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HERE'S WHAT'S INSIDE

ROUGH RIDING

Have you noticed potholes in the roads and parking lots on campus? See how Physical Plant plans to fix them and read student thoughts on their current conditions.

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You Beautiful Black Woman is kicking off spring with their signature fashion show. Read more on what the event is and who they'll be honoring this year.

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Nostalgic night

Jesse McCartney performs at annual Music Takes Action event



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Multimedia Editor

Madison Kettlewell
Torch Reporter

Pop artist Jesse McCartney swooned and crooned Wink Arena at this year's Music Takes Action Saturday, March 30.

For many Ferris students, the show brought back a sense of nostalgia and McCartney did not fail to meet students' expectations.

"It's everything that my 12-year-old self thought that it would be - it was phenomenal. I was so excited and he had so much energy," Ferris mathematics secondary education senior Deanna Landis said.

The opener for the show was MAX, a dance and electronic music artist, best known for his song "Lights Down Low."

"It was something I grew up on, so it was really exciting to hear that he'd be performing here," Ferris television and digital media production junior Krysta Taylor said.

"I thought it was honestly the best show I've been to in my three years here at Ferris because MAX and Jesse McCartney - both of them were absolutely amazing."

Ferris music and entertainment business

junior Alyssa Bala, co-coordinator of Music Takes Action, said this switch allowed the event to focus more on charities.

"It's a huge show. We started planning this show in August. We created a survey and sent it out to the student body and faculty, and we get our responses from that: what kind of genre they're into, when they'd like the show, what kind of charity for the event they would like," Bala said.

After the survey results are received, the coordinating group took more questions to a focus group to help determine who would be the headliner of the show.

For 2019, Music Takes Action worked with the nonprofit organization I Understand, a mental health charity from the Grand Rapids area that assists those affected by mental illness or suicide. According to Bala, I Understand helps families who are affected by mental health and suicide heal by offering support groups, events and fundraisers.

"We wanted to pick a charity that dealt with mental health because we need more mental health awareness," Bala said. "They were a local organization and they were really great to work with."



Alyssa Bala



Krysta Taylor



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Multimedia Editor

MAX, known best for his song "Lights Down Low," interacted with the crowd as he opened for Jesse McCartney at Music Takes Action Saturday, March 30, in Wink Arena.

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NEWS

"It is very hard for us to think about what happened in New Zealand."
- Ahmed Alshammari - See page 4 for story

Megan Lewton | Editor in Chief | lewtonm1@ferris.edu

Darren Smith trial date approaching

Former Ferris hockey goaltender on trial for sexual assault

Cora Hall
Sports Editor

Nearly nine months after his initial arrest, the trial for former Ferris hockey goaltender Darren Smith will begin 9 a.m. Tuesday, April 9. It will be a four-day trial, according to the Mecosta County Clerk's Office.

Smith was initially arrested July 12, 2018, for three counts of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree. The individual charges include causing personal injury to a woman who was incapacitated or physically helpless with oral and digital penetration.

The victim of the three charges is the same woman, according to Mecosta County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Amy Clapp. The victim is a Ferris student and is over the age of 16, but her name is being kept anonymous in the interest of protecting her privacy.

Smith has been out on bond and has been required to wear a GPS tether. Other requirements of his bond stated that he is not allowed to leave the state, consume alcohol or illegal controlled substances, or have any contact with the victim, her residence or place of work. Smith was arrested and put in jail Oct. 9, 2018, for allegedly violating his bond conditions by going within the exclusion zone of the victim's residence. He was not released until the hearing Oct. 22, 2018, where his original bond conditions were reinstated with the exception that he was not allowed on the road outside the victim's apartment complex.

Since Smith's arraignment, he was removed from the Ferris ice hockey team and was expelled from the university.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Former Ferris hockey goaltender Darren Smith is on trial for criminal sexual conduct. The Torch will be covering his trial at the Mecosta County Courthouse in Big Rapids, which is set to begin Tuesday, April 9. Torch staff members will be at the trial on a regular basis and will be gathering facts straight from the trial. We intend to cover the case with daily recaps that will be available on our website. In addition, Torch staff members will be live tweeting from their personal Twitter accounts following notable actions during the trial.

In addition, the Torch has been in communication with the Student Press Law Center prior to the trial to help ensure the reporting is thorough and accurate. We will cover the trial fairly for both parties.

In addition, the Torch's commenting policy, which is explained on our website, will continue to be enforced during this time. Comments that do not adhere to our policy, including obscene or defamatory comments, will be removed. The commenter will be notified of the removal.

To see the Torch's coverage of the Darren Smith trial, visit our website, fsutorch.com. To read live tweets posted during the trial, follow Editor in Chief Megan Lewton (@megriley42) and Sports Editor Cora Hall (@corahall) on their personal Twitter accounts.

Rough riding

Physical Plant works to fix campus roads and parking lots



Photo by: Hunter Pariseau | Torch Photographer

Potholes like this one can be found in the roads and parking lots on Ferris' campus. Physical Plant is working on completing walkway and road maintenance.

Dan Deitsch
Torch Reporter

The roads and sidewalks on Ferris' campus begin to show wear and tear quickly because of Michigan's often harsh winters, which can cause problems for commuters on campus.

"There's a lot of roads and parking lots around here that could definitely use some work," Ferris dental hygiene sophomore Lauren Densmore said. "I know the Automotive Center's parking lot is really bad. I have to avoid some giant potholes whenever I drive over there."

Ferris Physical Plant provides maintenance to the campus' roads and walkways annually. This includes filling in potholes in campus roads and parking lots, as well as debris removal.

"There are some areas that definitely need some work," Densmore said.

"Whenever it rains, those giant potholes get filled with water, and I can see that being a problem."

The Physical Plant typically repaves roads and parking lots during summer break. They completed a project to repave several walkways and roads on Ferris' campus with a budget of \$1.6 million in 2018. As of February, the Physical Plant is working on completing its annual walkway and road maintenance.

"I live in North Hall, which is brand new, so I don't see many potholes there," Ferris marketing freshman Meagan Tran said. "I don't drive to class, but I do keep my car here on campus. I do think there should be something done if it's causing problems for other people."

Potholes are caused by heavy rain or snow, which seeps into the layer of soil underneath

the pavement of roads and parking lots. The soil then freezes, which can push up the pavement above it. Once the soil beneath the pavement is weakened, it breaks apart easily due to the stress of heavy traffic. Potholes tend to appear much more often within Michigan because of the intense winters the state experiences. Heavy snowfall combined with melting snow create prime conditions for potholes to form.

Potholes and rough road conditions can do more than make driving uncomfortable. According to the Car Care Council, a non-profit motorist organization, hitting a pothole while driving a vehicle can cause damage to a vehicle's steering and suspension, causing the vehicle to "bottom out" or hit the road beneath it. This can cause further damage to the underside of the vehicle.

Big Rapids and Mecosta County are working on fixing the city's roads as well. Currently, the Mecosta County Road Commission plans to reconstruct 15 Mile Road and replace the bridge over Ryan Creek on New Millpond Road.



Lauren Densmore



Meagan Tran

- ON THE RECORD -

A roundup of this week's crime at Ferris State University

Not exactly minty fresh

Cora Hall
Sports Editor

Stay off the roads

March 23, 11:15 p.m., officers made a traffic stop on State Street for the vehicle having a light out. Upon contact with driver, the officers discovered the subject was an out-of-state driver. The driver was a student and their license in their home state was suspended. The subject was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Wild from start to finish

March 24, 3:19 p.m., two non-students from Detroit were at a party in Big Rapids; officers reported they visit the Big Rapids area often. The offending subject drove off in the other person's car. The owner of the car was aware that his friend took it. In the morning when the owner could not find his car, he went back to Detroit and falsely reported that his car was stolen. Officers found the car in Lot 68 with the subject sitting in it. He provided the officers with a false name, claiming he did not have his license with him. The officers figured out the subject was a parole absconder from Lansing and arrested him. They also charged him with obstructing justice by providing a false name.

Pay your tickets, kids

March 25, 9:39 a.m., a student's car was impounded for having more than \$150 in unpaid parking ticket fines.

Parking lots = not the best place to smoke

March 27, 1 a.m., officers were patrolling through Lot 28 and saw a vehicle sitting there with the lights on. They made contact with student in the car, who was under 21, and found the subject to be in possession of marijuana. The officers cited the subject for possession of marijuana and referred to them to the Office of Student Conduct.

Not exactly minty fresh

March 27, 11:18 p.m., officers were called to Brophy Hall for odor of marijuana coming from a room. Officers made contact with the student, who admitted to smoking marijuana previously, but said he hadn't been that night. She believed someone else had been smoking in her bathroom that day. Officers reported that the student appeared to be under the influence of marijuana and she said her friend had given her THC gum earlier in the day. The student was not cited but was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS

Catch up on news around the globe

Megan Lewton
Editor in Chief

Quebec, Canada

A bill proposed in Quebec would prevent public employees – such as teachers, judges and police officers – from wearing religious symbols at work. This includes Muslim head scarves, Catholic crosses, Jewish skullcaps and Sikh turbans. The bill was proposed to help simmer religiously-driven tensions in the community. However, many pushed back against the proposal, saying it violated the people's religious freedoms. France and Denmark are two nations with similar policies, preventing people from wearing certain religious symbols at schools or in courtrooms.

Original article by Dan Bilefsky, March 28, 2019. *The New York Times*.

Beira, Mozambique

After a tsunami hit the nation, cholera has become prominent in Mozambique. At least 139 cholera cases are known, and vaccines have been

rushed to the country to help treat those affected and prevent further cases. Cholera, which spreads through contaminated food and water, causes acute diarrhea and can kill its victim in just a few hours. It is not clear if any of these cases have caused fatality.

Original article by the Associated Press, March 29, 2019. *The New York Times*.

London, England

For more than 30 years, plastic novelty phones shaped like Garfield the cartoon cat have been washing up on a shoreline in western France. Nobody knew the reason behind this mystery for decades. Recently, volunteers cleaning up the beach discovered the phones were coming from a shipping container that was in a rocky sea cave. Despite being in the water for so long, the phones were preserved pretty well and only have minor cosmetic damage.

Original article by Palko Karasz, March 29, 2019. *The New York Times*.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Megan Lewton
Editor in Chief

Glow, Skate & Donate

Head to the Big Rapids Roller Rink for glow skating 5 p.m. Thursday, April 4. Cost of entry is \$5 or three non-perishable food items, which will be donated to Manna Pantry in Big Rapids. The entry fee will cover skate rentals, as well. For more information, contact Amber McKeever at mckeeva2@ferris.edu.

YBBW Annual Talent Show

See the members of You Beautiful Black Woman perform in their annual talent show 6 p.m. Friday, April 5, in UCB 202. For more information, contact Da'Meea Taylor at taylod43@ferrid.edu.

Outdoor Club Easter Egg Hunt

The Outdoor Club will be having an Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 7, through Saturday, April 13. Students can find eggs filled with candy on campus throughout the week. The student who collects the most eggs and brings them to the Outdoor Club meeting Tuesday, April 16, will win a prize. Everyone else who brings Easter eggs to the meeting will be entered in a raffle to potentially win another prize. For more information, contact Ben Doyle at (989) 573-1242.

Torch Corrections

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Standing in solidarity

Ferris students feel personally affected by New Zealand mosque massacre

Landry Shorkey
Torch Reporter

The recent mass shooting in New Zealand may have happened across the world, but many Ferris students still feel the tragedy hit home.

According to CNN, the suspect was 28-year-old Brenton Harrison Tarrant. There are at least 50 known casualties and another 50 individuals wounded during the gunman's rampage, which targeted two mosques in the city of Christchurch, New Zealand.

Ferris electrical and electronic engineering senior Ahmed Alshammari was one student who felt deeply affected by the attack.

"It is very hard for us to think about what happened in New Zealand. Not because tragedies of that proportion don't happen in different parts of the world, not because it is the first time a place of worship was attacked in a western, supposedly peaceful country, but because how much of ourselves that we can see in the people there before their lives were taken from them," Alshammari said.

Alshammari is the president of committees at the Islamic Center of Big Rapids, where its members prayed for victims and their families following the tragedy.

He also spoke at a Ferris memorial event that honored the victims March 19 in the Interdisciplinary Resource Center. Ferris President Dr. David Eisler addressed the event in a university-wide email.

"I want to personally thank our faculty, staff and students who organized this gathering," Eisler said. "Especially at this time, we need to reach out to Muslims in our community and tell them we care about them, we want them here and that our university is a safe and comforting place for them as they suffer from this tragedy."

According to USA Today, the gunman is a self-described white supremacist. Before the attack, he wrote a 74-page manifesto promoting racism, terrorism and murder. The document has been banned under New Zealand law, and the country is currently working toward reformed gun laws.

To spread his message of hate, the gunman reportedly streamed video footage of the shooting on Facebook Live.

Alshammari said that he does not encourage anyone to see the brutal footage of so many innocent people's last moments.

"All of them were sitting in the masjid, and the last thing that they had going through their minds was that someone was going to come in and shoot them dead on Facebook Live for the world to see, with the intention of not just terrorizing them but terrorizing everyone that would be exposed to that terror," Alshammari said.

Despite the harmful message behind the tragedy, Ferris students can still use the attack as an opportunity to come together.

There are students from 40 different countries on campus, and the tragedy should inspire students to engage with others who have different beliefs than themselves, Ferris Assistant Director of the Office of International Education Lisa vonReichbauer said.

"It's important for Ferris students to take advantage of this opportunity in their life to engage with and experience 'the other:' people who have other beliefs, other religions, other ethnicities, other experiences. Because when you take that opportunity to engage with 'the other,' you realize that they're not necessarily 'the other.' They are us," vonReichbauer said.



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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Cough up the money

New Michigan law requires Ferris offer paid sick leave to some student employees

Grant Siddall
Torch Reporter

A new Michigan law will allow some Ferris student employees to accrue paid sick leave.

Under the new law, businesses that employ more than 50 employees are required to give employees up to 40 hours of annual paid sick leave. Employees will earn one hour of paid sick leave for every 35 hours worked. However, there are several exemptions to the rule that make the vast majority of Ferris student employees ineligible.

Businesses are not required to give sick leave to employees who work less than an average of 25 hours per week throughout the calendar year. This means that Ferris is not required to provide sick leave to students who do not stay at their on-campus jobs through the summer.

According to Ferris Manager of Student Employment John Randle, Ferris is looking at extending sick leave accrual to anyone who averages 25 hours per week, even if it is just during the summer or academic year. Despite this making more students eligible, since students can only work a maximum of 26 hours during the academic year, only 18 out of about 2,300 student workers are eligible.

"What we said is, 'Is it 52 weeks?' But we actually went if your average, if you only worked in the summer, say you only worked 10 weeks but you averaged 25 hours, then we included those students," Randle said.



John Randle

To remain eligible, students working during the academic year would also need to work during breaks, such as spring and winter, in order to stay at or above 25 hours averaged. Randle said this primarily includes students working for TAC and on the grounds crews, which work through breaks, but it is also

possible for students working in other areas that remain open, such as The Rock, to maintain eligibility.

Randle said Ferris is still working on a plan to allow students to use the sick leave they earn, and that it is an interesting situation because many students are earning their hours from multiple on-campus jobs.

Even if they aren't currently eligible, many student workers are excited about the possibility of earning sick leave in the future and are happy that students working nearly the maximum amount of allowable hours are receiving additional benefits.

"If you're working over 25 hours a week, that's a lot, and if you're taking 15 credits, that's a lot to do. Living in such close quarters with hundreds of other people, it's really easy to get sick, so I think this is really good and helpful," Ferris psychology freshman and Quad Café employee Olivia Harvitt said.

Harvitt also said this would benefit students in food

Sick Leave | see page 5

A tough act to follow



Photo courtesy of Kaitlyn Kirchner

Ferris applied speech communication senior Clare Green played Judy Boone in Ferris State Theatre's production of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time," presented Thursday, March 28, through Sunday, March 31.

Theatre program receives standing ovation for spring play

Landry Shorkey
Torch Reporter

Ferris State Theatre has successfully presented their 2019 spring play, and the audience was left impressed.

The play, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time," was written by Simon Stephens and based on a novel of the same name by Mark Haddon. The story follows a teenage boy on the autism spectrum trying to solve a mystery while uncovering other secrets.

The show was presented Thursday, March 28, through Sunday, March 31, after about two months of rehearsals.

"I came to the play to support the theatre. I helped with costumes, so I always come see the plays and see my costumes," Ferris business administration junior Natalie Rogers said. "I loved it. It's my favorite one that I've helped with so far, and it looked really great on the stage."



Natalie Rogers

Many students felt that the cast did a great job. Ferris business administration sophomore Serena Rogers voiced admiration toward how the entire cast was onstage for the majority of the show.

"I thought it was really, really good. I knew it was a book, but I hadn't read it. I knew it was supposed to be really good and it was better than I expected," Serena Rogers said.



Serena Rogers

The cast was made up of 20 students. Most of them acted out several different ensemble roles and remained onstage throughout the production.

Ferris journalism and technical communication freshman Alyssa Hubbard had three different roles in the play, and praised the work of director Katherine La Pietra and set and light designer Bob Cardana.

"Katherine and Bob worked their asses off to make this a beautiful show, and they certainly did that. It is a fantastic show," Hubbard said.

The students who participate in theatre form a bond that is present both on and off the stage. For many of them, this is their favorite part of being in the theatre program.

"We are a family, the theatre people. Everyone in the cast gets along really well, and we're all good friends. After rehearsals, we go out to The Rock or Applebee's as a group. That's really cool. We don't just get along during rehearsals or show days. We hang out all the time together outside of the theatre environment," Hubbard said.

Many cast members feel that being in theatre is an excellent way for students to make new friends while having fun, despite sometimes being a stressful process.

Preparing for a show over the course of just a couple months can be hectic, but it is also comforting, Ferris math and computer science freshman Nicholas Williams said. Williams also had three roles in the play.

"My favorite part of being in the theatre program here at Ferris is how accepting they are of new members and faces. This is my 11th year doing theatre, and I was accepted into the fold without hesitation and made so many new friends in such a short span of time. I would love if everyone could experience this," Williams said.

Sick Leave

Continued from page 4

service who won't feel pressured to attend work while sick. Harvitt believes the perks will likely encourage students working close to 25 hours per week to pick up more hours, which will help understaffed employers on campus.

Students working off campus are also excited about the new law, and because they are not limited to a maximum of 26 hours per week, many will have a better opportunity to qualify.



Emma Stream

Ferris radiography freshman and Crankers Brewery employee Emma Stream believes that the law will help reduce the stress of students who get sick, and despite it being easier to receive these benefits working off-campus, she doesn't think that it will decrease the number of students looking for on-campus employment.

"I think that this is good for students because we're poor as it is. We spend so much on tuition, on bills we have to pay and other payments, and if there is an injury or sickness, that stresses students out even more. Having the benefits of paid leave will help take away some of the stressors," Stream said.



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LIFESTYLES

"I'm really looking forward to seeing their signature event."
- Sarah Doherty - See below for story

Alicia Jaimes | Lifestyles Editor | jaimesa@ferris.edu

In living color



Photo by: Will Holden | Torch Photographer

Ferris students prepare for spring by wearing a mixture of lighter pieces while holding onto the winter trends of dark-colored boots.

Keeping tradition alive

Veronica Mascorro
Interim Reporter

You Beautiful Black Woman (YBBW) will be honoring the new LGBTQ+ Resource Center in a fun, colorful way.

Being a registered student organization (RSO) that focuses on the unification of the Ferris community, YBBW hosts their annual fashion show with different themes every year.

This year's theme is In Living Color, featuring a diverse group of people modeling different sections of color. The fashion show will include various forms of art and creativity including singing, dancing and poetry, all while representing other countries, cultures and organizations on campus.

Being in its 29th year, Ferris criminal justice senior and YBBW fashion show committee volunteer Da'meea Taylor loves being able to see everyone express themselves through fashion.

"Seeing students of various backgrounds come together, motivate one another and step outside of their comfort zone is so amazing," Taylor said. "Keeping the tradition of the fashion show is important because there are so many talents on this campus and with all the features to this show, students love to showcase them."

YBBW wants all students to feel welcomed on campus and re-



Da'meea Taylor



De'toria Haire

alize that having a resource center for LGBTQ+ students is a huge deal that should be celebrated.

Ferris psychology junior and YBBW fashion show committee volunteer De'toria Haire loves the energy surrounding the day of the fashion show.

"It's great to see all the hard work you've put into planning the show finally come together," Haire said. "You see everyone having fun, you see the crowd interacting, and it's just a great feeling and a great vibe."

LGBTQ+ Resource Center coordinator Sarah Doherty is excited to see the hard work YBBW has been putting forward for the show.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing their signature event," Doherty said. "In my time on campus, I've found YBBW events to be very thoughtful and thoroughly prepared. Their events are always really excellent, so I'm excited purely on that level."

Doherty is also excited to see the creativity Ferris students and other community members have with fashion and is thrilled that YBBW has been reaching out to LGBTQ+ community members to make the fashion show an event with lots of diverse people.

The YBBW fashion show is sponsored by The Office of Multicultural Student Services and the LGBTQ+ Resource Center and will take place 6 p.m. Friday, April 5 in the University Center Ballroom 202.

YBBW is always looking for new members and welcomes anyone of any background. Interested students can contact the organization at ybbwferris@gmail.com. For more information on the fashion show, students can contact Taylor at taylod43@ferris.edu.



Sarah Doherty

YBBW Fashion Show

Time:
6 - 9 p.m.

Date:
Friday, April 5

Place:
University Center
Ballroom 202

More information on the LGBTQ+ Resource Center

Located in University Center
120C

Contact Information

Phone number: (231) 591-2658

Email: sarahdoherty@ferris.edu

Coffee cravings

As college students, we thrive and survive on coffee. It's the pit-stop of the day that keeps us going. So, when you change your diet and try to eat healthier, sometimes that means cutting your cup of Joe.

But that doesn't have to be the case. Below are five tips that allow you to keep coffee in your diet:

1. Downsize your coffee

Avoid the large cup and consider going smaller. This should also help with cost.

2. Dairy decisions

Rather than using whole milk, try alternatives such as low-fat, fat-free, or others such as almond.

3. Goodbye whips

Sugars from toppings such as whipped cream can really add up, so either get rid of it or go small.

4. Reduce the syrup

Still got to keep the sweets? Try for fewer pumps of sweetener in the drink and use an alternative such as cinnamon or cocoa powder instead for flavor.

5. Split the sweets

Want to buy a muffin or coffee? Then find a friend. Splitting the pastry will be best in the end.

Nutrition on a budget

Many students shop for ease and cost – making fast food options and unhealthy meals a go-to among many. Yet many students can still afford to eat right on a budget.

1. Plan ahead

One way to make it easier for your wallet and your health is to plan your meals or snacks at least a week in advance. See what ingredients you need, what you already have and what you need to buy. Making a list of the items will also make it easier to avoid unnecessary purchases.

2. Quantity is key

By making larger quantities in the kitchen, it will help save time in the future when it comes to cooking. This will also help in meal prep as you'll have healthy meals made in advance. Additionally, foods bought in bulk are usually cheaper.

3. Shopping locations

Always check for coupons first and foremost before shopping, especially when shopping for expensive ingredients such as meat and seafoods.

4. Buy in-season

Buying in-season for fresh fruits and vegetables can also cut costs as opposed to purchasing items that are out of season. To ensure you aren't going to waste product, buy in smaller portions.

If you're still craving certain fruits or veggies that may not be in season, buy canned or frozen produce which is less expensive than fresh. When purchasing canned fruit and vegetables, look for "100% fruit juice," "low sodium" and "no salt added."

5. Make your own snacks

Make your own snacks in bulk such as low-fat yogurt and cottage cheese. Another snack includes trail mix combined with nuts, dried fruit and whole grain pretzels or cereal.

Healthy habits



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Multimedia Editor

Ferris general studies freshman Nathan Walker enjoys a sweet treat between classes.

Get smart: eat right

Briana Hammontree
Torch Reporter

As April appears, March's 'National Nutrition Month' draws to a close, but Ferris general studies freshman Nathan Walker is planning to continue his healthy journey.



Nathan Walker

"I know that discipline is a huge part of habits changing – whether they are healthy or not. For me, it isn't much of an issue because I've always gotten exercise like in sports and stuff like that," Walker said.

However, within his first semester here at Ferris, Walker admits to finding himself giving into the indulgences of the buffet-settings of both The Rock and The Quad Café on campus.

After noticing a shift in his health and after going to the gym with a friend, Walker decided to

check out Ferris' nutritionist office to learn what methods would help him in building his strength back.

"I asked a lot of questions I had about dieting, and I explained to her what my goals were and then she explained to me what different foods will do in relation to the exercises done. Like, you could lose weight faster, build muscle quicker and other stuff like that," Walker said.

Ferris' registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) is Brenda Walton,



Brenda Walton

whose tasks involve helping students and staff with nutrition questions and concerns, collaborating with dining services and assisting with 'Wellness Wednesday' activities.

While her services are free for staff and students, Walton says there are some easy tools people can use for a healthier lifestyle including drinking plenty of water, eating three to four meals a day and partaking in simple physical activity such as walking or deliberately using stairs instead of elevators.

"Keeping a food journal is a good

way to monitor what you're eating or drinking as well - how much or the portion. They can then bring it into me, and I can look it over to see if they are missing certain food groups, and I can give them a place to start," Walton said.

Ferris pre-nursing sophomore Kennedy Melton didn't realize Ferris offered the resource of a nutritionist, but wouldn't be opposed to using it in the future given the fact she lives off campus and finds herself eating more fast-food.



Kennedy Melton

However, like Walker, Melton credits the use of a support system in helping keep her on track for making healthier decisions, as she is a member of a sorority.

"I hang out with a lot of my sisters, and typically they are a lot healthier than me, so just being around them who eat healthily makes me want to eat healthily or stay active, whether that's doing stuff for classes or volunteering," Melton said.

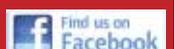
For more information on meeting with a nutritionist, contact Walton at BrendaWalton@ferris.edu.

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The hardest goodbye



Photo submitted by Tyrell Austin

Ferris applied speech senior Tyrell Austin is the first in his family to graduate college.

A Ferris senior's story

Marissa Russell
Interim Reporter

After spending four years living the college life, Ferris applied speech senior Tyrell Austin is graduating spring 2019.

Preparing to leave college and start his new life, Austin talks about his time and experiences at Ferris.

"I have been trying to prepare myself for life after college, and I've come to the realization that no matter how much you can prepare, we will never really be ready for life after college. We just have to live through it," Austin said.

While at Ferris, one of Austin's achievements was being runner-up for homecoming court. Austin also expanded Greek life by founding the first ever Latino-based multicultural Greek social fraternity, Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity Incorporated, at Ferris.

Being the first person in his family to graduate and receive a degree, Austin came to Ferris to make something for himself, to achieve and become something people told him he could never do or never be. Austin wants to inspire others who think they might not be able to or shouldn't go to college.

Through the ups and downs of college, Austin is happy to have gone through it all. Austin said he has learned, messed up, became stronger and more relatable with his time here at Ferris.

"I am going to miss many things at Ferris," Austin said. "My friends, the professors, my fraternity brothers and all the other amazing people I have met along

my college journey. Ferris has become a home for me after I had left mine. I will cherish the moments, memories and the connections that I have made since I have been here."

Making friends during his time here, Ferris business administration senior Lukas Sizemore first met Austin fall of his junior year when they were in American government together. Sizemore said that since then, they have become close.

"Tyrell is the most outgoing and positive person I have ever met," Sizemore said. "He is seemingly friends with over half of campus and can't go anywhere on campus without saying hello to everyone he comes across. His level of involvement had inspired me to get more involved as he is constantly doing something, often for the benefit of others. Tyrell is the kind of person you know will be successful in life just because of the way he is likable, smart and kind to everyone. It has been my pleasure to get to know Tyrell, and like everyone else who has, I am a better person for it."

To the incoming freshman, Austin wants to advise them to join as many things on campus and find their niche. Austin wants them to remember one thing: everyone here is getting the same degree and ask themselves "what will set them apart from the rest?"

"I chose Ferris because of the welcoming environment I received when I first stepped on campus," Austin said. "It never changed as many times as I visited even on the first day of my college career. Ferris really cares about their students and the way they can empower them to increase their full potential."

Austin said he plans on receiving a full-time job with great benefits and pay after graduation. His more in-depth plans are to work as a salesman and then make his way up in the business world to work for Crisis Management.

Words from the wise

Spring 2019 graduates look back on their time at Ferris

What advice would you give incoming freshmen?

"Do as much on campus as you can." -Ferris hospitality management Maria Rogers

What is your favorite memory from college?

"There's so many. Probably freshman year in the dorms, hanging out with all my friends that I'm still friends with now." -Ferris hospitality management Savannah Christiansen

What have you accomplished at Ferris?

"Getting my degree and learning to work with patients." -Ferris dental hygiene Justine Berns

What are you going to miss most about Ferris?

"The atmosphere. The fact that I've made so many friends within these four years, definitely made going to college a lot easier than just being alone." -Ferris welding technology Alex Mepham

How have you prepared for life after college?

"I have taken initiative of giving myself opportunities and taking advantage of them. I'm pretty set up; I have a job after graduation and not a lot of people have that." -Ferris business data analysis Sayra Moore

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Weekly festivities

THURSDAY

April 4

Glow, Skate, & Donate

Location: Big Rapids Roller Rink, 325 N Michigan Ave.
Time: 5 - 8 p.m.
Price: three non-perishable food items or \$5



Talent Show

Location: Williams Auditorium
Time: 7 - 10 p.m.



FRIDAY

April 5

YBBW 2018 Annual Fashion Show

Location: University Center 202
Time: 6 - 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

April 6

AAUW Used Book Sale

Location: Big Rapids First United Methodist Church, 304 Elm Street
Time: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.



MONDAY

April 8

Keep Calm and Have Coffee with Your Advisor

Location: Arts & Science Commons
Time: 9 - 11 a.m.

Tuesday

April 9

FSU Concert Choir Spring Concert

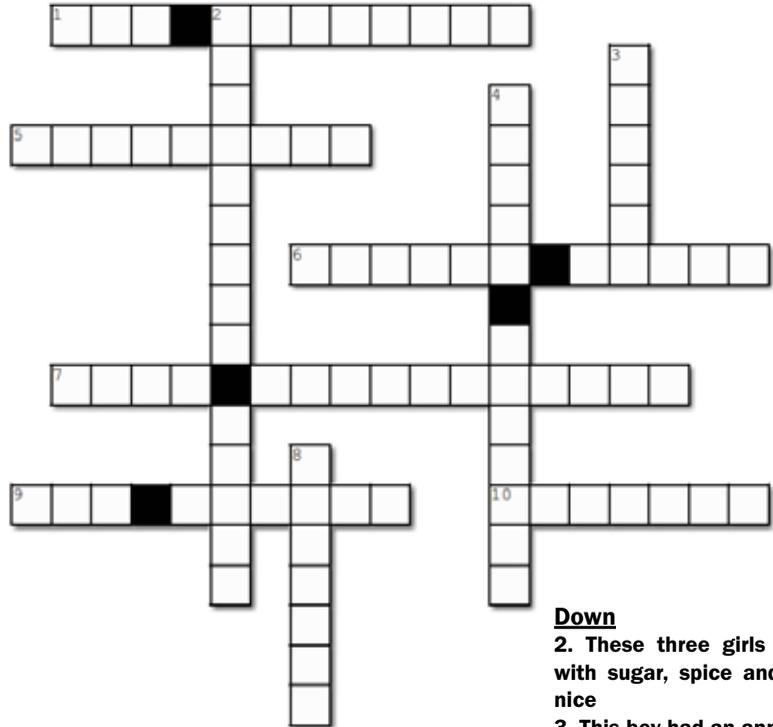
Location: Big Rapids High School
Time: 8 - 9 p.m.



For more information on Ferris events, visit <http://calendar.ferris.edu/>
Graphic by: Hannah Way | Production Assistant

Blast from the past

Reminisce about the good 'ole days when cartoons were all you had to worry about!



Across

1. Call her, beep her, if you want to reach her
5. Who lives in a pineapple under the sea?
6. This muscular, blonde-haired man was always seen staring in a mirror
7. A family who traveled the world and a girl who could talk to animals
9. This football-headed boy lives with his grandparents
10. A cartoon that showed babies and their day-to-day adventures

Down

2. These three girls were made with sugar, spice and everything nice
3. This boy had an annoying sister and stayed sane by hiding away in his secret lab
4. This boy genius was always getting into trouble with his crazy inventions
8. The purple puppy who ironically was afraid of everything

Across: 1. Kim Possible 2. Spongebob 3. Dexter 4. Jimmy Neutron 5. Courage 6. Hey Arnold 7. Wild Thornberys 8. Hey Arnold 9. Hey Arnold 10. Rugrats
Down: 2. Powerpuff Girls 3. Dexter 4. Jimmy Neutron 5. Courage 6. Hey Arnold 7. Wild Thornberys 8. Hey Arnold 9. Hey Arnold 10. Rugrats



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Please note the following: Students seeking an associate degree must have completed 24 credit hours at the end of spring semester and students seeking a bachelor's degree must have completed 56 credit hours at the end of spring semester. In addition, students must submit an application including an essay describing their personal career goals and role an FSU degree will play in achieving those goals, a letter from the FSU alumna(us) describing the effect their FSU career had on their professional career, and a recommendation by an FSU staff or faculty member.

For more information and to apply visit: ferris.academicworks.com



Alumni Association

**Application deadline:
MAY 13, 2019**

*All submissions must be made on line using MyScholarships. Visit <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/admission/financialaid/scholarship/Incoming/myscholarships.htm> for more information.

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SPORTS

"I was humbled by the experience and it is by far one of my favorite collegiate sports memories." - Paige Kortz - See page 13 for story

Cora Hall | Sports Editor | hallc36@ferris.edu

Fueled by determination

Timely intensity leads two-sport athlete to success on the field and off the court



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Multimedia Editor

Ferris redshirt junior Margo Brown is both a guard on the women's basketball team and a member of the women's golf team. She plans to be a graduate assistant for the women's basketball team during her senior redshirt season while competing for the women's golf team.

Noah Poser
Torch Reporter

It's rare to have the opportunity to be a dual-sport athlete in college, and it takes a rare individual to make it work.

It just so happens that Ferris redshirt business administration junior Margo Brown seems to be one of those rare people.

Brown juggles two sports schedules as a shooting guard for the Ferris women's basketball team and as a member of the women's golf team. It was a daunting task initially for Brown, but after a while, she started to feel comfortable with her busy routine.

"The biggest adjustment I had to make was balancing my time between practices, workouts and team meetings for both sports, on top of school," Brown said. "I have since learned to be on top of my schedule at all times. In fact, staying disciplined has been one of the biggest lessons I have learned from being a dual-sport athlete."

While this crash course in time management proved to be fruitful for Brown, it turns out that it almost never happened.

Brown grew up playing both of these sports in her hometown of St. Ignace. She got her first set of golf clubs at the age of three and she started playing basketball at four years old. She continued forward with both sports at LaSalle High School.

"For basketball I was recruited by the previous head women's coach, Colleen Lamoreaux-Tate, who played college basketball with my high school coach at Lake State. Coach Faustin came in with my class and has been here ever since," Brown said. "My sophomore year at Ferris I redshirted because I had to get knee surgery and at the same time, I realized I missed competing in golf tournaments. My older brother, Joe Brown, played golf at Ferris with the head coach



Margo Brown

Kyle Wittenbach, and pushed me to talk to Coach Wittenbach to see about playing golf at Ferris."

And contact Wittenbach she did. In fact, after contacting Wittenbach, she was given a chance to try out for the team. According to Wittenbach, Brown earned her spot on the team due to displaying "the proper attitude and ability."

This attitude has continued to the present as she describes herself simply as "competitive." Wittenbach thought along similar terms, as he believes "gritty" is the word that perfectly describes the dual-sport athlete.

"Margo brings a toughness and intensity that builds our team culture and attitude in a positive way," Wittenbach said. "Her discipline and time management have helped her succeed as an athlete and will benefit her in the future in all endeavors."

The attitude she brings has served her well in her career. While she has displayed her talents on the golf course, she hasn't gotten much run on the basketball court in her career at Ferris. This past season, she saw time in just 10 games and only averaged 0.6 points per game.

That gritty attitude she has shown, as well as her excellent ability to manage her time, has led her to new passions and, one might say, new future endeavors.

"For my redshirt senior year, I am competing in golf and I am going to be a student coach/graduate assistant for the basketball team," Brown said. "For basketball, I am looking to be open to learning and changing into a new role for the team. I'm excited to learn about the behind the scenes decisions that go into coaching."

This inspiration came from both of her current coaches, who she credits with allowing her to succeed in playing both basketball and golf. She looks forward to this in the future, but also wanted to look back on what was a wild ride for her in her first few years at Ferris.

"I have loved every second of being a two-sport athlete, and I think anyone who gets the opportunity to be a dual-sport athlete should take the chance and try it," Brown said. "I have learned a lot about myself as an individual, student and an athlete from taking on this challenge."

Brady soars to the Cardinals' rescue

Former Ferris assistant takes the leap to head coach

Noah Poser
Torch Reporter

Ferris assistant football coach Ryan Brady has left Ferris to become the next head football coach of Saginaw Valley State University, becoming the seventh head coach in the history of the SVSU football program.

Brady moved around Ferris in a few different positions since he was hired in 2012 as an offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. After helping guide former two-time Harlon Hill trophy winner and Ferris alum Jason Vander Laan to success, he moved over to coach the defensive side four of the past five seasons. That is where he finished his Ferris career as the co-defensive coordinator and linebackers coach this past season.

The Bulldogs experienced plenty of success with the Saginaw County native on staff, as the school posted a 75-15 record since 2012 to accompany three Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) championships and five straight NCAA Division II Playoff berths.

Add this to the title game appearance last season, and it is no surprise that Brady becomes the third Ferris assistant coach under Ferris football head coach Tony Annese to get a head coaching gig in the GLIAC, joining Kyle Nystrom at Northern Michigan University and Sparky McEwen at Davenport University.

Brady also becomes the first Saginaw County native to become head coach of the SVSU football program.

He brings a winning pedigree to the Cardinals' program, as he has won everywhere he goes, whether that be in his playing career or his career as an assistant coach. While in high school, Brady led Chesaning High School as a quarterback to the 1998 Class B

championship. After a spectacular career at Chesaning, which included being named first team all-state, Brady then moved on to Grand Valley State University (GVSU), where he continued to play quarterback.

He led the school to back-to-back title game appearances in 2001 and 2002. In 2002, he helped the school win their first ever national championship. He also started his coaching career at GVSU as quarterbacks coach during the 2003 season that resulted in the second national title for the Lakers.

In between his time spent at GVSU and as a coach at Ferris, Brady was both a high school and a college coach.

In 2004, he became the strength and conditioning coach at Muskegon High School before serving as the head freshmen coach at his alma mater of Chesaning in 2005.

After spending a couple of years as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Montrose High School, Brady then became the head coach at Perry High School in 2008. That was only a brief stay, as he would become the quarterbacks coach at Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) in 2009.

After adding offensive coordinator to his job title, he helped GRCC to a 30-4 record and the number one scoring offense all three seasons 2009-11, before joining Annese's staff at Ferris.

Off the sidelines, Brady holds a bachelor's degree in professional instruction from GVSU and a master's degree in educational leadership from SVSU. He is also a family man with his wife, Jessica, and daughter, Isabelle.

Brady was introduced as the Cardinals' head coach at an introductory news conference Monday, March 25.



Back in action

The Ferris football team got back on the turf Friday, March 22, for spring practices in preparation of the annual Crimson & Gold Spring Game that will take place noon Saturday, April 27.

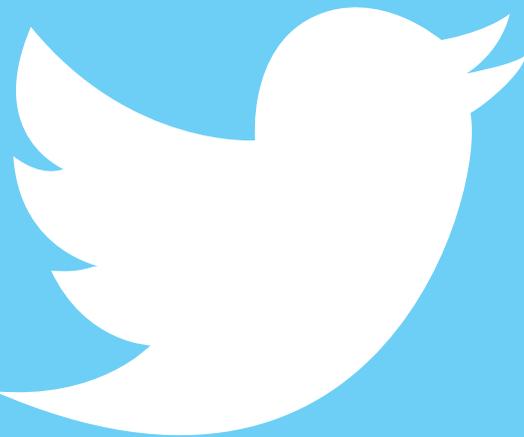
Photo by: Samantha Cavotta | Torch Photographer

Spring football practice schedule

Wednesday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Friday, April 5, 3-5 p.m.
Sunday, April 7, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Friday, April 12, 3-5:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 14, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Friday, April 26, 3-5:30 p.m.

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FOR
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A culture of excellence

Ferris winter athletes show success inside the classroom

Michael Reedy
Torch Reporter

It is important that college athletes know that they are at school to learn and win degrees while also winning at their respective sports.

While some aspire to win trophies or even go pro, most players are aware their playing days may end as they compete in their final college game. It is also the responsibility of the coaches to check in and ensure their players succeed in the classroom in various ways.



Raymoan McAfee

"We do study tables twice a week, we check assignments weekly, we check syllabuses thoroughly to make sure we are up to date with any assignments they may have," Ferris men's basketball assistant coach Raymoan McAfee said. "We are always there to give them a little kick in the pants every time they feel like they do not have to do something."

Study tables are where some athletes are required to participate for a few hours to sit down and finish their homework. They vary from sport to sport, but typically all freshmen are required to attend, with additional requirements depending on team members' grade point averages.

"If you have a cumulative GPA of over 3.0, then you are exempt from study tables, you do not have to go," Ferris men's basketball junior Greg Williams said. "Some guys are under that, so we do every Tuesday and Sunday for two hours with one of our coaches, or one of our advisers and you sit there, and if you need help, you get help, but it is just four hours out of the week where you can just sit down and get your homework done."

Along with the required study tables the men's basketball team enforces, Williams said the team has a rule where if a player misses three classes in the same class and are unexcused, then he must sit out a game.



Zach McKenzie

As for settings goals, some players take it upon themselves to set goals both with their sport and inside the classroom to strive for complete success.

"I try to make sure that I am focusing on my studies before the athletics part," Ferris men's indoor track and field senior Zach McKenzie said. "Obviously, that can be difficult at



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Multimedia Editor

Ferris junior wing Greg Williams takes the team out of a huddle in Wink Arena. Williams was named to the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference All-Academic team for holding a GPA between 3.0-3.49 during the 2018-19 season.

times when you are competing all the time and trying to focus on practice, so really for me it just kind of comes down to putting academics first and making sure that I am succeeding in the classroom."

The Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference released a statement that comprises every winter athlete in the conference that maintained a 3.0-3.49 GPA, which

is the All-Academic Team, as well as athletes that maintained a 3.5-4.0, which is categorized as the All-Academic Excellence Team. Ferris players represented both men and women's basketball, and indoor track and field. The list is made up of three men's basketball players, 12 women's basketball players, nine from men's indoor track and field, and 19 from women's indoor track and field.

Success in a different role

Former Ferris standout golfer thrives as head coach

Austin Arquette
Interim Reporter

With great coaching comes great success – and with Kyle Wittenbach at the helm of Ferris' men's and women's golf teams, it shows.

The Lowell native is a 2012 Ferris alum with a bachelor's degree from the professional golf management program. He is also a former player of the Ferris men's golf team and still plays in tournaments around Michigan today.



Elania DeRose

"He is more than qualified for this position," Ferris freshman golfer Elania DeRose said. "Coach Wittenbach is a dedicated coach that does a phenomenal job of balancing his family

and the golf program. He is a hard worker that cares deeply for his athletes."

Wittenbach took over as head coach

after Mike Mignano left the position. Wittenbach has a vast background in his coaching career, as he was the head coach at Northern Michigan University and an assistant coach at Ferris before becoming the head coach in 2016.

"He was also a member of the Ferris State men's golf team, which has given him the experience needed to know the demands of a student-athlete," DeRose said. "Coach Wittenbach not only wants to see us grow as golfers, but more importantly as young adults. He helps prepare us for our life after college. He instills a culture that allows us to grow, develop and learn."

Wittenbach said he got into golfing because it was another activity to do when he was young. He also played baseball, basketball, tennis and soccer

while growing up. Wittenbach said he has a lot to still do in his career.

Wittenbach understands what it's like to be a student-athlete and what it takes to juggle school and sports. One of his

biggest goals as a coach includes maintaining the relationships he has with his players and help them grow as people.

"To grow and develop my players into mature, responsible and wise adults through teaching them the game of golf," Wittenbach said. "These things will make them champions of the golf course and champions in life."

"These things will make them champions of the golf course and champions in life."

-Kyle Wittenbach

Wittenbach is also a member of the Professional Golf Association (PGA) and has completed PGA internships as a golf assistant. He taught a variety of students of all ages,

along with managed and operated different duties at respective clubs across the U.S. This abundant amount of knowledge of the golf game helps his players, according to Ferris senior golfer Seth Terpstra.

"Coach's competitive background helps immensely with his coaching along with being a PGA member," Terpstra said. "He has competed at the collegiate level and had success, so he knows what we are going through and knows how to help achieve our goals at this level. He knows the fundamentals of the golf swing and how a player achieves peak performance."

Wittenbach resides in Big Rapids with his wife, Heather, and his two daughters, Darbi and Jojo. Juggling a golfing career, being a collegiate coach and having a

family isn't easy, but that hasn't stopped Wittenbach by any means.



Seth Terpstra

Sports Shorts

Michael Reedy
Torch Reporter

Ferris to host strength and conditioning clinic

Ferris Athletics is set to host one of the country's top strength and conditioning clinics for coaches Saturday, April 6, sponsored by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA). This event will take place inside Jim Wink Arena and will give strength and conditioning coaches the opportunity to work with other coaches to learn and network, while also bringing research and applications to the event. This event includes workshop titles like "Training the Youth Athlete with Resistance Bands" and "Strategies and Techniques to Helping Athletes/ Clients Become a Better Mover."

Men's tennis team on a roll

After a slow start, the Ferris men's tennis team won their third match in a row, going 5-2 against Northwood University Friday, March 29. This puts the Bulldogs at 3-0 in conference play prior to their Sunday, March 31, game against Grand Valley State University. During the match against Northwood, Ferris dropped only one of the three doubles games played and just two of the six singles games played. Ferris senior Steward Sell was able to defeat his opponent in both his doubles match as well as his singles match to help Ferris earn the victory.

College All-Star Game

Three Ferris basketball seniors were awarded in playing the Addix Basketball Champions College All-Star game series Wednesday, March 27. Two of those three include Ferris senior guard DeShaun Thrower and senior wing Markese Mayfield from the men's basketball team, while senior forward Abby Nakfoor represented the women's basketball team during the series. The All-Star game takes the top basketball players from the Greater Grand Rapids Area and includes players from various schools and divisions. Thrower was also awarded the MVP of the All-Star game.



THIS WEEKEND'S SPORTS FOR FERRIS

Wednesday, April 3:

- Softball vs. Purdue Northwest 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 4:

- Softball at Wayne State 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 6:

- Track & field at MSU Spartan Invite

Saturday, April 6:

- Track & field at MSU Spartan Invite
- Men's tennis vs. Ashland 10 a.m.
- Softball at Northwood University noon and 2 p.m.

Sunday, April 7:

- Women's golf at NC4K Classic
- Men's golf at University of Indianapolis Invitational
- Men's tennis vs. Wayne State 10 a.m.
- Softball vs. Grand Valley State noon and 2 p.m.



Top Dawg

Paige Kortz

Torch file photo

Noah Poser
Torch Reporter

The Top Dawg award for this week undoubtedly belongs to Paige Kortz.

The sophomore outfielder for the Ferris softball team had a fantastic week for the Bulldogs — a week that concluded with a walk-off two runs batted in (RBI) double in a win against conference rival University of Wisconsin-Parkside. One at-bat stands out best in her memory.

"When I hit it, I was standing at second after my double and I actually didn't realize it was a walk-off hit since I was so concentrated on my crucial at-bat," Kortz said. "I was humbled by the experience and it is by far one of my favorite collegiate sports memories."

For the week, Kortz put up outstanding numbers. She hit for an average of .357 in 14 at-bats. She did that to go along with four RBIs and four runs scored in four games played.

This, along with great play in the field, helped the Bulldogs to an impressive 3-1 record for the week.

It also helped the Bulldogs collect a sweep of the Rangers of Wisconsin-Parkside.

Wednesday, March 27, Kortz batted .400 in the doubleheader, and scored two runs with an RBI to help the Bulldogs manage a split against Davenport University. Friday, March 29, Kortz continued to rake through Wisconsin-Parkside. She batted .330 combined in the doubleheader, chipped in three RBI in the second game and also scored a pair of runs.

The play should come as no surprise, as Kortz has played well throughout the season. Through 28 games, Kortz is batting .315 with an on-base percentage of .378. She also has three home runs to match 16 RBI and 11 extra-base hits, which has helped her to a slugging percentage of .539.

In addition to these figures her spectacular play in the outfield resulting in no errors in the 2019 campaign, and it was only a matter of time before she earned the recognition she deserves as Top Dawg.

The 13-15 Bulldogs are on their home field 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, when they take on Purdue University Northwest (Hammond and Westville, Indiana), who come in with a record of 12-8.

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OPINIONS

“Another fundamental problem lies in a justice system that does not punish those who lie or falsely accuse others.” – Cora Hall – See below for story

Jonny Parshall | Opinions Editor | parshar@ferris.edu

The Ferris State Torch is published on 27 Wednesdays throughout the academic year. This student-run newspaper is printed by The Pioneer Group.

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Chat with the chief Editor in Chief, Megan Lewton

Can someone PLEASE tell me what a woman has to do to get some damn Girl Scout cookies around here?

When I was back in my hometown, I treasured this time of year. Finally, I could sit down and devour an entire \$4 box of Samoas in one sitting. (Which in reality, is like, 10 cookies. But honestly? Worth the price.)

I am from a super small town — one that consists of a single stoplight and a cornfield in the backyard of every house. My town didn't have a gas station until two years ago, and to buy any groceries, you'll need to travel to the next town over.

Still, even if I struggled to find somewhere local to get a gallon of milk, it was never a problem to find Girl Scout cookies to go with it. Anytime you walked into a store, a cookie booth was set up. Multiple times a year, I'd have

Brownies wearing their patch-covered vests shoving an order form into my face.

That was just the way I liked it. Now, living in Big Rapids during the most wonderful time of the year (sorry, Christmas), Girl Scout cookies are nearly impossible to find. So here I sit, refreshing the Girl Scout website to find cookie booths in my area, with blank pages filling my screen. Here I stand, in front of Meijer with empty hopes of seeing herds of cookie dealers handing out the best boxed sweets in the world, only to be disappointed.

And by the time I get home, cookie season is dead. Consequently, so is my spirit.

My friends tell me they always see the cookie booths at Walmart in Big Rapids, but of all the times I've gone there for that purpose alone, I've been out of luck. I don't know. Maybe Girl Scouts are just

WANTED: Thin Mints

invisible to me or something.

Perhaps I'm just not seeing the sales. Maybe the troops set up shop the second I drive away from any local establishment. Maybe the people advertising the sales on Facebook are just not popping up on my feed.

If that's the case, someone point me in the right direction. However, I've been at Ferris for three years and have yet to see anything advertising the cookie sales, so I don't think I'm entirely oblivious.

Girl Scouts and Girl Scout Troop Leaders, hear my cry. If you had a stronger presence in Big Rapids, especially on Ferris' campus, you would thrive. I guarantee you I'm not the only college student who is down to stress-eat rows of Tagalongs while studying for an exam.

I'm not sure how else you can do it other than setting up booths;

I don't know if you can still sell boxes of cookies door-to-door or post the order form on social media. Regardless, if Ferris students knew you were selling them locally, I'd bet a lot of money your sales would go up. Let's face it: Girl Scout cookies are delicious, and when they're only offered seasonally, it's hard to turn them down.

But until I find the seemingly underground Girl Scout society in town, I guess I'll just keep eating the Keebler Grasshopper cookies. If I close my eyes and think about it hard enough, maybe they'll taste like the real thing.

So, Big Rapids Girl Scouts, if you're reading this (and you probably aren't because most elementary students don't read newspapers), I'd like to order some Thin Mints, please.

Actually, I'll take all the Thin Mints you have.

A failure of justice

“Empire” actor stages attack and walks away



Cora Hall
Sports Editor

Last year, if you had asked me who Jussie Smollett was, I would have returned your question with a blank stare.

Now, if you don't know who Jussie Smollett is, you probably don't have any social media accounts, never watch the news and essentially live under a rock.

And unfortunately, I wish I still didn't know who he was. Because now I know him as the actor who faked a hate crime against himself and got off scot-free. A black man who is openly gay abused the justice system that was meant to protect minorities — minorities that he identifies with — from crimes against them because of who they are. Smollett was charged with 16 felonies for false reporting, one for each lie he allegedly told the police about the attack he paid two men to stage.

All charges were dropped by the Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, and the Illinois Prosecutors Bar Association (IPBA) released a statement that said Foxx misled the public about the case.

“The manner in which this case was dismissed was abnormal and unfamiliar to those who practice law in criminal courthouses across the State,” the IPBA official statement reads. “Even more problematic, the State's Attorney and her representa-

tives have fundamentally misled the public on the law and circumstances surrounding the dismissal.”

Foxx publicly recused herself from the case but according to IPBA's statement, Foxx kept the case within her office, and therefore did not actually recuse herself and still influenced the decisions. Other issues are mentioned in the statement, but Foxx botched this case and it's unclear exactly why.

Another fundamental problem lies in a justice system that does not punish those who lie or falsely accuse others.

This does not apply to this situation alone. False rape allegations are another instance that come to mind. A Baylor football player named Shawn Oakman was accused of rape in 2016, and his entire career and future career in the NFL was destroyed. Oakman was acquitted by a jury in March, but his life had been torn apart and his reputation was shattered. But will the woman who falsely accused him of rape be held accountable in any way be punished? No. Was Smollett held accountable for staging a heinous crime? No.

The specific allegations of the attack, such as the attackers yell-

ing racial and homophobic slurs, tying a noose around Smollett's neck and shouting “This is MAGA country,” were reported for a reason. This alleged attack was crafted in the most racist and homophobic ways possible; it fit the narrative the media is pushing so well that it's strange no one questioned it.

And the worst part? The media ran with this story faster than Usain Bolt in a 100-meter dash. They absolutely ate it up and sensationalized a lie. To be fair, Smollett was a master of deception in this incident, planning the perfect public appearances, tearing up while being interviewed on Good Morning America. It was truly one of the most successful acts of manipulation I have seen.

While all of these issues have infuriated me about this situation, the most significant takeaway I have is how disgusted I am with Jussie himself. I can't fathom what would drive someone to scheme up an incident, to pay someone to stage an attack that hospitalized him, for what many speculated was to further his career.

I would love to say that this situation was a complete anomaly and Smollett is one of a kind. But in reality, I think this incident has emphasized how polarized our country has become politically.

And unfortunately, I do not believe it will be trending downward anytime soon.

DIVIDED OPINIONS

THE VALUE OF AN OPPORTUNITY

As graduation arrives, so does the usual argument I hear about paid internships versus unpaid internships.

This argument can be a little frustrating for me to hear because, yes, although many students believe they should be paid for the work they do, I don't think that it's a necessity.

Graduating this spring, I was fortunate enough to have an internship the summer before my senior year. I interned with my hometown's online publication. It was small press, and because of this, many of the writers were there on a volunteer basis. This didn't matter to me because when I sat down with my future editor, I knew I wanted to be a part of what they were about, no matter the cost. This publication was built for my hometown and being able to feature my town while gaining valuable skills was enough for me.

I know I've heard many students on campus, and even some professors, argue that it isn't right to be taken advantage of.

"If you work, you should be paid," they say.

While I agree that, if the company can afford it, interns should be paid because they are doing a substantial amount of work, I don't believe it applies in all cases.

The company I worked for couldn't afford to pay me because they were just starting out. Only a few years old, they were still finding their footing. Though I wasn't paid in the traditional sense, I feel I was paid in opportunities. Because although they were a small company, it's the fact that they were a small company that I was able to practice writing for every section they have. Though I normally am lifestyles

Should internships be paid?



Alicia Jaimes
Lifestyles Editor

topic-oriented, I was able to practice my photography, news writing and even took a stab at a few sports articles.

On top of the opportunity to practice various types of writing, my input was valued at this company and many of my ideas were considered. I was able to write my own advice column for them and suggest different topics we could cover to feature more community members. This was my chance to voice my opinions and get out of my comfort zone. Also, since the publication was so small, I was able to make connections with the other writers to the point where we all knew each other by the end, and we still keep in touch. This is something I feel can be looked over when working for a bigger company, even if you get paid.

I understand that some students need to make money to support themselves. If that's not a requirement for you, then you have the privilege to choose wisely. Be sure to choose the internship you think you'll get the most opportunity from, not the one you'll get the most money.

I had the chance to interview for a paid internship in Grand Rapids, and ultimately turned it down because the internship in my hometown was more in line with where I'm trying to go after graduation.

Yes, holding a second job to make money that summer was stressful; however, I wouldn't have chosen it any other way.

I believe interns should be paid.

Let me preface this by saying I have been an unpaid intern, so I know what it's like. I was a senior in high school when I interned at a broadcast news station pro bono. And honestly, I loved it. I learned a lot and gained experience I later added to my resume and portfolio.

I didn't really worry about getting paid for the internship then.

However, I was in high school then.

At the time, I lived full time with my parents. They provided me with groceries and clothing, as well as the abundance of gas required to make the 30-minute commute there and back three times weekly. I only needed money for anything additional I wanted, and I earned some extra cash by working part time at a fried chicken place. I had few expenses, and between both of the jobs I ended up working maybe 25 hours a week max.

As a college student, that is no longer what internships are like. We are up against so much more. Now, when accepting an internship (which most programs require before graduation, by the way), applicants must consider how the internship will support them while they have it. Will they be able to buy groceries and pay their bills? Can they relocate, if necessary, and pay monthly rent? Will they have any extra funds to maintain a healthy social life?

I am not arguing that internships aren't incredibly valuable. A good internship will provide a student with so much knowledge and experience in their field, and it may help open new doors.

However, no matter how much a person is learning at an internship, at the end of the day they will still have to pay costs of living. With an unpaid intern-

ABSOLUTELY, THEY SHOULD



Megan Lewton
Editor in Chief

ship, that is basically impossible to do.

Many internships require their interns to work 40 hours a week, or even contribute some work on the weekends. With such a busy schedule, it's not likely these workers can accept another job to help fill their wallets. Instead, they must save up as much money as possible prior to the internship and still be overwhelmed, surviving on ramen noodles and worrying about how they will pay for utilities.

It really would not cost that much for a company to pay the handful of interns they hire every season. After all, many interns do a lot of work for the organization and help to improve their operations. For many — myself included — minimum wage is enough. The students might have to manage their money a little bit to make ends meet, but at least it's something.

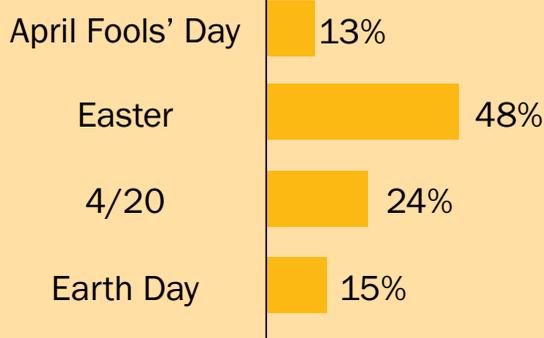
Interns should not be hired as free labor, especially because many do not have a choice but to accept an internship to earn their degree. A person cannot work for a company for three months without pay and still be able to keep a roof over their head and food in their stomach. It is just not feasible.

I believe interns should be paid. It doesn't have to be a lot, but it should at least be something. I cannot argue that the experience isn't cherished, but I can argue that it does not pay the bills.

TORCH POLL RESULTS

71 VOTES

What holiday in April are you the most excited to celebrate?



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