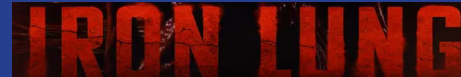




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Saegertown Jr. Sr.
High School
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The Panther Press



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Anatomy's class visits Gannon and Dusckas Martin Funeral home

Aurora Petrie
Managing Editor

On Tuesday, on February 3, Mr. Greco took his anatomy class to Gannon University's cadaver lab and the Dusckas Martin Funeral Home so that his students had the opportunity to see real-life anatomy that's usually only seen in books and the dissections they do. Mr. Greco has been taking his class on this field trip since around 2007!

Greco feels like this is the most educational field trip because it's beyond just science; the experience is filled with elements of psychology, business, history, and, of course, anatomy, so naturally you don't have to love science to have a good time and take home what you learned.

Greco expresses that

he's thankful to Gannon and the Dusckas Martin Funeral Home for the amazing opportunity to visit and that it is truly a rewarding day for this rewarding opportunity.



Photo Courtesy of Gannon University

I myself take anatomy, and my experience with the field trip is nothing but positive. I was able to be hands-on with what I'm currently learning in class, and I think that's a

really cool opportunity that many other schools don't get. We learned everything from the anatomy of the human body to the way we preserve and take care of the people

that are deceased.

I took the time to ask two students, Brooke Newman and Jace Digiaco- mo, who went on the field trip as well, about their experience. I first

asked them what they enjoyed most about the trip, in which Digiaco- mo answered with, "I thought it was very educational and fun; I learned a lot of stuff, yet I still had so much fun,

and I feel like that's rare to find with school field trips."

Newman then followed that with, "I enjoyed the hands-on experience because that's not something

you get to do every day."

The second and last question I asked them was to tell me two things they learned. "I learned that the inside of the human body is a lot similar to different organisms, and you wouldn't think that they would be, and that some of the things you think would be gross actually aren't that bad," said Digiaco- mo. Newman added, "I learned that a lot of the organs are a lot bigger than you'd think they'd be, the funeral home also really opened my eyes to really cherish every day because any day really could be your last."

To finish this out, I highly encourage anyone to take anatomy their senior year not only for the super cool field trip but also because knowledge that you learn alone is not only useful but also super fun to learn about.

Check out our Website



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The origins of Groundhog Day

Lincoln Flowers
Panther paw Editor

Groundhog Day is an exciting tradition that people around the country celebrate. The celebration is derived from Pennsylvania Dutch superstition and has now become an event that many people look forward to each year.

The first Groundhog Day was celebrated in 1887 and takes place annually on February

Second. The most notable celebration of the event is in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. In this event, the famous forecaster is Punxsutawney Phil, who emerges from his burrow once a year. It is a popular North American tradition where an attempt is made to predict the end of winter.

During the event, a groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil is observed exiting his burrow, and a conclusion on the end of winter stems from the reaction of the fa-

mous groundhog. Thousands of spectators gather at Gobbler's Knob well before dawn to see the impending forecast. The forecast can bring joy to some, or sadness to others, depending on the hopes of the crowd.

According to superstition, if the groundhog sees its own shadow and runs back into the ground, there will be an additional six weeks of winter that year. The logic is that the groundhog is frightened by its

own shadow, which it sees due to a clear and sunny day. In contrast, if the groundhog does not see its own shadow, the traditional interpretation is that an early spring season will soon arrive.

Although the holiday is primarily and largely believed to have stemmed from Pennsylvania Dutch traditions, it can also be traced back to European celebrations. Particularly, Groundhog Day can be compared to the

Christian festival of Candlemas, which is also celebrated on February Second. This specific day was historically significant as it marked the midpoint between the winter solstice and the spring equinox.

Wherever the popular holiday comes from, however, it has certainly found its place in the United States, with people around the country excited to celebrate on February second.

SHS selects students of the semester

Kaiya Levesque
Social Media Intern

The Student of the Semester is a four-year-old program started by Dr. Howick. She started this when she arrived at SHS to recognize students doing great things at Saegertown. It is part of the schools' Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports

(PBIS) initiatives to showcase students using the PRIDE expectations on a daily basis.

Students are nominated by teachers, who provide feedback regarding why those students should be nominated. That feedback is also given to students to read the nice things their teachers said about them. Winners are pulled at the middle and end of the year. Two students in each

grade level are chosen. The Student of the Semester program is a perfect way for students to feel proud of themselves for being nominated and recognized among a handful of other students out of every single student in the entire school.

Dr. Howick shared her thoughts and praises on the program. "We think it is a great way of recognizing and celebrating

all of our amazing students," she stated. "It gives them something to work towards. Students have been given treats, prizes, and gift cards to Traveler's Cafe (this is our Student of the Semester Sponsor), as well as recognition on our social media platforms."

The winning students for the ending of the first semester were Hannah Thierman and Lucas Muckinhaupt from sev-

enth grade, Nalani Pasquito and Adam Evanoff from eighth grade, Ryan Ruff and Kaiya Levesque from ninth grade, Landon Unger and Hailey Obenrader from tenth grade, Julie Tatters and Talon Adams from eleventh grade, and Kalynn Petruso and Josh Weaver from twelfth grade. The Student of the Semester is an honor that should make any student who won proud of it.

Out with the old, and in with the new: Lyons leaves, Heck joins the staff

Claire Harrison
Broadcast Director
Sophia Pacak
A&E Editor

A new star is coming to Saegertown, but for a new star to come, one has to leave. Sadly, our beloved teacher Ms. Lyons is leaving us, going to another school to be closer to her fiancé. We have a new star coming to Saegertown, Ms. Heck, our new music teacher.

Before Lyons left, we wanted to ask her some questions, the first one being, "Why did you become a teacher?" She respond-

ed with, "I became a teacher because I had a senior high band director, who is very important to me, who helped me grow not only as a person but also as a student; he was the person who helped me go to college. I didn't think I was going to be a music teacher. I wanted to be a neuropsychologist, and having him and his impact on my life pushed me to become a music teacher." She continued, saying, "My participation in music while I was in middle/high school was a formative part of my development as a human... The cognitive and emotional benefits of music are important, but the social benefits of being in musical groups and

all sharing a common goal (to love music) were instrumental to me growing up. After trying my first career path (the corporate world), I knew that I wanted to become a teacher instead."

Lyons also expressed her emotions on leaving. "I am sad; the students I'm going to miss the most, I care about them so much, and it was a difficult choice between my personal life and my career, but ultimately, I chose my family."

She further reflected on her favorite memory during her interview, saying, "I would say my favorite place I have been to this year was hosting the district course at Allegheny College; it

was fun."

Lyons has had experience teaching marching bands, choirs, and general music, including as an assistant director for the Apollo-Ridge marching band from Spring Church, PA, but this was her first solo teaching experience.

The last question asked was, "What are you most excited for this year?" She responded with, "I am most excited to get to know the students and for us all to work together to put on the spring concert! I am excited for their loved ones and peers to see all of their hard work and join in on their love of music-making." We are all very sad Ms. Lyons is

leaving, but we are so excited to see what the future holds for us with Ms. Heck.

*Photo Courtesy of SHS
Facebook*



Snow's Indoor Outfitters finds new leadership with Kyle Snow

Kaiya Levesque
Social Media Intern

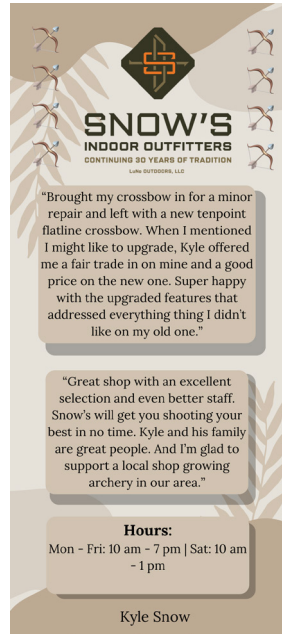
Archery is a sport many people love. Some hunt; others simply do it for fun or even for competition. Sometimes, though, it's hard to find the perfect bow, especially for beginners. It's also ideal to test out a bow before buying it.

Snow's Indoor Outfitters has been a part of the local archery scene for over 30 years. Beginning as a trusted pro shop under Rich's guidance, it is now proudly owned by Kyle Snow—a lifelong customer who's continuing the tradition of service, skill, and passion for the sport. Backed by family and built on community, Snow's is here for every archer, whether you're sighting in your first bow or tuning for your next trophy. Snows proudly serves Saegertown with honest advice and small-town customer care. They set up, repair, and fine-tune every bow for total accuracy and comfort. Snows also provides a well-lit and comfortable indoor shooting range for year-round use. One being a normal range with targets, and another having a screen to shoot at target animals. They also provide an outdoor shooting range. Snow's stocks many trusted brands, such as Mathews, Hoyt, and Easton.

Some people have said amazing things about Kyle Snow, as seen in their website's reviews, such as, "Kyle is an all-around great dude, and you couldn't ask for more in a bow shop! They carry just about anything you could need related to archery, and if they don't have something in stock that you want, Kyle can

get it ordered for you. On top of that, I shoot their dot league, and I must say it's a super fun, chill place to unwind and fling a few downrange. Whether you need a product or just want to shoot your bow, I'd highly recommend Snows Indoor Outfitters."

Overall, Kyle Snow is an amazing guy who helps out all of his customers and is always ready to answer any questions with patience. He helps out anyone, from beginners to experienced, and will make a great owner for Snow's Indoor Outfitters.



Senior wrap-ups are quickly approaching

Sophia Lilly
Social Media Editor

Dear seniors, as we near the end of the year, there are some things to do and upcoming tasks. First off, senior sunrise was the first day of school; thank you to everyone who participated. Next, cap and gowns should be ordered, whether you ordered them on paper or online, so they are in time for graduation. Cap and gown photos were done on November 20. Baby Ads for the yearbook should have been turned in by January 29. Homecoming has come and gone; great job to the homecoming committee! Then are the candy sales, which should have been in by February 14 these candy sales are to raise money for our senior trip and our senior banquet.

In upcoming news, candy sale delivery, senior skip day, seniors' last day, and senior sunset are all in the near future. Prom is on May 17, the senior banquet on May 19, the senior trip on June 1, graduation practice on June 2 and 3, and graduation on June 4.

As the year comes to an end, please remember, seniors, you don't have much longer till your high school years are just memories. You are living your own life, whether that is furthering your education, going into the workforce, or joining the military, you will all become something great.

So in these last couple of months, make sure to make as many amazing memories as you can before it's too late.

Saegertown students prep for business week

Trinity Gohn
Features Editor

Juniors had a meeting on February 4 to discuss Business Week. Dr. Howick and Mr. Hayes were the hosts.

The participants in business week this year are the entire junior class from Cambridge Springs High School, Maplewood High School, and Saegertown High School. There will be three teams per school. Each team will have about 20 students in it.

Students will have to go to Cambridge Springs High School during business week. Students will be bussed from their re-

spective schools to Cambridge Springs. If students would like to drive themselves, they are more than welcome to. Students must arrive around 9:00 a.m.

The dates that business week will take place are May 18-22, 2026. On Thursday, May 21, of that week, there will be an after-school work session. It will not be mandatory, but it is encouraged for all students. Students can work and prepare for competitions that will be held on Friday. There will be a pizza party at 4:30 p.m. for those who stay and work.

Competition day will be Friday, May 22, 2026. The competitions that will be taking place are the advertising and marketing

competition (in the auditorium), the stockholders competition (in the library), the trade show (in the gym), and the awards ceremony (in the auditorium).

What is business week? Pennsylvania Business Week is a fun, hands-on program where the entire junior class learns how to run a company. Students will work in teams, acting as the new management for a fictional business. Over 12 "business quarters," they'll make real-world decisions about production, marketing, research, and more—just like actual business leaders. Local business volunteers and teachers will guide them through the process, helping them prepare for exciting competitions at

the end of the week.

Vo-Tech students will participate in the program as part-time employees. They are expected to attend Business Week activities during their scheduled time at their respective high schools. The only day they are required to be present for the full day is Friday to take part in the competitions. If students are not present on Friday, they may forfeit their eligibility to receive the \$100 prize should their team win. Dr. Howick has gotten permission for Vo-Tech students to participate in the full week of business week.



Alex Pretti: How the situation unfolded

Aurora Petrie
Managing Editor

On January 24 2026, Alex Pretti was killed by federal immigration agents during a violent arrest around 9 A.M. He was shot multiple times after being pepper sprayed and tackled. Alex Pretti was a 37-year-old ICU nurse in Minneapolis. Pretti was observing immigration enforcement and attempting to help a woman who had fallen down when he was then tackled by agents. According to reports, one or more officers shot up to

10 shots while he was on the ground.

While the Department of Homeland Security claimed Pretti posed a threat with a gun, witness video suggested that he never even reached for his gun. Although Pretti had been armed, he was a licensed gun owner.

The incident drew national attention and condemnation, with President Trump calling it “unfortunate” before labeling Pretti as an “agitator.” The Department of Justice is investigating the incident, and the agents involved have been identified as Jesús Ochoa and Raymundo Gutierrez.

According to The New York Times, the footage seems to contradict the Department of Homeland Security’s account of what really happened, in which the agency had said the encounter had begun after an individual armed with a handgun approached the federal agents with the apparent intent to “massacre” them, in which an agent had fired “defensive shots.” Gov. Tim Walz, the Democrat of Minnesota, disputed the claims by federal officials that Mr. Pretti has posed zero threat. He accused “the most powerful people of the federal government” of “spinning stories and putting up pictures.”

Chief Brian O’Hara of the Minneapolis Police Department said that Mr. Pretti was an American citizen with no criminal record and that he had a valid firearms permit. Under Minnesota law, citizens can legally carry a handgun in public, either openly or concealed, if they have a permit. However, he did not have identification on his person.

With the fatal shooting of Renee Good, local and state authorities in Minnesota say that they have been impeded by D.H.S. from investigating the killing of Mr. Pretti and that they have been cut off from access to crucial evidence and facts.

Large crowds of protesters gathered throughout Saturday at the site of Mr. Pretti’s shooting. Around 1,000 people packed Government Plaza in downtown Minneapolis to protest the presence of federal agents in the city and to call for justice for Ms. Good and Mr. Pretti.

Despite all efforts to find out who was really at fault in this situation, Minnesota law enforcement authorities have said the FBI is refusing to share any evidence on its investigation into the death of Alex Pretti.

Pitt Titusville Manufacturing Academy welcomes Saegertown students

Rorie Howles-McBeth
Social Media Editor

On Wednesday, January 28, a handful of our seniors started their first day at the Pittsburgh Titusville College in the CNC program. Some of the seniors who got into this program were Maddex Coffey, Dominic Paden, Kolton Perry, and Noah Shoop. In this program, they get to learn

the basics of CNC, and they get to work with the machines. Many schools around our area have a few of their students in this program as well.

One person that I’ve talked to about this program is Maddex Coffey. He’s told me that so far, what they have been doing is learning the basics, like how to run certain machines, the math that they need to know, running the machines, taking tests, work-

ing on modules, the computers, and much more.

So far, throughout the time they have been there, they all say it’s a really nice program, and they learn a lot each day. With there being a lot of different people from different schools, they get to meet new people and make new friends. Maddex says, “Being in the program has benefits. I get to learn all the basic CNC running things, and I get

to meet new people. Everything has been pretty easy, and the instructors explain everything really well.”

The end goal for everyone in the program that I’ve talked to is to be able to get a job doing CNC when the program is done.

They get to line up a job when they are close to being done with their program, ei-

ther around that area or around where that student lives, so it’s more convenient for them. But all in all, every one of the students from Saegertown is enjoying their time at the Pittsburgh Titusville CNC program.



Snow Days impact Saegertown schedules

Vladimir Petrie
Website Editor

Over the past few weeks at Saegertown High School, the weather hasn’t been the best, which has forced the school to issue an extra snow day and two extra two-hour delays. This has messed up scheduling, taking away from breaks around Valentine’s Day and Easter. Both Friday, February 14 (Valentine’s

Day), and Monday, February 17 (President’s Day), were initially meant to be holidays from school; however, due to snow days, school remained open. Easter break will now also be shortened, as Thursday, April 17 and Monday, April 21 will now be in session to make up for missed time.

The two-hour delays have definitely messed with the schedules, and ASVABs have already been cancelled thanks

to the delay. In the end, the ASVABs were rescheduled five times, and students were not too happy about it. On February 9, Saegertown High School had another 2-hour delay, which wasn’t actually too terribly impactful because it didn’t get in the way of the ASVABs, but it was still yet another delay added to the bundle. There technically is no legal limit to the number of two-hour delays a school in PA can have, so it only really matters if we

have too many snow days.

aren’t actually mad about the delays and snow days; they were just mad ASVABs kept getting cancelled. Normally students love snow days and missing out on state standardized tests, but when said test gets cancelled five times, it starts making people unhappy. Also, it doesn’t seem that the two-hour delays will really end here soon because the weather has been dropping recently, and it doesn’t look like it

will get any better.

In conclusion, Saegertown has been having a lot of weather problems with recent two-hour delays and snow days. Students normally wouldn’t be dismayed at things like that, but they kept getting in the way of the ASVABs, which was making students unhappy at the bad weather.



The Origins of Black History Month

Lincoln Flowers
Panther Paw Editor
Quinton Burchill
Sports Editor

Black History Month is an incredibly important event that helps educate people about an important part of history and culture. This is an annually commemorated event that takes place in the United States and highlights an important minority. These days are celebrated by acquiring new knowledge about topics that may be otherwise missed.

This month is honored in February of each year, setting up a spotlight for that month. The first Black History Month took place in 1969, and the idea was founded by historian Carter G. Woodson, an American historian. During the



month of February, as a way to inspire the importance of the history of African Americans, schools incorporate Black History into curricula for classes such as history and English classes.

It is important to incorporate black history into schools during this month to educate people on

past actions. Furthering education on these topics is seen as a way to prevent actions such as slavery from returning in the future, which is widely seen as a dark stain on America's past. Additionally, Black History Month is a month to celebrate the contributions and achievements of

African Americans in our modern society, economy, and more, as well as to address the historical neglect of their roles in United States history.

As the former Black History Week grew in popularity, it evolved into a month-long celebration in 1976. President Ger-

ald Ford officially recognized the month, encouraging Americans to celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans, which are often neglected. This holiday has been implemented extensively throughout America, including being incorporated into schools as part of the curriculum for the month of February. Students are taught about the important contributions of African Americans to society during this month.

Regardless of personal beliefs or biases, Black History Month has become a very popular commemorative month. The month is about acknowledging the contributions of African Americans to American society, economy, and more. One big way the month has been incorporated into the lives of students is by learning about those contributions in school during February.

How to Get AP Credits for College

Vladimir Petrie
Website Editor
Rorie Howles-McBeth
Social Media Editor

For students that want to go to college, AP classes are extremely useful because you get AP credits, which go towards your college classes. They will be harder classes, of course, because that is what is expected in college. Now the way to get these credits is at the end of the year there will be an AP exam for whatever AP class you're taking, and you will need to score a three or higher, but some more competitive schools may require

a four or a five on the exam for the credit to count.

So how do you get into AP classes? There are usually courses before an AP class that you have to take in order to even be able to be in the AP class. A class such as AP Biology is only able to be taken if you have already completed Biology II. You also have to do well in whatever pre-AP class you've taken. You can't just barely pass by the class with D's and C's and get into the AP course, because the teacher of the course has to allow you into the AP class.

What will the tests look like? AP tests tend to be the only main test in advanced classes. Not counting quizzes and such,

the AP test is basically a test on everything you had learned that year, and what you get on it really affects your college future. So if you are looking into going into AP classes, you will need to make sure to study a lot so that you can pass the pre-AP classes, then you'll have to study even more so that you can pass the AP class and test, and then you will finally have some of your AP credits.

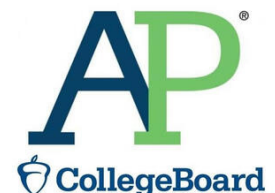
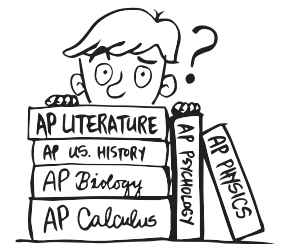
Another way to earn college credits is through dual enrollment. Schools like PennWest Edinboro, Allegheny College, and more provide options for these courses on their websites, which can be completed outside of school or, with permission

from guidance, as part of your scheduled curriculum.

Saegertown senior Emma Spencer provided her insight on the process of dual enrollment, saying, "Oh, it's definitely worth it! You go into college having completed most of your gen ed courses that are required at half the cost." She recommended the course for "anyone who is looking for a heavier course load or to get ahead."

Furthermore, AP Lang and Comp also works with the University of Pittsburgh to provide students with three college credits in the argumentative course—regardless of their score on the AP exams. This, however, does come with a cost, as do the

AP exams and dual enrollment courses.



ICE needs to melt: Why ICE needs to restrict some of their restrictions on immigration security

Aleigh Powell
Opinion Editor

As you may or may not be aware of, many new policies have been put into effect as of January 1st, 2026, mostly revolving around ICE. Some may seem fine, and I get that they're the "Immigration and Customs Enforcement" but seriously, some of these restrictions need to get restricted.

Let's start with green card applications. As of January 1st, 20 countries were added to the "High Risk" list. This puts 19 countries on the "full suspension" list: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burma, Chad, the Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, and Laos. The twenty on the "Partial suspension" list were Angola, Antigua & Barbuda, Benin, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Gabon, The Gambia, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Venezuela, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Anyone from any of the countries listed is subjected to both a pause on the process of pending immigration benefit applications and an enhanced security and background check. While this doesn't mean that people from these countries will be refused access and benefits from the US, proceedings to get access are now severely slowed. This new policy also affects people that are already in the US; for example, if you're a legal resident of the US and you fill in for an immigra-

tion benefit, you'll likely be treated like the risk list. Your application will most likely be placed on hold, final decisions are likely to be delayed, and traveling outside of the US is extremely risky due to the low likelihood of being able to return, and many are suggesting talking with knowledgeable immigration counsel before travel.

ICE's policies shouldn't affect US residents; their job is to enforce immigration security, not to restrict the people who have the right to be in the US. The only ones these policies don't affect are "lawful permanent residents, dual nationals traveling on passports of non-designated countries, travelers on diplomatic visas, athletes, coaches, support staff, and immediate relatives traveling for the World Cup, Olympics, or other major sporting events, Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) for U.S. government employees, and immigrant visas for ethnic and religious minorities facing persecution in Iran," as told by congress.gov.

The 19 countries put on the "full restriction" list, along with any people who are traveling on any documents issued by the Palestinian Authority, have issuance of visas fully suspended by the US with limited category exceptions. These exceptions include "Certain diplomatic and official visas, immigrant visas for ethnic and religious minorities facing persecution in Iran, dual nationals applying with a passport of a nationality not subject to a suspension, Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) for U.S. government employees under 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(D), partici-

pants in certain major sporting events, and Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs)." These exceptions were all reported by travel.state.gov.

Why were all these new countries restricted? Reasons include overstay rates, which are reported in 19 of the 24 new countries; a lack of cooperation on accepting repatriations for five countries; a lack of a competent or cooperative central government authority for issuing passports or sharing information in three cases; and a connection to terrorism, which is seen in four cases. I think it's good they have reasons for these new additions to the "Risk List," but I don't think that justifies the effects they have on legal US citizens.

On top of all these new restrictions and the backlash effects on US citizens, ICE has decided they need to expand. When Trump took office, there were about 40,000 people being held in the national network of detention centers. In only a year, this number grew by 75%, with a record of 73,000 now being held in these centers as of January. This expansion, like any other, came with a cost. In this case that cost was 45 billion dollars in ICE detention funding. And who do you think is helping pay for that? Exactly, the people who are facing the same treatment as the "risk list."

In November of 2025, ICE had started using 104 more facilities than they had at the beginning of the year; that's a 91% increase. With the help of the One Big Beautiful Bill act, ICE can now operate upwards of 135,000 detention beds through the end

of 2029. If this was possible with the bill, why is funding still coming, in part, from taxpayers?

Changes in policies and executive orders from Trump have also affected arrest and center practices. Due to arrest practices being changed, there is now a 2,450% increase in the number of people with no criminal record being held in ICE detention! I'm not arguing against the fact that people without criminal records can commit crimes, but seriously? 2,450%?

Following Trump's executive order of maximum use of detention, a "no release" system has been established. This system allows for an increasingly limited number of individuals to seek release on bond. This caused discretionary releases from detention to fall by 87% by the end of 2025. Due to the lack of options for people seeking relief, immigrants are now starting to give up, leading to even more deportation directly from a detention center. On top of the restrictions by ICE, there is an enormous amount of pending immigration court cases.

With this issue, it'd make sense to increase the number of both judges and courts. However, the Trump administration got 65 immigration judges removed. For comparison's sake, only six were removed during Biden's four years in office. It's no surprise that with the immense amount of asylum cases (seeking protection for people fleeing persecution due to factors such as race, religion, and nationality), judges are overwhelmed, leading to rushed decisions that can lead to deportation.

The Trump administration established a maximum deadline of six months for judges to decide asylum cases and gave judges the power to deny asylum and order removal without giving a seeker the chance for a hearing. ICE was given instructions to arrest immigrants at courthouses all around the US, along with previously restricted places including schools, places of worship, and hospitals. Asylum seekers now have fewer opportunities for assistance and counsel in working through the legal system that's already complex.

Due to all these factors, the administration is accelerating deportations, often without good reason. Perhaps the most disturbing thing about this whole process is that those deported from these cases are often forced to places that endanger their safety and that they have never been.

None of these court backup issues would've been a problem if the Trump administration had just used common sense in this situation. Good next steps to counter what they've already done would be investing in staffing for immigration courts, growing the number of trained asylum officers, restricting ICE presence in or near courthouses, removing the six-month deadline and judge quotas for these cases, and, one of the most obvious, requiring immigration judges to give good detail and well-reasoned arguments before deporting people. All of these solutions were things the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) came up with. HIAS has common sense; why don't we?

ANNA Shelter super dogs: The sad truth of neglect and animal abuse

Sophia Pacak
A&E Editor

On January 19th in the snow-ridden city of Erie, PA, the prestigious ANNA Shelter, or the Association for Needy and Neglected Animals, had gotten the heartbreaking call of the winter: an abandoned husky was left under a bridge. Rushing to retrieve the package, they had come to the realization that she was left hungry without food and water, covered in urine and feces, and completely skin and bones. Taking in the starving six-month-old pup, she wasn't able to stand up and was covered with frost as she was left in her abandoned kennel. After several days of passing nutrition and

love, the pup they had called Aimee was finally able to stand for a few moments! But yet, despite the caring treatment from workers alike, she still had to go under serious surgery.

Just moments before Aimee was put under anesthesia, she went into cardiac arrest, and just before the veterinarians could save her life, she peacefully passed away, knowing she was surrounded by love and care instead of the cruel and harsh treatment from her previous life. Her original owners, Scott Bayle and Tori Jackna, who were behind Aimee's cruel abandonment, were subsequently caught and put in prison for their consequences since the passing of Aimee.

After the tragic death of the six-month-old pup, Senator Dan

Laughlin made the powerful choice to set up a new Pennsylvania law, which came to be known as "Aimee's Law." It was made to create a public registry connected to individuals involved in felony animal abuse. The same month, the ANNA shelter had discovered a different heartbreaking story, as through a torture case, the Erie Police had discovered a two-year-old miniature Australian Shepherd called "Prince" was shot dead inside a dumpster, with the bullet wound to his head. Both dogs were once loved and cherished before their death, but the world had chosen cruelty over devotion.

Despite "Aimee's Law," I believe there is more we can do for neglected and abused animals that a simple law can't. A

law can be broken many times and can be bypassed, and then what's the point of existing except to just reinforce rules: even if the consequences can just be time in jail, and most would be willing to break that law just to

harm other creatures. I believe we should do something physical and life-changing instead of wasting our time writing up breakable laws.

Created by Sophia Pacak



Is Valentine's Day Worth It?

Aleigh Powell
Opinion Editor
Claire Harrison
Broadcast Director

Valentine's Day is the day that you're often disappointed by because the day doesn't live up to your hopes and expectations; there are a couple of things you can do. One of those is to set boundaries. Whether it's with a partner or a friend, if there are certain things you don't want to do or you don't want to go through, tell whoever you're with that there are two sides to every story, including Valentine's Day. People either hate it or love it, but why? There are a variety of reasons why people hate Valentine's Day, including emotional,

social, and cultural reasons that transform a celebration of love into a source of pressure, commercialism, and loneliness.

Some couples feel pressured to prove their love through expensive gifts and romantic gestures, which can lead to stress and resentment. The high cost of flowers, dining, and gifts can be frustrating for many, mostly for those managing finances. When asked, "Do you think Valentine's Day is stupid? And why?" Saegertown junior Trinity Gohn responded with, "No, it gives couples a chance to embrace each other."

Then there's the other side of people who like Valentine's. It's a time for couples to express affection and love through gift cards and gestures, making it a

popular occasion for romantic relationships and friendship. It is a day that allows individuals to celebrate their love and build up relationships, making it a significant cultural event. Overall, Valentine's is a blend of historical significance and a way for all people to express their feelings to whoever and any way they want. When asked, "Do you think Valentine's Day is overrated? Why?" Kaiya Levesque says, "Yes, because it doesn't even count as an actual holiday, first of all, and it's just stupid."

Like we mentioned before, there are many reasons people hate the 14th. One of which is the day's high commercialization. The sometimes overwhelming number of ways Valentine's Day is advertised for profit can

be a big turn-off for a lot of people, with its blowout marketing campaigns in stores all over and social media advertising often pushing the idea that love is equated to the money you spend. This idea pushes couples to prove their love in the profit that goes to big corporations, with \$25 billion dollars being spent on the day alone in the U.S. This equates to an average of \$175 being spent on each person. This number has only grown through the years, with 21.8 billion being spent in 2021, 23.9 billion in '22, 25.8 billion in '23, and



26.3 billion in '24, and we can only expect this number to keep growing.

Another reason for the re-

Continued on pg. 8

Is Valentine's Day worth it? Continued from pg. 6

sentiment towards this holiday is the emotional pressure and relationship expectations. Following its commercialization, the effects also affect emotional pressure. This is because couples go through a lot of work to plan "perfect" dates and equally perfect gifts for each other, and when these plans don't go as planned, disappointment often comes. This disappointment often leads to fights and sometimes even breakups. As another "side effect" of Valentine's Day's commercialization, many single people report feeling invisible

at and around this day. This is in part due to highly emphasized couple-centered activities, which reinforce that sense of isolation.

Another reason this holiday is hated is that it acts as a trigger for some people. Whether it's grief, heartbreak, or long-term loneliness, this holiday may be a painful reminder of the past. Supporting this, studies have shown increased rates of anxiety and depression symptoms around Valentine's Day, especially among single people.

Whether you like Valentine's Day or not, there are plenty of

ways to make the holiday better. Even if you're not alone on February 14th, you may not love the idea of a romantic holiday. If this is you, one way to make the day better is to "reframe" it. Instead of looking at Valentine's Day as a romantic holiday, turn it into a day for self-love and gratitude by celebrating it with friends and family. If the problem you have with Valentine's is that you plan to spend the day with them. This will more than likely reduce the stress Valentine's Day may put on you. Another way to avoid dissatisfaction with this contro-

versial holiday is to simply plan ahead. This, like setting boundaries, will lower the strain Valentine's Day puts on you. Whether it's a romantic getaway, one with friends, or a goal you want to achieve for yourself, planning ahead will help to make the process easier. So if you don't like Valentine's Day, there are plenty of ways to change the way you celebrate the day, even if it doesn't change the way you feel about it.



Markiplier's bloodbath: A preview and rundown of "Iron Lung"

Anna Bradshaw
Editor-in-chief

[Warning: The following contains potential spoilers for "Iron Lung," which is rated R for language, bloody images, and some gore.]

Mark Edward Fischbach, better known to the internet as Markiplier, has a very loyal following of 38.2 million subscribers on YouTube and has recently released a two-hour and seven-minute-long movie into over 4,000 theaters, now world-

wide. Markiplier has created a great many YouTube movies over his decade on YouTube, some being "A Heist With Markiplier," "A Date With Markiplier," and "In Space With Markiplier." However, this was the first time he's ever created a full-on movie. It has been a three-year process, and Mark was determined to learn

how to film, edit, and release the movie all by himself with his crew, independently. Something that Hollywood and Disney production films have been somewhat suppressing with their large production power and hold over the market. The results have clearly paid off.

Originally the movie was to be released in only maybe 50 theaters maximum, but with the help of his fans through emailing their local theaters when the release was first announced, the film worked its way into over 4,000 theaters and even worldwide, with showings in Australia, New Zealand, and some parts of Europe.

The movie, in very simple terms, is described as, "Survivors of the apocalypse send a convict in a small submarine to explore a desolate moon that's an ocean of blood." But it truly is so much more than that. The movie is based on the indie horror game also titled "Iron Lung," created by David Szymanski. The game is described as "a 2022 subma-

rine simulation horror game developed and published by David Szymanski. The player controls an unnamed convict who explores an ocean of blood on a desolate moon in a small, rusty submarine nicknamed the "Iron Lung." David Szymanski also aided Mark in the creation of the movie and building more lore for the movie than was offered in the original game.

Mark played "Iron Lung" a few years ago for a video on his channel, and since that first video has played it a good many more times; he was again one of the reasons the game became so popular, given his popular influencer status. Mark's audience is also known for supporting small game creators since he tends to put them in such high regard, so if he says a game is good multiple times, his audience tends to take to it.

There have been three separate trailers for the movie, one being a teaser, one being a supposed official trailer when the film was still being tweaked,

and finally the true trailer that was released on Mark's YouTube channel and on the website he made for the movie. Again, as Mark wants to have full control of the distribution of the movie and how it operates, everything is being done independently by his team of editors (who are also some of his very close friends) and his now wife, Amy Fischbach (formerly Amy Nelson). They created their own website to show their audience theaters near them, ticket options, important updates, the trailer, and information about the blood drive he's hosting. All of this can be found at IronLung.com.

Another large part that Markiplier wanted to make known about his release of "Iron Lung" was the

blood drive he helped organize. The movie took over 80,000 gallons of fake blood to create a realistic ocean of blood, and Mark wanted to use this as a way to help promote donating blood.



Photo Courtesy of The Equinox

He organized for trucks to take blood to be sent out around the U.S. specifically and listed their places on his official website for the movie. He also encouraged his audience, however, to find a blood bank near them to donate to as well if they couldn't donate directly to his specific event.

Mark has expressed his thanks to his audience in many live streams after taking some time away from YouTube during the three years of creation to focus on the movie, and in one of his most recent streams titled "ACTUAL EMERGENCY MEETING," Mark started crying to his fans, reiterating that he couldn't believe his audience had so much faith in him and stuck around to see it complete, and that it would be amazing if they could keep "Iron Lung" the number one movie in America for just one more day so it could be the number one movie in America for a full weekend.

In the same live stream, he had just gotten back from donating blood an hour or so away from his house, where he met some fans. He talked about, while tearing up, one fan who said it was, "So cool you're releasing and making the whole thing independently," and Mark's

first offer when the film student told him they were trying to also create their own film was to offer them his resources. Editors, distributors, and it just warmed his audiences' hearts. Mark is one of the few YouTubers who never forgot where he started, and it shows, even now, in his kindness and tears.

In another video he uploaded around a month ago titled "I didn't think this was possible," Mark said this:

"It's so easy to get lost in the sauce when you're three years into a project, and you've only had your reputation, and your word to go on, and you believed me? ... That means a lot. I've said for years, for my entire time doing this YouTube thing, that there's real people behind the numbers, that it's a real thing, and you have to always treat that with respect."

It is well known about Mark that he is very passionate, he loves to create, and he's a stubborn man in that right, but it always pays off because of it. He is so much more than just a YouTuber to his fans; everyone who follows him has expressed such utter joy and excitement for him, as if they were lifelong friends and not strangers on the

internet. Some of his commenters often say, "I know I'm just a random person on the internet to him; I know I'll probably never meet him out of his millions of fans, but I am truly so proud of you, Mark. You inspire so many, you save so many lives by being that ray of light for people, and if anyone deserves the success, it's you."

Other commenters—a more frequent comment that is seen—say, "We made the right man famous." And many believe it to be true; he is often described as one of the most unproblematic YouTubers left on the internet after being on the platform for over a decade.

With "Iron Lung" being released in theaters, the crowds soon followed. Released on January 30th and 31st, many theater employees reported that the crowds of people that visited were some of the most polite and well-kept crowds they'd ever had the pleasure to witness and interact with. It was said on the internet for weeks in advance by fans that they were going to be the best visitors the employees had ever seen, and Mark even commented on it, saying he was incredibly proud and thankful for all his fans and their cordial behavior.

The movie in of itself, as of the most recent updates to the charts, state that "Iron Lung" on its opening weekend made over \$17.9 Million, which is over five times its production budget, and over the course of January 29th to the 30th, as well as February 3rd, it is the number one

movie in America, beating Sam Raimi's movie "Send Help," as the two have been continuously battling for the number one spot daily in popularity. Which Mark mentioned during the same livestream, in tears and so eternally grateful for such success derived from his fanbase.

All in all, Mark has been incredibly successful in his endeavor to create an independently released movie and stay humble in his success on the internet. Some say he raised a whole generation on his platform, and it is widely agreed upon. His fans wish him all the best in his continued projects, as he's said he'll come back to YouTube for a while again

and go back to what he loves, making videos, before starting a new project, which he said he has multiple lined up to start working on sometime soon, like a new Warfstach project and potentially another YouTube movie or full-scale movie once again, but it is all to be determined.

If you haven't seen "Iron Lung," I highly recommend you try to see it in your local theater, and if it isn't playing still, then don't worry. Mark is currently working to get it released for DVD and Blu-ray, as well as for purchase or to rent on streaming services soon.



Photo Courtesy of Markiplier on YouTube

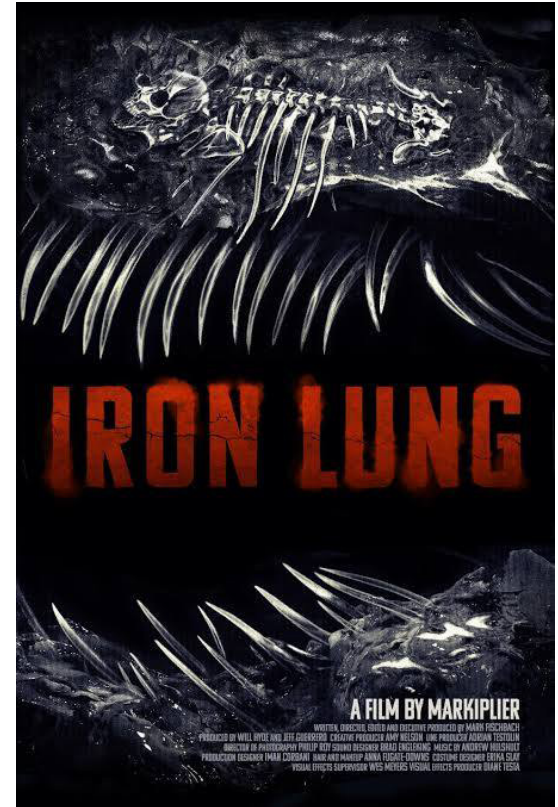


Photo Courtesy of IronLung.com

A battle for love: Greek vs. Roman gods

Anna Bradshaw
Editor-in-chief

When you think of love in ancient myths, your mind perhaps may travel to Greece or Rome. You may think of lady Aphrodite as being the symbol of love, but you would be wrong. The gods I'm talking about are none other than Eros and Cupid.

Eros is the Greek god of love, passion, and desire. Often identified as the son of Aphrodite and Ares, he is depicted as a winged youth or child who uses bows and arrows to strike mortals and gods with love. In earlier myths, he was considered a primordial deity of procreation.

On the other side, Cupid—the winged boy you may be more familiar with for the holiday—the Roman god of desire, affection, and erotic love, is commonly portrayed as a winged, mischievous, and chubby child holding a bow and arrows, he is the son of Venus (goddess of love, counterpart to Aphrodite) and often, Mars (god of war, counterpart to Ares).

Mr. David Gjovik was asked, “Off the top of your head, when

you think of a god/goddess of love out of the Greek and Roman pantheon, who do you think of first?” To which he responded, “I think of cupid...it's the Valentine's Day time of the year. Cupid is the representation of 'love' when I think of the Greeks and Romans.”

Mr. Dustin Steiger responded in a slightly different light. “My first thought of the gods and goddesses of love goes to Aphrodite from Greek tradition. However, Cupid comes to mind before Eros, personally. Eros does remind me of the other Greek terms for love, however, terms like 'agape' and 'storge.' The Greeks had a lot of different words for love, describing them by their different connotative elements, and we tend to simplify that down in our modern culture—much to our detriment.”

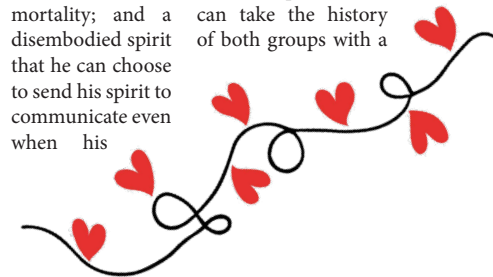
As gods, both counterparts possess a similar but different range of abilities. Eros possesses amokinesis (love manipulation), Archery of Desire where he can shoot magical arrows that cause deep affection, repulsion, or even hatred in mortals; flight; invisibility to mortals and other gods; appearance

body is weak.

Cupid possesses abilities such as amokinesis (love manipulation), Archery of Desire, flight, shapeshifting (where he can change from a muscular adult male to a small winged infant), invisibility to mortals and other gods, the ability to sense and feel the emotions of others, immortality, and in some other myths, he can teleport or use telekinesis and has healing abilities.

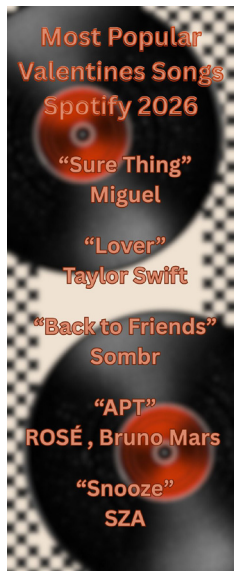
When posed with the question, “If you search up Eros and Cupid, who do you think more accurately represents the overall concept of 'love'?” Mr. Gjovik responded, “The mythology surrounding Eros is deep and varied. To use the term “love” when describing Eros as the ‘God of Love’ is to oversimplify. For some Greek scholars, Eros has an early responsibility as a collaborator in some creation stories. Eros also has a more diverse profile than Cupid. So I will go with Cupid, as our modern Euro-based classical culture (based on medieval interpretations) assigns Cupid with being the messenger of love or having the power to bring people together.”

While there are myths and stories similar and different for both gods, they come from their people, which brings accuracy into the question. Mr. Gjovik, on this topic, said, “You can take the history of both groups with a



grain of salt due to presentism (the tendency to make ourselves look better to history through personal bias). Both groups massively grew their cultural influence through military expeditions that expanded the empire at the expense of other conquered groups. In the present times, we would look down on their lack of care for basic human rights.”

So with all the facts provided, who do you think is the better god to be the face of love?



VALENTINES DAY MARSHMELLO WANDS

Ingredients:

- 24 Marshmallows (Regular Size)
- 1 cup Ghirardelli Chocolate Melting Wafers or Chocolate Chips
- 15 Red Candy Melts
- 15 Pink Candy Melts
- 15 White Candy Melts
- Valentine's Day sprinkles
- Valentines' Mix M&M's
- Lollipop Sticks



Instructions:

- Step 1:** Prepare the marshmallows before melting the chocolate. We sort through the bag of marshmallows and match them up in sets of threes.
- Step 2:** Place the first and second marshmallows on the lollipop stick.
- Step 3:** Add the third marshmallow, but only press the marshmallow halfway down onto the stick. You do not want the stick to come out of the top of the third marshmallow, or the marshmallow will dry out.
- Step 4:** Place the 1/2 cup of melting wafers on a microwave-safe dish or paper plate. (This amount of chocolate should be enough to cover four Marshmallow Pops.)
- Step 5:** Microwave the chocolate for 30 seconds, check it and give it a stir.
- Step 6:** Continue to microwave the chocolate, 10 seconds at a time, alternating between heating and stirring.
- Step 7:** Once the chocolate is almost completely melted, give it a final stir to make sure it is completely smooth.
- Step 8:** Roll the marshmallows on the stick in the melted chocolate.
- Step 9:** Decorate as desired
- Step 10:** Allow the marshmallow pops to harden completely before serving.

The Battle between Patriots and Seahawks

Qunton Burchill
Sports Editor

The New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks faced off at Super Bowl LX. This year's Super Bowl was held at Levi's Stadium in California. Bad Bunny was the singer of the Super Bowl this year, also featuring Lady Gaga. The Patriots and Seahawks had a very competitive defensive game.

Seattle had the football heading down the field in the first. New England's defense was not giving up a touchdown. Darnold couldn't get the ball down the field, and the running game was not the best in the first for Seattle. Seattle ended up taking a field goal at the 33 making the score 3-0 Seattle in the first. The Patriots could not get anything going on offense, leading to a turnover. Seattle had the ball going down the field but couldn't get the touchdown. Seattle decided to kick the 39 yard field goal, making the score 6-0. The Patriots turned the ball over again, giving Seattle another

chance to score before halftime. Seattle settled for another field goal at the 41 making it 9-0 going into halftime.

Going into the third quarter, the Seahawks kicked another field goal, making a new record in the NFL for most field goals made in an NFL game. The Seahawks were up 12-0 at the end of the third. Seattle had the ball at the beginning of the fourth quarter. Darnold threw a pass to the deep right corner, and it was caught. Darnold threw a 16 yard pass to Barner, who completed a touchdown; the extra point was good. Seattle is up 19-0 at the start of the fourth.

Maye threw a deep left corner of the field to Hollins. The pass was complete, leading to a touchdown for the New England Patriots, putting them on the board with a score of 19-7. Myers kicked a field goal: 22-7, Seattle. Drake Maye passed to the right, which was intercepted at the 45 for a pick 6 touchdown by Nwosa: 29-7 Seattle. Drake passed to the left, complete, by Stevenson. Touchdown! With a final score of 29-13, Seattle won the Super Bowl.

Play Ball



Created by Vladimir Petrie



2025-2026 JOURNALISM COMPETITION

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ANNA BRADSHAW - EDITORIAL CARTOON

ALEIGH POWELL - NEWSPAPER FEATURES

LINCOLN FLOWERS - NEWSPAPER NEWS

QUINTON BURCHILL - NEWSPAPER SPORTS

TRINITY GOHN - LITERARY MAGAZINE
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ANNA BRADSHAW

Erie Otters face off against the Guelph Storm

Qunton Burchill
Sports Editor

Saegertown High School attended an Erie Otters game against the Canadian team the Guelph Storm on February 5. Many other schools also showed up to this game, including elementary, middle, and high school students. Although the

Otters lost, this game was very competitive. The Otters crowd against the Storm was outstanding; it was ear-piercingly loud with everyone singing. The Otters came out with a goal in the first period, and the crowd was wild.

The Otters currently hold the fifth position in the standings for the Midwest Division, while Storm holds third. The Otters

came out aggressive and scored the first goal. Storm answered back with a goal, leaving it 1-1. In the second period, the Storm scored again, leaving it 2-1. There was a fight recently after that goal, and a player from the Guelph Storm was ejected. Storm wasn't giving up; it was a competitive match.

Going into the third period, Storm skated down the ice and

scored another goal, making this match 3-1 Storm. The Otters definitely didn't want to lose this game. They fought back hard and scored another goal with one minute remaining, putting the score at 3-2 with Storm still ahead. Storm played good offense, keeping the puck away from the otters at the last minute. Storm pulled off a win against the Otters with a 3-2 final score.

There was a fight with two players immediately after the hockey match, and the crowd went wild. People were banging on the glass, screaming, "Let's go!" The arena was full with loud screaming and cheering the fight on. The refs broke it up quickly, and the Otters lost.

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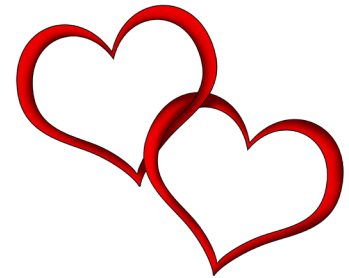
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