

COUGAR & C REVIEW

November

THE YEAR OF THE COUGARS

2025



TURKEY DAY

BY: ADDISON BRUNSTING



Every November, millions of Americans gather for the same tradition: eating turkey. But just how many birds does it take to feed the nation? According to the National Turkey Federation, about 46 million turkeys are eaten every Thanksgiving. Adding up to about 1.4 billion pounds of turkey! If you were to line them all up, they'd stretch across the country and back again.

While most turkeys end up on the dinner table, a lucky few avoid the oven. Each year, the President of the United States pardons two turkeys, saving them from becoming part of the feast. This White House tradition began in 1963 and officially became a "pardon" under President George H.W. Bush in 1989. The spared birds usually spend the rest of their lives on a farm at a university.

Minnesota leads the nation in turkey production, raising over 40 million turkeys a year. The average Thanksgiving bird weighs about 15 pounds. Roasting remains the most popular cooking method, though deep frying is gaining popularity.

This Thanksgiving, as you dig into your turkey dinner, remember these numbers and the lucky few who got a presidential pass. Happy Thanksgiving!

In 2024, Peach and Blossom, the two lucky turkeys from Minnesota escaped a fowl fate of ending up on someone's Thanksgiving table were pardoned by President Biden at the White House.





VETERANS DAY



BY DONNIE BLACKBURN

Veterans Day is a time to honor the brave men and women who have served , and continue to serve , in the United States military and National Guard. It's a day to recognize their courage, their sacrifices, and the strength they show every day as protectors of our freedom.

Each year, the LEAP program at Greenfield-Central High School takes on the special mission of organizing the school's Veterans Day assembly. Through weeks of planning, LEAP students coordinate speakers, create displays, and ensure every detail honors the veterans who attend. Their efforts turn the event into more than just a ceremony — it's a heartfelt tribute filled with pride, gratitude, and community spirit.

Veterans are ordinary people who chose to do extraordinary things. They didn't need superpowers or capes; instead, they showed bravery, selflessness, and a deep commitment to something bigger than themselves. As Americans, we owe them more than words — we owe them our respect, our remembrance, and our promise to never take freedom for granted.

From those who earned medals of honor to those whose stories remain unsung, every veteran carries the spirit of service that keeps our nation strong. Veterans Day reminds us that being a hero isn't about glory — it's about doing what's right when it matters most. Whether on the battlefield or here at home, their legacy continues to inspire us to stand united, to care for one another, and to keep America the land of the free and the home of the brave.



Mr. Turner's LEAP students diligently plan for a memorable Veterans Day assembly.





THE YEAR OF THE COUGARS



FFA
BY LAYLA LONG



In 1928, Future Farmers of America, now called the National FFA Organization, was established in Kansas City, MO., on Nov. 20th. Leslie Applegate from New Jersey was elected the first national FFA president, and the first sectional gathering of New Farmers of America, also known as NFA, was held.

Each year, the State Association invites over 14,400 Indiana FFA members to attend a three-day convention of leadership workshops, banquets, and trade shows. Outstanding Indiana FFA members are also recognized at the annual State Convention. Winners of the Supervised Agricultural Experience, top teams and individuals in the State Career Development Events, and the four Stars over Indiana were all announced at the state convention. The Hoosier FFA Degree recipients are honored and the coming year's Indiana FFA State Officers are inducted. It is an exciting and enlightening event that is anxiously anticipated each year.

The National FFA Convention & Expo is all about growing the next generation of leaders. No matter where you are in FFA, you'll find inspiration and direction to become a leader and influencer, ready to make an impact. During this event, find out who you are, who you want to become and how you can change how the world grows.

Starting on October 28 to November 1, 2025, the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana at Lucas Oil Stadium, Indiana Convention Center, Gainbridge Fieldhouse, Indiana State Fairgrounds and Indiana Farmers Coliseum.

National FFA just announced today that the National FFA Convention & Expo will continue to be held in Indianapolis through t at least 2040. The announcement was made during the kickoff event for the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo, which is expected to bring more than 71,000 FFA members, advisors, alumni and supporters to Indianapolis from across the country.



GCHS Participates in the 98th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis

GC FALL PLAY RECAP

BY HAYDEN KING

This fall, the stage lit up with *These Shining Lives*, a powerful production that brings an emotional and inspiring piece of history to life. The play tells the true story of women factory workers in the 1920s who painted watch dials with radium and later fought for justice after discovering the deadly effects of the material. Through courage and determination, these women's voices continue to shine, reminding audiences of the importance of resilience and change.

Behind the applause and spotlight was a team of students who poured time and creativity into every scene. One of them, Delaney Ball, who played Catherine Donahue, shared what the experiences meant to her. When asked what inspired the school to choose the play, Ball said, "I think it was the fact that GC Drama hadn't done a drama in years. Our director, Mr. Dalstrom, wanted to change the program and showcase the range of the actors. *These Shining Lives* is also based on true stories about the radium crisis, and it is an important story to share and educate people on." Ball described her reaction when she learned she was part of the production as true excitement. "I was truly over the moon!" She also noted that this was her first lead and it was her favorite role she's played. To prepare for the role, Ball said she had a lot of memorizing to do, "I had almost four hundred lines, so I was looking at the script everyday since we had gotten it." She also explains how it took a lot of work outside of the auditorium. She added, "Since this play is so emotional as well, I had to really get in the headspace of someone who is sick."



Delaney Ball and Maddison Marshall in a scene from *These Shining Lives*.

Ball also shared her thoughts on future productions. When asked what kind of themes or stories she hopes the next play explores, she said, "Our next production is our Student Directed Productions, and I hope that it also is able to show our department's range in acting." She also explains that in the past, they've done comedies, but she hopes they can show that they can handle any type of play. On how the next production might differ from this one, Ball said, "*These Shining Lives* had a very small cast, and the Student Directed Productions will have multiple different productions, so it will definitely provide more opportunity for people in the program." When asked why people should see the next play, Ball encourages that you see the talent of all the student directors. "People should come see the student-directed productions because not only are you seeing the amazing talent of the actors on stage, you are watching the talent of our student directors and how they are able to bring a script to life."

These Shining Lives powerfully dramatized the historical fight for justice by women exposed to radium, showcasing student talent like Delaney Ball as Catherine Donahue. The production emphasized resilience and education, with the GC Drama department continuing to highlight student versatility and directorial skill in future productions.



Performers gather together for a curtain call to receive applause following their performance of the play, "*These Shining Lives*."

MARCHING TOWARD GREATNESS

History Repeats as Greenfield-Central High School's Marching Band Advances

BY COUGAR REVIEW STAFF



Greenfield-Central High School's marching band has once again hit all the right notes, advancing to the next round of the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) competition following the Open Class Regionals on October 18. They have secured a spot in the Open Semi-State set for November 1.

This year's performance is titled *Separate Ways* and features music from the iconic band Journey. The band creatively incorporates ladders with arrows arranged in various configurations to reflect the theme. With numerous soloists showcasing their talents by playing the melodies of each song, the band consists of 140 members, including 19 in the guard. These dedicated students, along with countless staff members, have invested countless hours in preparation for these remarkable performances.

GC will be the first to take the stage at the Semi-State performance, and it's important that we make a strong and lasting impression on the judges. This is crucial for achieving a high score and advancing to the state level. If we progress, we will again perform first at the State competition, making it essential to create a memorable impact—not only for Class B but also to impress the judges and enhance our chances of winning.

Kade Chittum, a tenth grader, shared his thoughts on the marching show: "It is a very well-written show and could win state. I love how we all come together as a team and do the very best we can!"



Landon Essex, 12, Jenna Watkins, 12, Keygan Dalton, 11, and Jessica Singco, 9, performing body during a hold in their marching band show at a football game.



Hunter Pagac, 10, doing choreography in one of the many holds in our show, at a halftime performance.



A color guard member kicks a ladder in the air for her choreography to start our show.

COUGARS DOMINATE AT SECTIONALS

BY BRODY ASH

After weeks of hard practice and tough meets, both the boys' and girls' cross-country teams from Greenfield Central are heading to state. With help from Coach Smith and a lot of team spirit, the Cougars have pushed through a long season to keep their fighting spirit alive.

The team's hard work really showed at sectionals and regionals. Top runners were Bryce Cotterman in 8th with a time of 16:29, Braylon Mumaugh in 11th at 16:43, and Jack Wait in 14th at 16:57. It was a big race for Jack since he's missed some meets this season with injuries, and it was his first time breaking 17 minutes.

"It was great to see Jack have such a strong race," Coach Smith said. "He ran smart and gave it everything he had."

Coach Smith said he's proud of how much the team has grown this season. "They've pushed each other to get better every day," he said.

The team is excited to race at state and see how they match up against tough competition. "We've worked for this all season," Cotterman said. "It feels good to see it all pay off, and we're ready to keep going."

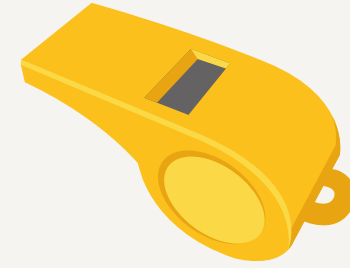
As state gets closer, the Cougars are staying focused and positive. With plenty of Cougar pride behind them, the team hopes to keep their strong season rolling and make Greenfield Central proud.





WINTER SPORTS

BY ZOEY BLOMBERG



With many fall sports ending with sectionals, it's time to turn our attention to winter sports. Last year, our winter athletic programs had a tremendously successful run, which set the bar high for this year's athletics. As coaches finalize their rosters and athletes prepare for this season, Greenfield-Central fans look forward to another competitive season by our athletes.

Last year, our boys' basketball team delivered an outstanding season that showcased their exceptional talent and dedication on the court. The team earned an impressive ranking of 11th in Indiana. This year, their first game is set for November 25th against Beech Grove High School.

Our girls' basketball team also had a memorable season. They showcased dedication and commitment, finishing the season ranked 79th in Indiana. They start this season on October 29th against Anderson High School, hoping to start the season off with a win.

Another sport with an impressive season is boys' swimming and diving. They finished last year at state preliminaries. The team won sectionals for the first time since 2020. As they look ahead to the upcoming season, they will begin their season at Franklin Central High School on November 25th, hoping to start the new season strong.

The girls' swimming and diving team also concluded a competitive season, demonstrating skill and hard work throughout the year. They ended their season breaking three conference records, finished their dual meet season undefeated, and finished 15th at the IHSAA State Meet. This season, they will begin on November 22nd at Greenfield-Central High School.

Boys wrestling concluded last year's successful season at the IHSAA Boys Wrestling State Finals. Graduates Lincoln Parsons and Zach Blevens, and senior Cade Zubar competed hard but were defeated in their opening matches. This year's season begins with their first meet at Rossville Middle/Sr High School on November 22nd, as they want to start off strong.

Girls' wrestling also ended last year's season at the Inaugural IHSAA State Finals. Junior Keely Allen and graduates Jasmine Camacho and Ella Harpold all secured a top-10 finish. This year, the team starts the season on November 8th at New Palestine High School.

With momentum from last year's success, Cougars are ready to prove they're stronger, faster, and more determined than ever.



SPOTLIGHT: FALL SPORTS SENIORS

As their senior year comes to a close, these dedicated athletes have invested countless hours, miles, and passion. Now, they're taking one final victory lap, both on the field and off. Some of the most valuable advice originates from those who have experienced the journey before, offering insights from their own experiences. This is a moment for reflection on friendships, challenges, and personal growth. The wisdom shared by these athletes serves as a beacon for those who follow, celebrating perseverance and camaraderie, and reminding us that every moment and effort truly matters.



Tristen Lanum Football LS, DT
“Do everything you want don’t listen to anyone else. What you want to do is what you should do don’t let anyone else tell you what to do.”



Keegan Brown Football G
“Don’t skip reps in the weight room trust your coach, they know what they’re talking about trust me.”



Reagan Burgin Football TE, MLB
“Don’t waste a second. Time is limited so use every second you’ve got.”



Shawn Hopkins Football T, DT
“Don’t take any of this for granted, you only have so much guaranteed time!!”



Emmitt Burd Football G
“Enjoy your senior year; it comes around faster than you think.”



Cooper Hinton Football FS, RB
“Continue to work hard in the weight room.”

SPOTLIGHT: FALL SPORTS SENIORS



Nevaeh Spurling Cheer

“My advice to underclassmen is to stay positive and not let little things bring you down. Your mindset can change everything.”



Evan Teskey Cheer

“Getting to be maximum goofy in the crowds and messing with the old guys in the crowd and making people smile.”



Maeli Bouchard Golf

“Don’t be afraid to try new things, this was new for me.”



Dylan Foster Soccer D

“Enjoy the time you have with your teammates. It goes by faster than you think, so make the most of it while you can.”



Taylor Cooksey Cross Country

“Remember to have fun in high school, you don’t have to have everything figured out yet.”



Ashlyn Devlin Cross Country

“Show up for yourself and your teammates everyday, even on the hard days and never stop trying!!”

As fall sports come to a close, we must bid farewell to our senior athletes. Thank you for helping us on this wild journey; we couldn’t have done it without you .



DON'T HIT DELETE ON PRINT:

WHY INDIANA UNIVERSITY SHOULD KEEP ITS NEWSPAPER IN PRINT

BY COUGAR REVIEW STAFF

When the presses go silent, something bigger than paper is lost. When Indiana University announced that its student newspaper would stop printing physical editions, the move was framed as a step toward modernization and sustainability. But while digital journalism is the future, eliminating print altogether overlooks what makes student newspapers so powerful: the physical connection, the educational experience, and the tangible record of campus life.

A recent study found that 46% of student newspapers nationwide are printing less than they did before the pandemic, often citing cost and convenience as the reason. Yet research also shows that print readers stay more focused and less distracted than digital readers, who face pop-ups and scrolling fatigue. Studies from the International News Media Association found that the design and layout of print pages actually help readers retain information better than when reading online. In short, print still matters, not just for nostalgia but for comprehension and engagement.

For student journalists, the loss of print means losing a vital part of their education. Producing a physical newspaper teaches visual hierarchy, layout design, and attention to detail. These skills can't be replicated through web templates or quick uploads. It's a crash course in teamwork and deadlines that mirrors the professional newsroom environment. And for readers, a print newspaper sitting in a dining hall or student center still invites something the digital world rarely does: a spontaneous moment of discovery.

Even in today's digital age, print editions continue to outperform digital versions in key areas such as reader engagement and ad revenue, according to a 2023 media study. This means print is not only relevant. It can still be sustainable when paired with smart digital strategy.

Indiana University's student newspaper has long been a cornerstone of campus culture and communication. Letting go of print isn't modernization; it's erasing a valuable learning experience and breaking a link in the chain of journalistic tradition. The digital shift doesn't need to mean deletion. A hybrid model combining online coverage with special print editions for major events or investigative features would keep the publication relevant, accessible, and alive in both formats.

Journalism has always been about connection to truth, to people, to history. Sometimes, the best way to hold on to that connection is still on paper.

Postscript: A Return to Print

In a welcome turn of events, Indiana University has since reversed its decision, allowing print editions to resume. The change reflects exactly what this editorial argued — that print journalism still holds irreplaceable value for readers, students, and the campus community. The presses are rolling again, and with them, the heartbeat of IU's journalistic tradition.

\$65

**WE HAVE 20
EXTRA
YEARBOOKS
FOR SALE**

First come first serve

COME SEE MRS. RUCH

Room D103



GREENFIELD - CENTRAL YEARBOOK BUSINESS ADS!



Ad Pricing:

FULL PAGE: \$360

1/2 PAGE: \$200

1/4 PAGE: \$110

1/8 PAGE: \$60

**ALL ADS ARE FULL COLOR
WE CAN HELP CREATE YOUR AD OR
YOU CAN CREATE YOUR OWN @
YEARBOOKFOREVER.COM**

Contact:

GCJS YEARBOOK

KIM RUCH

317 462-9211

OR

KRUCH@GCSC.K12.IN.US