



Big Blue News

February, 2025



"LOVE & LEGACY: CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY AND HEARTS THIS FEBRUARY!"



Michael Young lays in front of the P.S. I Love You Day mural.



P.S. I Love You!!

ALLYSON AMONS
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)- The newspaper interviewed Mrs. Haberman about P.S. I Love You Day and what it means to her. She responded, "To spread kindness and awareness." We also asked if she created P.S. I Love You Day and why, if she did. She replied, "No, I did not create P.S. I Love You Day. Two girls in New York started the movement to bring happiness and kindness." P.S. I Love You Day began eight years ago. The event is happening on Valentine's Day this year.



Mr. Colley Showing UP!!

Solo on Valentine's Day? Fun Ways to Celebrate!

EMBER HARMS
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)- Valentine's Day often seems focused on couples, but what if you don't have a special someone? No worries--there are plenty of ways to make the day fun!

How about playing football or indulging in some chocolate and candy with family? Our newspaper team came up with even more ideas:

- Make cards for friends and family.
- Watch movies with friends.
- Enjoy a nice dinner out with loved ones.
- Host a game night.
- Treat yourself to a gift.
- Have a self-care day.
- Celebrate with a classic Galentine's Day.

Of course, these are just suggestions--do whatever makes you happy! Valentine's Day is about love in all forms, including self-love.



Big Blue News Staff poses under the P.S. I Love You Day balloon arch.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

COLTYN NOYES, JEWELL HAMILTON AND RILEY GARRETT
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)- Whenever you think of February, the first things that may come to mind are Valentine's Day or Presidents' Day. However, for many people across the country, Black History Month holds the most significance.



Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their role in U.S. history. It is a time to honor their contributions and legacy in society.

Historical figures to keep in mind include Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and Marcus Garvey.

“ How can you get arrested on Valentine's Day? For stealing someone's heart. ”

Upcoming Events

Power Hour

February 19

EVENTS

Beta Meeting: February 209 March 27

Band Concert: March 4

Vending

February 28th

March 28th

Schools OUT!!

Presidents' Day: February 17

Teacher In-Service: March 7

Spring Break: March 10-14

Good Friday: April 18

Upcoming Days to Celebrate!

Valentines Day: February 14

8th Grade Field Trip: February 21

First Night of Ramadan: March 1

Daylight Savings Time Begins: March 9

St. Patrick's Day: March 17

Eid al-Fitr: March 30

"Cereal-ously Important: Why Breakfast is the Real MVP"

GABE STEWART
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-



7th Grade Boys enjoying their lunch!

Have you ever heard the saying that breakfast is the most important meal of the day? In some countries, like Italy, breakfast is not a common meal, even though studies show that eating breakfast has many health benefits.

Some believe that lunch is the least important meal, and skipping it can help with weight loss. However, research has proven that people who don't eat breakfast tend to have healthier diets overall. So, what's better? You decide. Personally, I don't eat breakfast, but it's up to you to make your own choice about what you eat!

Caramel Popcorn Hearts

By Ember Harris

Ingredients:
30 soft caramel candies
2 bags of microwave popcorn

Directions: Heat the caramels over low heat (note: be careful since the caramel needs to stay warm but not too hot that it burns) while popping the popcorn in the microwave. After both are done slowly layer popcorn and caramel in a large bowl and mix. Let cool slightly for one to two minutes and shape with your hands into heart shapes. Once again, let cool and enjoy.

Book of the Month

by HENSLEY BAKER



A Thousand Heartbeats

Genre: Romance

Annika, the princess of Kadier, lives in luxury alongside her father and brother. Yet, no amount of wealth can change the fact that her future is not her own—soon, she will be forced into a loveless marriage for the sake of her kingdom.

Miles away, Lennox is dedicated to a revolution, fighting to reclaim the throne stolen from his people long ago. For him, love has always been a distant distraction.

But when fate brings Annika and Lennox together, they are powerless against its pull. They can never truly be together... yet they can't stay apart.

Teacher Spotlight



Mrs. Ordoñez, a 7th grade ELA teacher, was chosen for teacher spotlight. She says her teaching technique came from everything her teachers didn't do, and she wants to make the learning experience fun for all of her students. Her favorite aspect about herself is that she is very welcoming and joyful. When she was little, she didn't want to be a teacher. In fact, she was originally an interior designer! She says she found God and realized that her gift was teaching. We are happy to have Mrs. Ordoñez as a teacher and as the spotlight!



Travelers Rest Nashville

Tenne "see"



JAYNE KEENE
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

Tennessee has many beautiful and fun places to visit, though some are best enjoyed at specific times of the year. Here are a few great destinations for February 2025!

If you love historical homes and tours, Travelers Rest in Nashville is a fantastic option. This house has been around since 1799, though it has been renovated multiple times. Tours cost \$20 per person but are well worth the experience.

The second place that's great to see any time of the year is the Parthenon. Built in 1897 for the

Tennessee Centennial, this beautiful building is a well-known place to see or take photos for events. Located in Centennial Park, you can go and simply hang out at the park on pretty days. If you have seen the Percy Jackson movies, you would recognize the Athena statue that sits inside. The Parthenon holds many impressive statues inside, which you can see for a small fee, or you can access a free pass from the White House Library with a library card.



ALL THINGS FEBRUARY!

"And the Grammy Goes To... A Night of Music, Magic, and Memorable Moments!"



MICHAEL YOUNG, ASHTYN SALOMONI, ALLYSON AMONS WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)- The 67th Annual Grammy Awards delivered exciting wins and controversy. Kendrick Lamar dominated the night with the most awards, including major song honors. After four losses, Beyoncé finally won for Cowboy Carter. Chappell Roan took Best New Artist, using her speech to advocate for artists' rights. Charli XCX closed the night with a show-stopping performance.

Who Deserved to Win?

While the Grammys celebrated talent, some wins sparked debate. Fans questioned whether Beyoncé deserved Best Country Album. Kendrick Lamar's five wins matched Drake's record, raising fairness concerns. The Pop Duo award went to Die with a Smile by Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars, though some felt the category was weak. Fan-favorite Ain't No Love in Oklahoma lost to It Never Went Away, surprising many.

Why Do People Still Watch?

Fans tune in to support artists and catch big moments. Mrs. Desch, a fan, watches for Taylor Swift Easter eggs. Despite controversy, the Grammys remain a major stage for music's biggest stars.



Student Spotlight



Jaylin Peden, a 7th grader, is our student spotlight. He has a sister in high school, and prefers to go by JP. Some of his hobbies include football and playing Rainbow Six

Siege, Jaylin says his favorite quality about himself is his athleticism and he feels special about being a student spotlight. He says he loves White House Middle for the people. We're proud to have him as a spotlight!



"SWEET VICTORY! SOUR PATCH KIDS REIGN AS VALENTINE'S FAVORITE"

The results are in, and the top Valentine's candy has been crowned!

In third place, Hershey's Kisses received 21 votes. Coming in second, Reese's earned 24 votes. And taking the top spot with a grand total of 37 votes—Sour Patch Kids!

Thank you for voting, and have a sweet and happy Valentine's Day!

“ Why did the skeleton break up with his girlfriend? Because she didn't have the guts to love him ”



Major League Baseball Player Jackie Robinson

Celebrating Black History Month:

AVA ELLIS

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)- In honor of Black History Month, students explored influential African Americans who have shaped history. Jackie Robinson broke barriers as the first African American Major League Baseball player, debuting for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. Eugene Jacques Bullard, the first Black pilot, earned his license in 1917 and served in World War I. Modern icons also continue to inspire. NBA star LeBron James holds the record for the most points scored in both regular and postseason play. Figures like Simone Biles, Beyoncé, and Martin Luther King Jr. remind us that hard work and determination can break boundaries. These trailblazers continue to inspire future generations to achieve their dreams.

A Winter Story cont... The Flower's Love

ISABEL WILLIAMSON WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-When I regained my bearings, I shook off the snow and looked up, waving a leafed fist toward the kids in the house.

Then, I heard a melody—a sweet-sounding song of longing. The snow melted around me, and as I turned, I saw an absolutely beautiful woman with long, pink, flowing hair and blank eyes, white as the melting snow.

I stumbled to my stubby wooden feet, wobbling toward the figure. The scent of flowers filled my nostrils, triggering a thought in my branch-filled brain.

Wait a minute, that smell... It was the scent of love flowers! I suddenly snapped out of my trance, waking myself from the strange dream.

Looking down, I saw only a bright pink rose. In the blink of an eye, I crushed it beneath me. No more pesky flowers would stand in my way now.

Or so I thought—until I heard a low growl. Slowly tilting my head up, I found myself staring at a giant, red, scaly...

TO BE CONTINUED...

"Spirit in Motion: The Strength Behind the Cheers!"

SOPHIA MANNING WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)- When we think of school spirit, the first thing that comes to mind is the cheerleading team. We interviewed Kasten Darnal, one of the flyers on the team, who also tumbles.



WHMS Cheer team poses with their "Spirit of 65" banner after placing 1st at the competition

We asked her what she liked about being on the team. Darnal responded, "I like that all the girls support each other when they are learning new things."

We asked her what she enjoyed about cheerleading. Darnal responded, "It's fun to be a part of a team and show school spirit." We asked her if she liked challenges, such as learning difficult cheers.

Darnal responded, "Yes, I really enjoy pushing myself to my limits."

We asked her how she felt about the showcase. Darnal responded, "I am really nervous and excited. This will be my first one."

We also spoke with Sidder Boyles about how the team performed on Wednesday at their cheer competition. Boyles said, "I think we did a decent job. Together, we did well as a team, but as individuals,

Words to Live By

By Michael Young

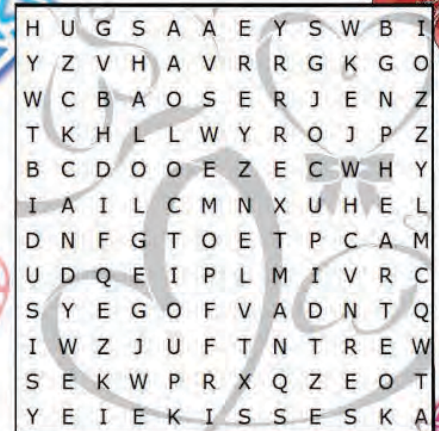
Valentine's Day is a holiday for those in love, but not everyone has a Valentine. I asked Ashtyn Salomoni about her plans, and she shared, "I'm going to hang out with my family, then on the 15th, I'm hanging out with my friend."

As for me, I'll probably spend the day playing with my brothers and throwing a football with my dad.

If you don't have plans for the 14th, consider spending time with family—it can be just as special!

"Scroll or Stroll? The Great Debate on Teens and Social Media"

JEWELL HAMILTON WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)- When you get home from school, what's the first thing you do? Most people get online without even realizing it. Have you ever thought about the negative effects it could have on your mental health? Social media has many bad side effects, such as cyberbullying, depression, sleep disturbances, and FOMO. Please be aware of these side effects and keep yourself safe!



Gift - candy - kisses - hugs - Cupid
Flowers - love - heart - chocolate
Arrow - Sweet - valentine

February Whispers

February, crisp and clear,
Whispers of change are drawing near.
Red and pink in every space,
A touch of warmth, a slower pace.

Snow may fall, but days grow long,
In quiet moments, we belong.
A month to cherish, give, and share.
With kindness in the winter air.

♡ Josie Ray