impossible not to get lost at least once. "It was so fun trying to figure out which way to go," one student shared.

For those who prefer to relax instead of running around, the hayrides are a crowd favorite. They roll through the fields and give the best views of the changing leaves, making it feel like something straight out of a fall movie scene.

The pumpkin patch is another highlight, especially for anyone searching for the perfect pumpkin to carve or decorate. Of course, plenty of people also go just for the photo ops—the bright orange pumpkins and wide-open fields create the perfect backdrop for fall pictures with friends.

Beyond the main attractions, Piney Acres also offers snacks, games, and cozy spots to hang out. Apple cider, kettle corn, and fresh donuts are just a few of the treats students rave about.

So if you and your friends are looking for an amazing way to spend a crisp autumn day, Piney Acres is the place to go.



*Piney Acres popular corn maze and tree farm*

# TUTTLES AND LARK RANCH

BY HAYDEN KING

Are you ready to celebrate the fall season at Tuttles Orchard and Lark Ranch? This year's festivities kicked off early—Tuttles Orchard opened on Aug. 29, while Lark Ranch followed on Sept. 20. Both offer apple picking, pumpkin patches, hayrides, fresh cider, and all the activities that make fall special.

Tucked into the rolling farmland just north of Greenfield, Indiana, Tuttles Orchard has been a fall tradition for generations. A fourth-generation family-owned farm, Tuttles was started by Roy Tuttle and Tillie Giroud and is now operated by Ruth Ann and Thomas Roney.

Visitors can enjoy apple picking, pumpkin patches, a corn maze, a kids' farm play area, and much more. The orchard is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Admission is free, and with so many seasonal activities, Tuttles continues to be a favorite fall destination for families across the area.

Also located in Greenfield, Lark Ranch opened for the season on Sept. 20 and is packed with family fun. Activities include a pumpkin patch, corn maze, train rides, carnival rides, a petting zoo, and more. Guests can also enjoy fall treats like kettle corn and apple cider.

Lark Ranch is open through Oct. 26, 2025, with hours from 11 a.m.–8 p.m. Admission is \$17 on weekdays and \$22 on weekends. In addition to the Greenfield location, Lark Ranch also operates in Lanesville, Loogootee, and Shoals, giving families across Indiana plenty of chances to join in the fun.

Whether you're picking apples at Tuttles or riding the train at Lark Ranch, both destinations offer a perfect way to make memories and celebrate the beauty of the fall season.



*Tuttle's famous corn maze and tractor rides are here for visitors to enjoy this fall.*

# THE HAUNTED TIMES

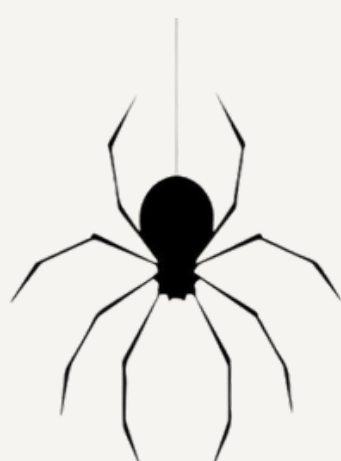
BY DONNIE BLACKBURN AND ASHER HOOTS

Spooky season has crept into Greenfield-Central, and the Cougars are under the spell of Halloween spirit. From costumes to candy, there's only one thing on their minds—trick-or-treating!

Senior Gage Gibson is keeping things simple this year. "Hang out with friends during the holiday, and hopefully my good friend Landon Gibson," he said. For Donnie Blackburn, Halloween brings back a childhood memory he won't forget. "My favorite memory was when I went to a haunted house and I was dressed as Superman. I pretended I wasn't scared, but I was shaking in my tiny red boots," he recalled with a laugh.

Asher Hoots is looking forward to trick-or-treating with a friend. "Trevor and I are going trick-or-treating. I'm going to be a blobfish, and Trevor is going to be Mrs. Puff," he said.

While today's celebrations focus on costumes, candy, and fun with friends, Halloween's roots stretch back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, which marked the end of the harvest and the beginning of winter. The Celts believed spirits could rise on October 31, so they disguised themselves with animal skins and soot to stay protected. Early traditions also included carving faces into pumpkins and offering apples and cider to keep evil spirits away.



On October 1, what started as a normal day in the Newspaper class quickly turned into a scene straight out of a horror movie.

As students worked on their latest articles, a knock sounded at the classroom door. Asher Hoots called out, "Hello?" but no one replied. After a second attempt, Asher cautiously opened the door—only to be met by a towering figure, dressed as Michael Myers.

The room erupted in shock. "RUN, Asher, RUN!" shouted Donnie Blackburn, as Asher bolted toward the exit, tripping on his bag in the process. Donnie rushed to help him while the costumed figure advanced slowly and menacingly into the room.

The suspense didn't last long. The "masked maniac" turned out to be an older student pulling off a perfectly timed Halloween prank. Once the disguise was lifted, the classroom filled with nervous laughter and sighs of relief.

The prank left students shaken but smiling, proving that at Greenfield-Central, Halloween spirit can show up anywhere—even in the newsroom.

# CRUNCH HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

BY BRODY ASH

*From Friday night lights to the national spotlight—Greenfield-Central High School could soon see itself featured on one of the biggest stages in television. A Doritos commercial was recently filmed right on Cougar turf, and there's a chance it may air nationwide—and possibly during the Super Bowl. "I watched as cameras rolled, crew members hurried across the sidelines, and bright lights turned our familiar field into a movie set. It felt surreal to see a place where we usually cheer on Friday nights transformed into the backdrop for one of the biggest ads shot in Greenfield," said Mr. Hudson.*



*Students who witnessed the shoot described it as an unforgettable experience. New camera equipment and cutting-edge technology filled the field, making the production feel larger than life. "It felt like we were in a Super Bowl ad," one student said.*

*While there's no official confirmation yet, the commercial has the potential to air nationally later this year—and could even run during the Super Bowl, putting Greenfield-Central's field and Cougar pride in front of millions of viewers.*



## SISTER CITIES

BY ROBERT BRINKMAN

On August 16, 2025, to commemorate 35 years of partnership with Kadua, Japan, the artist, Carl Leck, finished a new mural on the Kenneth Butler Memorial Soup Kitchen in downtown Greenfield.

The Greenfield members of the Board of Sisters Cities wanted to commemorate a mural to show their relationship with Kadua Japan. They approached Leck, a Greenfield resident, who has made many different murals all throughout Indianapolis. The board of members saw his resume and asked him to make the mural. He soon agreed and began making the mural followed.

The mural consists of two areas connected by a bridge. The area on the right is supposed to represent Greenfield with its courthouse laying behind a massive field of crops.

After crossing the bridge, the field changes to a stone path surrounded by green hills and a beautiful cherry blossom tree.

The main point in this mural is the boy and girl who meet on the bridge. The boy dressed in overalls, and the girl in a dress are shaking hands. This mural represents the difference between cities, but the connection we make with the Sister Cities program.



*Sister City Mural done by Carl Leck*

# BRINKRUFF LEGACY: SISTER SHATTERS SISTER'S 5K RECORD

BY ZOEY BLOMBERG

In 2019, Audrey Brinkruff etched her name into Greenfield-Central's history books as one of the school's most dominant distance runners. She set the 5K record with an impressive time of 18:54.7, a mark that stood as a standard of excellence for years. Over her high school career, Audrey also claimed the school records in the 1600m (5:18) and 3200m (11:23), cementing her reputation as a once-in-a-generation athlete whose performances inspired the next wave of Cougar runners.

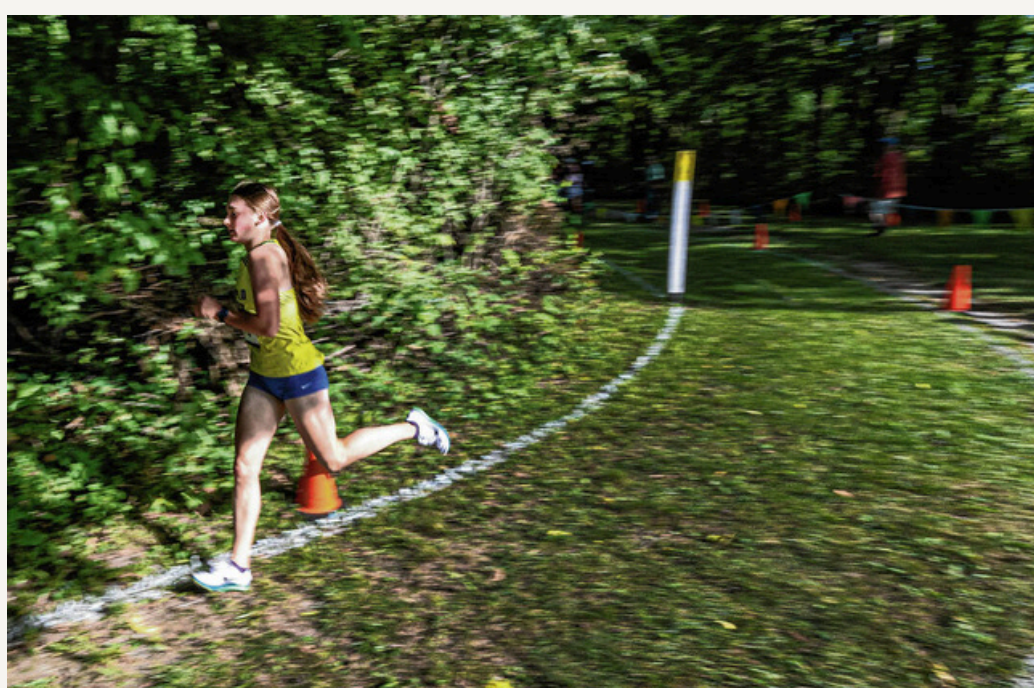
Fast forward to this fall, and the Brinkruff name is once again rewriting the record books. At a recent meet with Hancock County schools held at Mt. Vernon High School, Audrey's 5K record was broken—by none other than her younger sister, freshman Mia Brinkruff.

With a blistering time of 18:43.43, Mia not only broke her sister's record but also set a new standard for Greenfield-Central. To make the accomplishment even sweeter, her performance helped the Cougars earn their first county title since 2016. In a post-race interview with the Greenfield Reporter, Mia reflected on her performance. "I just tried to stay with the girls and let them push me. It felt really good," she said. Her words reveal the tactical mindset and mental toughness that carried her through the race. By using her competitors as motivation while staying composed under pressure, Mia delivered when it mattered most. Her race strategy clearly paid off. In addition to setting the school record, Mia not only won the county race outright but also placed third overall in the invitational—a remarkable accomplishment for a freshman.

While Mia's record-breaking run made headlines, her achievement was just part of a bigger story for the Cougars. At the Mt. Vernon Invitational, Greenfield-Central placed sixth out of eight teams, with Mia's finish providing a critical boost. Her individual championship in the county race brought pride to the school, and her leadership on the course contributed to the team's collective progress.

The Brinkruff sisters now share a unique connection through the record books—one passing the torch, the other carrying it forward. Audrey's dominance paved the way, but Mia's early success as a freshman suggests that her high school career is only just beginning.

For Greenfield-Central athletics, Mia's breakout performance represents more than just a new time on the board. It's a continuation of a legacy, a promise of future success, and a reminder that Cougar pride runs deep—sometimes even within the same family.



*Greenfield-Central's Mia Brinkruff during the Hancock County Meet at Mt. Vernon High School.  
Tom Russo | Daily Reporter*



# SPOTLIGHT: MEET THE STAFF

**Brody** - Brody's favorite sport is basketball. He use to play on his middle school team. He loves to run a lot and play games. Brody is one of four siblings and is the second oldest. His favorite piece of literature is A Roadside Picnic. His favorite quote is "to be, or not to be" He has a pet rabbit named Jellybean.

**Zoey** - Zoey's favorite sport is volleyball. She's been playing for 5 years. She used to play soccer for 7 years, but stopped around 4 years ago. She likes to spend time with friends and family. Zoey is one of 3 siblings. She was born in Illinois on Feb. 17, 2011. She is a huge Nebraska and Florida fan. A quote she lives by is "Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." - William James

**Addison** - Addison's favorite sport is softball. She has been playing for eight years. She loves to watch TV and spend time with her friends. She was born in Indiana on June 16, 2010. She has three siblings, one sister, and two brothers. She is a huge Michigan fan. Her favorite quote is "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken." - Oscar Wilde

**Layla** - Layla's favorite color is red. She likes to draw and spend time with friends. When she gets out of high school, she wants to either be a writer or a geologist. She was born on September 1st, 2009. Layla has one Siberian husky and one cat. Her favorite food is pizza and salmon.

**Trevor** - Trevor's favorite color is green.. He has been playing baseball for 11 years. He likes to watch tv and spend time with family. A quote he lives by is "It's hard to beat someone who never gives up." Trevor has 1 dog. He was born on August 22nd 2010. His favorite number is 2. His favorite food is spaghetti.

**Donnie** - Donnie's favorite color is red. He looks up to guys like Elvis Presley and James Dean. He loves old music, old movies, old cars, and horror movies. He lives by a Quote made famous by James Dean he said "Live like you'll die today Dream like you'll live forever." His favorite old movie is Rebel Without a Cause. He was born October 29th 2008.

**Hayden** - Hayden's favorite sport is volleyball - has been playing for 6 years, and has also played softball basically her whole life up until recently. She was born in Michigan on Jan. 30, 2010. She has 3 siblings; one sister and two brothers. She is a huge Notre Dame fan. Her favorite quote is, "Believe you can and you're halfway there."

**Asher** - Asher's favorite sport is baseball. He has 3 cats Baby, Sassy, and Marigold his favorite number is 67. A quote he lives by is "if you don't like the road your walking on start paving a new one" this reminds him that there's another option. He was born on April, 22 2011.

**Mrs Ruch** - Mrs. Ruch has been teaching English for over twenty-five years. If you know her, you know she adores her six kids, three grandchildren, and her two Yorkies, Bentley and Karlee. She enjoys reading, spending times with family and friends, working out, and swimming. She is a die-hard Chiefs fan and her favorite quote is by Dr. Seuss, "To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world." One thing you may not know about Mrs. Ruch is she kissed Bon Jovi.



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