

COUGAR & REVIEW

May

THE YEAR OF THE COUGARS

2026

RED CARPET READY

BY: COUGAR REVIEW STAFF

On April 25, Greenfield-Central High School students gathered at Embassy Suites in Noblesville for one of the most anticipated events of the year: prom. With a “Red Carpet” theme, the night was filled with excitement as juniors and seniors dressed up, took photos, and celebrated together.

Prom gave students a chance to step away from the stress of school and enjoy time with friends as the year came to a close. Senior Kaycie Moles said, “My favorite part of the night was definitely the mosh pit and just hanging out with my friends!”

Behind the scenes, student organizers and staff worked to bring the event together. Kylie Woodson, a member of the prom committee, said the preparation took weeks of effort. “We worked after school and on the weekends to make the decorations,” Woodson said. Fundraisers, including a Dine to Donate event at Smashburger in Greenfield, along with generous community donations, helped make the night possible.

For seniors, especially, prom marked one of the final milestones of their high school experience. As the night came to an end, students left with lasting memories, laughter, and a shared appreciation for one of their last big moments together at GCHS.



Kaycie Moles poses for a photo with Alyna Harlow and Addison English.



Prom committee member Kylie Woodson poses with her friends Gracelyn Garvey and Dane-Laurie Issac for a picture.



RED CARPET ROYALTY

BY: COUGAR REVIEW STAFF

At this year’s Greenfield-Central High School prom on April 25, seniors Delaney Ball and Carter Wilson were crowned prom queen and king, marking one of the most memorable moments of the night.

As students gathered at Embassy Suites in Noblesville for the “Red Carpet”-themed event, the announcement was met with excitement and cheers from classmates. The crowning took place during the evening’s festivities, adding to the celebration as students danced and enjoyed time with friends.

Ball and Wilson were also crowned homecoming queen and king earlier this year. Both are active members of the GCHS theater program and performed in the spring musical, *The Little Mermaid*. Their shared involvement in theater has made them well-known among their peers.

For Ball and Wilson, being crowned prom king and queen made the night even more special as they celebrated with classmates. Their crowning reflected their involvement in the school community and the connections they have built with others.

As graduation approaches, both plan to continue pursuing theater at the collegiate level, showing their dedication to the arts and excitement for the future.



2026 GCHS prom queen, Delaney Ball, and king Carter Wilson.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

BY ADDISON BRUNSTING

School is full of memories that students will talk about for long after they graduate. From big wins to joining new clubs, some moments stand out more than others. Throughout the year, students experienced many highlights that brought school spirit and new memories. Here are the top 10 moments that made this school year special.

Athletics is a huge part of our Greenfield-Central community. Having outstanding athletes and programs is never a doubt in our program. Here is a couple examples.

Braylon: Fresh out of high school, GC's own Braylon Mullins went straight to the University of Connecticut to play basketball for the Uconn Huskies. After an amazing season, Mullins made an insane buzzer beater to secure a win against Duke and a spot in the Final Four.

Cross Country: GCHS cross country is known for having competitive boys and girls teams competing in the Hoosier Heritage Conference. This 2025 season was huge for record breaking with freshman Mia Brinkruff recognized as the Hancock County Cross Country Athlete of the Year and setting the 5k school record.

Wrestling: GC Wrestling had a strong season finishing with six placements at nationals including Keely Allen with her championship performance. Maeson Robinson and Kanien Shores with a third place finish, and Andrew Heacox placing fourth advancing to the semifinals.

Swim and Dive: Greenfield has had an incredible swimming team year after year with both boys' and girls' team dominating at the sectional level. Boys secured their second straight sectional title winning nine of 12 events. Girls won their fifth straight HHC Championship with 515 points.

Dance: GC Bluefusion had an amazing 2025-2026 season, wrapping things up with their regional jazz championship, including their highest score yet. AA pom had a slight 0.5 points dividing third and first place. They finished their season getting third place for pom and fifth place for jazz at their state finals.

Cheer: Cougar's cheer accomplished a third place finish at the Hoosier Regionals earning them their second consecutive bid to UCA Nationals where they got to compete.

Outside athletics, Greenfield also prides themselves in academics, including so many accomplishments. Here are some special shoutouts.

Teacher of the Year Nominee: GC chooses their teacher of the year nominee each year based off of excellence, and going above and beyond. This year GCHS chose Mr. Oliver. Our principal Mr. Walbum claims that Mr. Oliver is one of the best teachers we've ever had, and is involved in so much including SLA and announcing sports events. Congrats Mr. Oliver!

Doritos Commercial: Our own Radio TV program was honored with the opportunity to work on a commercial set that had the potential to be a Super Bowl Commercial. Some key participants include their production assistant, senior Brady Knecht and Mr. Hudson.

Therapy Dogs: GCHS has a therapy dog program titled "Paws of GC". As of early 2026, our own Logan, Frank, and Aggie Mae passed their Alliance of Therapy Dogs evaluations!

Leap Program: Our LEAP Program (Learn, Engage, Achieve, Perform) developed by Darren Turner, is a career readiness initiative that launched in 2026 to replace the JAG program. It prepared students for college, military, or the workforce through so many different situations that could be a huge opportunity for all students.

This 2025-2026 school year is something to put down in the books, with only one more quarter left, we hope to double the amount of accomplishments.



BEFORE THE TASSEL TURNS

BY ZOEY BLOMBERG

As the school year wraps up, seniors at Greenfield-Central High School are making the most of their final weeks by creating memories and celebrating together. From senior assassin to brunch, these traditions give the Class of 2026 a chance to enjoy their last moments as students at GCHS.

One of the most popular traditions, Senior Assassin, began on April 6. The game is an elimination-style competition in which seniors are assigned targets to “assassinate” using water guns. While the game is meant to be a fun end-of-year activity, it has raised safety concerns in communities across the country. In some cases, realistic-looking water guns have led to misunderstandings and even police involvement. Law enforcement officials advise students to use brightly colored toy guns, avoid wearing masks or dark clothing, and stay off private property to prevent dangerous situations.

Other events throughout May give seniors opportunities to spend time together outside of the classroom. Senior out-to-lunch, scheduled for May 8, allows students to leave campus and enjoy a meal with friends. Later in the month, seniors will participate in a senior campout on May 21, an overnight event on the football field filled with games and activities.

The following morning, May 22, seniors will gather for brunch and take a group senior photo. These final events provide time for reflection, celebration, and lasting memories with classmates.

After weeks of traditions and celebrations, seniors will turn their attention to the year's biggest milestone: graduation. The ceremony is set for May 30 at 10 a.m.

From friendly competition in senior assassin to meaningful moments at brunch, these final weeks give seniors a chance to celebrate their high school experience and look ahead to what comes next.



Liam Taylor eliminating Nick Hines to continue on in Senior assassin



Kaiden Hiner eliminates Will Steveson



Faith Adcock Eliminated Rihanna Jones





MAY THE 4TH

BY DONNIE BLACKBURN



“May the Fourth be with you.” Known as Star Wars Day, the unofficial holiday is celebrated each year on May 4 by fans of the iconic film series. The date comes from a play on the famous line “May the Force be with you,” but the celebration has grown far beyond just a clever pun.

The phrase first gained attention in 1979, when it was used in a congratulatory message to Margaret Thatcher, reading “May the Fourth Be with You.” Over time, the saying reappeared in pop culture and politics before gaining popularity online in the early 2000s. Today, it has become a global celebration embraced by fans and major companies alike.

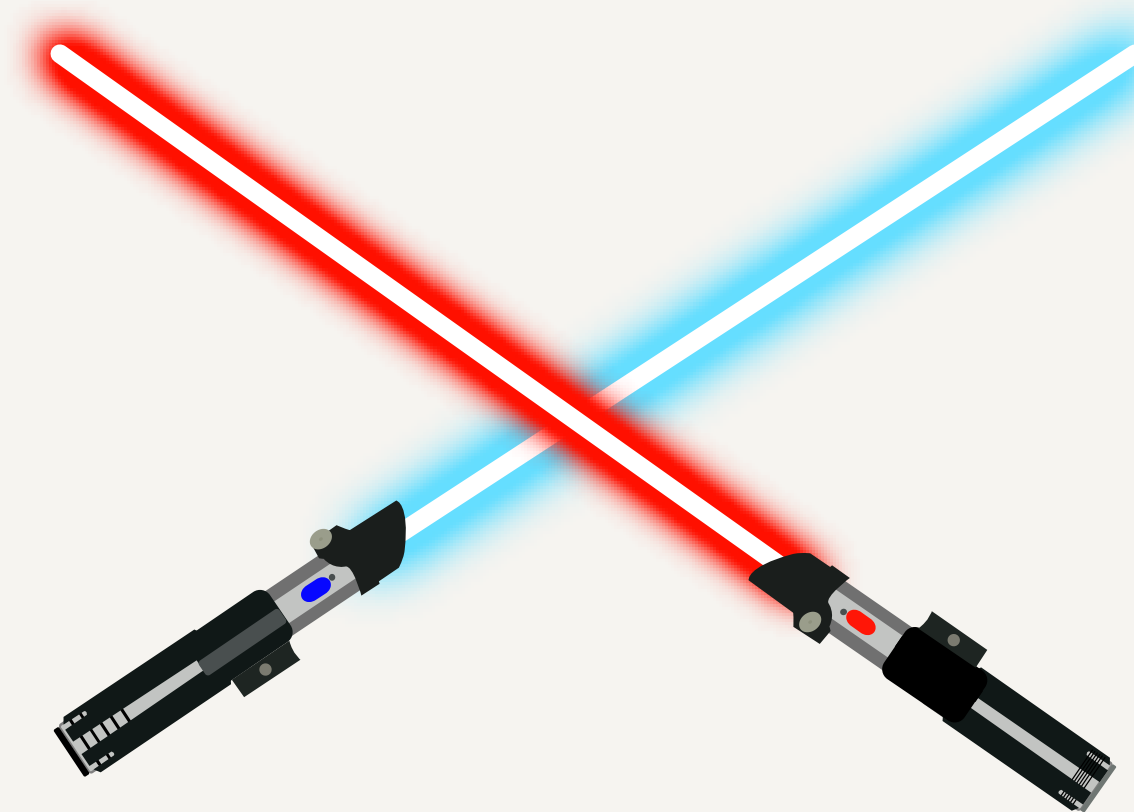
Since The Walt Disney Company acquired Lucasfilm in 2012, Star Wars Day has expanded into a large-scale promotional event. Streaming platforms often highlight films from the franchise, while retailers release themed merchandise such as clothing, collectibles and memorabilia.

For many fans, May 4 is about more than just watching the movies. Celebrations often include costume parties, movie marathons and themed events at places like Disney Parks, where guests can see characters and experience attractions inspired by the series. Some fans even dress up for school or work as Jedi, stormtroopers or other characters, while others include their pets in the fun.

The celebration has also expanded to May 5, sometimes called “Revenge of the Fifth,” a playful nod to the film *Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith*. On this day, fans often highlight the villains of the series.

Although May 4 shares the calendar with other observances, including National Orange Juice Day and the remembrance of the 1970 Kent State shootings, Star Wars Day has carved out its own place in pop culture.

From its origins in a simple pun to a worldwide celebration, May the Fourth continues to bring fans together each year to celebrate the galaxy far, far away.



FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER

BY HAYDEN KING

As the school year comes to an end, seniors are preparing for the next chapter of their lives. Some students are going to college, others are starting their jobs, and some might be going to trade school or even the military. Each path comes with its own challenges and opportunities, making the decision both exciting and overwhelming. No matter what they choose, each student is stepping into a new stage of their lives.

While every student's path is different, seniors across the class have begun finalizing their plans and preparing for what's ahead. Senior Gage Gibson explains what he plans to do after graduation. "Go to college and get my sports marketing degree." Another senior, Michael Batt, also adds what he plans on doing after graduation. "Going to college for business management."

Seniors are considering a variety of paths after graduation, including attending college, pursuing vocational programs, taking a gap year, or entering the workforce. Many are exploring options that match their personal goals, interests, and future plans.

Seniors are taking many different paths after graduation, from going to college to starting work or vocational programs. No matter what they choose, each option will lead them to their successful future.



Senior, Gabe Gibson



Senior, Michael Batt

TARPS TO FIELDS

BY BELLA LANE

After a busy winter season, Greenfield-Central's band and guard are getting a short break to rest, recharge and catch up on schoolwork. Following months of practices, performances and competitions, students are taking time to relax before preparing for what comes next.

Even as the winter season wraps up, attention is already turning toward marching band. The transition from indoor performances to the excitement of performing on the field has many students looking ahead. Returning members said they are excited to be back with friends, make new memories and continue growing as a program—despite the long rehearsals that come with the season.

*While details about next year's show have not been released, both performers and fans are already building anticipation. Many are hoping for a production that lives up to or surpasses this year's show, *Separate Ways*.*

For the Class of 2026, the focus is also on finishing strong. Seniors are preparing for their final performances, including the Wind Symphony's ISSMA contest and the Parade of Bands concert, which will close out their high school careers. As the year comes to an end, these final concerts mark both a celebration of the season and a transition for the program moving forward.



The 2026 Winter Winds ensemble at WGI

MAY 20TH: WORLD BEE DAY



BY LAYLA LONG



As the early spring grows near, bees come out of hibernation and begin foraging in the cool weather. As they buzz around, a honey bee travels up to 50 to 100 flowers during a single collection trip. For a pound of honey, bees visit 2 million flowers and travel roughly 55,000 miles. A 16oz jar requires roughly 1,152 bees and 22,700 trips.

World Bee Day is a worldwide celebration of bees and beekeepers. This international day is to acknowledge the role bees and other pollinators they play in ecosystems and food security. This day highlights threats like habitat loss and pesticide use. The date for this observance was chosen as it was the day Anton Janša, a pioneer of modern apiculture, was born. Janša came from a family of beekeepers in Slovenia, where beekeeping is an important agricultural activity with a long-standing tradition.

The initiative was launched by the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association in 2014, with formal backing from the Slovenian government and support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Following a proposal by Slovenia at the FAO regional Conference in 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution to designate May 20th as World Bee Day on December 20, 2017. It was observed to be celebrated in 2018.

Unfortunately, the mortality rates of bees are scarily high. In the year ending April 2023, 48% of US honey bee colonies were lost, with recent reports indicating losses higher than 60% in early 2025 due to a number of factors; habitat loss & degradation, pesticides, chemicals, diseases, and climate change. The loss of bees would lead to economic loss to agriculture and life itself.

However, by creating safe habitats, eliminating pesticide use, and supporting local, sustainable beekeeping also helps pressure native pollinator populations.



MEMORIAL DAY

BY BRYSON MINTON

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States that honors and remembers military members who died in service. Originally known as Decoration Day, it was established in 1868 as a time for people to decorate the graves of fallen soldiers.

A lot of people think Veterans Day and Memorial Day (Decoration Day) are the same, but they differ significantly. Veterans Day is to remember all veterans, while Memorial Day is only to remember those who have passed. That's why Memorial Day has certain rules that must be followed by all people in America, whereas Veterans Day has few to no restrictions/requirements.

While these traditions are widely recognized, the meaning of Memorial Day has evolved over time. For many Americans, the holiday has become associated with barbecues, travel, and the unofficial start of summer. This shift has raised concerns that the day's true purpose is sometimes overlooked or forgotten. However, others argue that gathering the family and enjoying freedoms is, in itself, a way of honoring those who made these freedoms possible. This contrast highlights an ongoing tension between remembrance and celebration, raising the question of how Americans should properly observe Memorial Day in modern society.



TRACK SEASON TAKES OFF

BY: BELLA LANE

The 2026 track and field season is underway, with Greenfield-Central athletes stepping up at every meet. Both the boys' and girls' teams have already set personal and even school records early in the season, setting the tone for a strong finish.

As the season moves into its final weeks, athletes continue training and competing to improve their times and marks while also making lasting memories with teammates. Junior Blake Longere, in his second year of track, competes in the 100, 200, 4x100 relay, and hurdles. He said he is looking forward to both competition and team experiences. "I'm looking forward to spending time with my friends and teammates this season," Longere said. "I'm proud of how hard we've worked as a team and how much we've improved since the beginning of the season."

The Cougars have seen several standout performances. Von Quigley set a new school record in discus with a throw of 177 feet. Mia Brinkruff broke the school record in the mile with a time of 5:11.40, while Everett Bishop set a new mark in the 200 meters with a time of 22.14 seconds. Hunter Jones also recorded a personal best in pole vault, clearing 12 feet, 6 inches in recent competition.

With only a few weeks remaining, the Greenfield-Central track and field teams are continuing to build momentum as they head toward the postseason.



Blake Longere at an away meet, races towards the finish line.

A NIGHT OF RECOGNITION

BY: KYLIE WOODSON

From countless hours of athletics and clubs to late night studying, students have made it to the final stretch of the 2025-2026 school year. Awards are a meaningful way to recognize and celebrate the hard work and dedication of GCHS students. Recognition for students through awards is just as important as the success they made throughout the school year.

Awards that will be presented include community involvement, service, athletics, leadership, character, scholarships, and more. Many different awards are presented based on not just grades but attitude, effort, and growth of students. These awards can help students be more encouraged and motivated to work just as hard for these accomplishments. Awards can even help with college applications and build resumes for students.

Awards don't have to be a competition between students but a way for teachers and staff to show their appreciation of them. They help encourage involvement in school and encourage students to do their best and push themselves.

For underclassmen its way to see their growth throughout the year. Although for upperclassmen it's the start of a new chapter. Among seniors it's the end of their high school career quickly coming to a close. While juniors look towards the seniors, for a glimpse into what their future could be. Awards will be May 4th for both Upperclassmen and Underclassmen in the GPAC from 6pm-10pm. GC can't wait to see you there!



The small moments before the main event.

COUGARS SWING INTO SEASON

BY TREVOR LEONARD

The Greenfield-Central Cougars baseball team entered the 2026 season with one goal in mind—defending last year’s sectional title. With a strong group of returning players and high expectations, the team is focused on building chemistry, improving each day and making another deep postseason run.

Junior Walker Miller said he is most excited for both the competition and the team environment. “Getting to hang out with my closest friends, being out on the field, and competing for another sectional title,” Miller said.

The Cougars opened their season March 31 with a win over Lapel. After both teams scored two runs in the first inning, G-C pulled away with consistent offense, adding runs in the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh innings to secure an 11-3 victory.

The team then traveled to Kokomo for the Indiana Series, where they picked up a close 10-9 win over Chesterton. A five-run fourth inning and three-run fifth inning helped power the Cougars to the win. Junior Gavin Markus recorded two hits and scored three runs, while junior Hayden Kidd added a three-run home run.

On Saturday, the Cougars fell to Morgan Township 6-5, marking their first loss of the season. They followed with a 5-4 loss to Kouts after trailing early. Despite the loss, sophomore Hayden Zellers led the offense with two hits, including a triple. Senior Ethan Ortwein added two hits and a run scored, while Owen Kerkof, Henry Close, Steven Walker and Carson Richardson each recorded a stolen base.

As the Cougars wrap up the first month of the season, they remain focused on improving and carrying momentum into the final stretch and sectional play.



SOFTBALL: GAME ON

BY ASHER HOOTS



The Greenfield-Central Cougars are officially stepping up to the plate to begin their 2026 season with high energy. The team is looking to make a statement early this spring, relying on a strong lineup and a flexible pitching staff to navigate a challenging conference schedule.

The GCHS softball team played its first game on March 30th against Lapel. It was a tough start for Greenfield, as Lapel came out swinging and scored four runs in the first inning. Lapel kept the pressure on, adding two more runs in the fourth and one more in the fifth. The Cougars struggled, but they didn't give up. In the sixth inning, they fought back and put a run on the board. The game ended with a 7-1 win for Lapel, but Greenfield showed they have the heart to keep playing until the final out.

The Cougars played competitive teams early, but since, have come away with six wins against teams,

In a recent interview, Maddie Lacy said, “I’m excited to play softball with my friends. Softball has taught me to be a good person.” Lacy appreciates Chesney Herbes as a good leader because she helps the team get up when they're down.

Softball empowers young girls, teaching them teamwork, resilience, and valuable life skills. Beyond the field, it builds confidence and character, creating a supportive community where players learn to overcome challenges.



GCHS Softball players on the bus ride to their next game.



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MISSION: SECURE YOUR YEARBOOK

This year's yearbook is classified, and access is limited. Inside this Top Secret file are the moments you don't want erased: victories, laughs, traditions, and memories that won't be repeated. From first-day missions to final assignments, this book holds evidence of the 2025-2026 year. Once the year ends, this file closes permanently.

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