

New sheriff in town



Photo by: Becca Witkowski | Torch Photographer

Ferris State University's Department of Public safety is located on campus at 1319 Cramer Circle.

DPS Director aims to build relationships in community

Jess Oakes
Freelance Reporter

Chief John Allen of the Melvindale police department will soon be filling the vacated position as Ferris' new Department of Public Safety director.

After over 25 years of working in law enforcement, Allen is looking forward to protecting the students of Ferris. He focuses on the importance of relationship building within a community and has plans to earn the trust of everyone on campus just like he has in Melvindale.

"In a municipality, the first time [citizens] see somebody in a uniform is either when they got pulled over, or, God forbid, we got called to their house and it's not a

good situation. So, to build trust, I go to the graduations, I go to the school functions," Allen said.

With the advancement of the worldwide Black Lives Matter movement, the conversation surrounding law enforcement is fervent. Allen ensures that he treats everyone he meets in an egalitarian way.

"We [at Melvindale] have an implicit and anti-racial bias policy, and we have a strict policy on handcuffing," Allen said. "The Floyd case, that never would have happened in Melvindale because we don't train that way. We don't handcuff somebody and put them on their stomach like that for obvious reasons."

Allen comes to Ferris with an extensive educational background, including professional development credentials from the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. This course of study is an invitation-only 10-week program where Allen learned valuable lessons about leadership, emotional intelligence, law enforcement communication and "the social aspect of life" while in Quantico in 2018.

"It's a great opportunity for leaders to bond. You get to meet people from other countries, and you get to hear a lot of perspectives across America on policing and the philosophies. There are a lot of different philosophies out there," Allen said.

The most enjoyable part of Allen's career is interacting with others. This in-

cludes young citizens of Melvindale, co-workers, and even his K-9, Mackey.

"I was proud. In my nine-and-a-half-year career with my dog, he only had to apprehend one person," Allen said. "And the ironic thing about that person, I didn't know at the time, because I didn't realize it was him. Three days later, after he got out of jail, I worked out at the gym located in my city. He was two treadmills over from me and he apologized."

Members of the Bulldog community will soon see Allen as a familiar face around campus, as he even plans to move into the dorms.

"I think a lot of policing is the public's opinion of you. If all they ever see you do is arrest people, well of course they're not gonna like you," sophomore biotechnology major Cami Lowe said. "But if you make it a priority to be a part of your community, then I think everybody feels safer."

"I think that he will be a good addition to Ferris. Reading about how he's all about being egalitarian and inclusive and trying to build trust, he's trying to make everyone feel safe. I believe that if he's expressing those words, hopefully he'll back it up and prove it," liberal arts freshman Sorrell Dean said.

Allen is set to begin working on Monday, March 1. See the Ferris State University news page for more information on the new DPS director.



Photo courtesy of Ferris State University

Ferris DPS Director John Allen.

HEALTHCARE HEROES

Student and professor share frontline experiences

Rebecca Vanderkooi
News Reporter

While the average Ferris students and professors spend their days in class or studying, nursing professor Mary Beaudry and sonography student Sarah Williams balance personal responsibilities with the wellbeing of the of the community's most vulnerable members.

On the front lines

Mary Beaudry has been a nursing professor at Ferris since 2016. After seven years away from working as a floor nurse, she found herself missing patient care and took a position at Spectrum Health Kelsey this past August.

She began her new job in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic. Despite additional personal protective equipment and other precautions, things were relatively normal for the first few months.

"My coworkers have never seen the bottom half of my face," Beaudry laughed.

Things changed in November when the facility had its first active COVID-19 case. Patients had to be confined to their rooms, which was especially challenging for long-term care patients.

"I have one lady I take care of who hasn't seen her sister in almost a year. I think dealing with the depression of these wonderful people is really hard to stomach," Beaudry said.

At one point during the outbreak, Beaudry explained that they had more patients sick with COVID-19 than healthy individuals. She observed that this disease **affected** patients of all ages, but hit those with pneumonia, COPD and other conditions harder.

"Some were very old, and others were in mid-life. That was the horrifying part, because there's nothing you can do besides keep them comfortable," Beaudry said.

Caring for patients while wearing plastic gowns, multiple masks, gloves and face shields added a new level of challenge to the work. Beaudry said that wearing all the extra gear was incredibly warm, which caused her and her coworkers to overheat. It was hard to breathe, and it was exhausting for the healthcare workers. On top of that, patients often couldn't understand what was being said, especially the old and hard of hearing.

As the holidays approached, it was supposed to be 'the happiest time of the year,' but Beaudry explained that that was not the case as more people fell victim to COVID-19.

"The emotional toll that it took was huge. It's hard to pick yourself up and dust yourself off and go back in there after seeing what you saw," Beaudry said.

Contracting the virus

Beaudry woke up on Thanksgiving morning feeling, 'off.' She knew something was wrong

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NEWS

Ry Rodriguez | News Editor | rodrir16@ferris.edu

Biden administration jumpstarting America

Biden signs orders to help students, start COVID-19 relief and promote racial and social equity

Noah Kurkjian
News Reporter

In a typical presidency, the first 100 days are the most important, but with 46 in the White House, the first 10 days have been quite busy.

At press time, President Joseph Biden has signed almost 50 executive orders, almost 20 of which were signed on his first day in office.

For students

On day one, Biden signed an order continuing the pause of the repayment and interest accrual on federally backed student loans through the end of September. This does not affect private student loans.

On day three, he signed an order expanding food assistance programs like the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer programs that provide food assistance for students. Those interested in applying should contact Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services to apply.

COVID-19

A majority of Biden's executive orders revolved around COVID-19. Most of these orders covered a small area, so here is general rundown:

- Mask wearing and social distancing are required on federal property and all forms of public transportation
- Biden appointed a COVID-19 government coordinator that will brief the president and handle things like vaccine distribution
- The secretary of health was ordered to expand research of treatment options
- More support was allocated for critical care and long-term care facilities like retirement and nursing homes
- A COVID-19 testing board was established that will promote screenings and testing
- An order was made for the improvement and promotion of workplace safety guidelines and reinstated multiple travel restrictions to help prevent the spread of the new variants of the virus.

One of the most critical orders signed was one promoting a data-driven COVID-19 response, which requests that all departments and agencies that collect data on the virus to share it and publicize it in order to help inform the public and make crucial decisions related to the pandemic.

The COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force was born from a day two order in an effort to curb the already exacerbated inequalities that are making the pandemic less manageable in areas that are poorer, rural or have a majority minority population.

The last big COVID-19 related order signed invoked the Defense Production Act to aid in the manufacturing of personal protective equipment and supplies needed to distribute things like COVID-19 testing kits.

Relief

Biden also signed an extension to the eviction and mortgage moratorium. To qualify for this, renters must fill out a CDC Eviction Declaration form and give it to their landlord.

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HEALTHCARE HEROES

Continued from front page

when she couldn't taste her meal. Later her concerns worsened when she realized that she had a fever.

The next day she was scheduled to work, but instead she went to get a drive-through COVID-19 test instead.

"I felt like absolute crap. Even getting in the car, putting on clothes and driving to Big Rapids was something else. But I did, and I found out [that I had COVID-19]."

During this time, finals were in full swing, as well as end of the semester grading. Beaudry graded schoolwork and taught virtually from her bed during this time, even though she felt absolutely terrible and was having trouble focusing due to the illness.

"I felt bad for getting sick, even though it wasn't my fault," Beaudry said. "To feel like a human again ... It took a good two weeks."

She had to take three weeks off of her work as a floor nurse. When she was finally able to go back to work, things had changed drastically since she had been gone.

"In the short space of about 12 days we had 10 people pass. It was awful. You would come in, and this is someone you have known for five or six months. You live with them, you talk to them, you understand them and now you watch them take their last breath," Beaudry said.

At the nursing home, things are slowly turning back to a "new normal." Although, Beaudry explained that she still doesn't feel 100% and does not know if or when the extreme fatigue will go away.

Beaudry worries that her advice to students, staff and the public may seem repetitive. However, after seeing many people lose their lives to COVID-19, she thinks it is important that people take this seriously.

"This isn't over yet. Each of us has to protect the more vulnerable. That means grandma and mom and dad. Think twice before you put yourself in a position that could hurt somebody else," Beaudry said.

Stepping into a new role

Ferris sonography student Sarah Williams was optimistic for her 2019 - 2020

academic year. Unfortunately, her plans were put on pause when she was placed on the waitlist for the university's diagnostic medical sonography program in the spring of 2019. She would have to apply again the following year.

While this was deeply disappointing, Williams wanted to stay productive while she waited to reapply. She took courses toward the allied health sciences bachelor's degree and a summer class in phlebotomy. This summer course was exactly what Williams needed to open the doors of opportunity. She began working at the Traverse City Munson Medical Center in November of 2019, only months before the pandemic changed everyday life in the US.

As soon as COVID-19 made its presence known in Michigan, Williams saw the effects it had on healthcare professionals firsthand. Working as an inpatient phlebotomist in early March, Williams unknowingly drew blood from the hospital's first confirmed COVID-19 patient. This exposure to the virus would completely change her work life.

"I ended up being the designated isolation phlebotomist for all of the shifts that I worked," Williams said.

During the time Williams spent on the isolation floor that held all current or suspected COVID-19 patients, she experienced mental exhaustion. Personal protective equipment would have to be removed every time she entered a new room, and the hospital's safety policies changed daily.

The local distillery began making hand sanitizer, as the hospital did not have enough. With patients in such critical condition, Williams had little to no time to think about herself while working, often going an entire 12-hour night shift without any water. Despite this, the most difficult part of the job was working so close to people who would never recover.

"It was hard because you could see patients do so well one day, and then they would pass away the next day," Williams said.

After months of sleepless nights and demanding shifts, it was time for Williams to start a new chapter in her life. She had been



Photo by: Cora Hall | Editor in Chief

Nursing professor Mary Beaudry splits her time between teaching and working at Spectrum Health Kelsey.

accepted to Ferris' sonography program for the fall of 2020 and knew she would be moving back to Big Rapids. Because of this, she picked up shifts at Big Rapids Spectrum Health Hospital while still working full time in Traverse City. Williams continued to balance both jobs until she fully settled into Big Rapids Spectrum in October of 2020.


Switching from designated isolation phlebotomist in Traverse City to laboratory/pathology assistant in Big Rapids, Williams got to learn what she likes and dislikes in a working environment. Working in the fast-paced culture of the "isolation floor" proved to be quite rewarding to her.

"I like being in a bigger setting with more staff and more patients," Williams said.

More than anything else, Williams learned the importance of offering empathy to everyone she treated.

"From patient to patient, they're each in their own situation. You have to be empathetic and caring to everyone, even to the ones that are mean or violent or rude," Williams said. "Working in healthcare, you have patients that are not necessarily pleasant to take care of, but you still have to be professional and caring."

As members of the medical field, both Beaudry and Williams are used to working selflessly for little recognition. When given a chance to spread their message, they would like people to take this pandemic seriously and look out for those around them, especially those who are more vulnerable, as it is impossible to know what others are going through.



THIS WEEK IN MICHIGAN NEWS

Catch up on news around the state

Ry Rodriguez
News Editor

Sports

ANN ARBOR, Mich – The University of Michigan has stayed at No. 4 in the NCAA basketball ap poll despite not playing since Jan. 22. The next time the Wolverines play is scheduled to be Feb. 11 against the University of Illinois.

EAST LANSING, Mich – The Spartans have played their first games since their COVID-19 pause and came out winless. The Spartans faced their worst lose since Izzo’s tenure started with a 67-37 loss to Rutgers.

DETROIT – The Lions have finalized a trade with the Los Angeles Rams for two first-round picks, a third-round pick and Jarrod Goff in exchange for Matt Stafford. Stafford in a farewell addressed thanked the City of Detroit for understanding and accepting the outcome of the trade.

The Red Wings have had a troubled start to the season with a 2-6-2 record. In attempt to stir the bench up, the Red Wings have reassigned three players to the Grand Rapids Griffins. The Red Wings will try to pull up better players and have started to scout more per Bleacher Report.

Capitol Hill

LANSING, Mich. – Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson has introduced a piece of legislature to the state congress that will propose changes on how Michigan will move on with election day procedures and counting ballots.

Some of the changes include making election day a state holiday, make in-person voting more accessible, allowing election officials to process but not count mail-in ballots. These changes were introduced mid-Monday, in attempt of trying to get them into law before the next election cycle.

The MDHHS order expired at 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31 that prohibited restaurants to allow in-door dining. This will be the first time for Michigan

restaurants to allow in-door dining since Nov. 18. There are still heavy restrictions for these restaurants not allowing dance floors, no more than 6 per party, also having a curfew of 10 p.m.

The hardest part of the order makes restaurants close completely if one of their workers test positive for COVID-19, and then clean the establishment until it meets the CDC standards of cleanliness.

On Thursday Jan. 28, an activist group called Let Them Play and two-thousand others gathered on the Capitol’s front lawn, in protest of Governor Whitmer’s order to push back contact sports – basketball, wrestling, hockey and competitive cheer – until Feb. 21.

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- ON THE RECORD -

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

Absolute shocker


Ry Rodriguez
News Editor

Rowdy rhubarb

Jan. 25, 1:27 p.m., a verbal disagreement broke out at Travis Hall on the second floor between two female students. The students were loud enough other students in the hall called DPS out of concern. Once DPS showed up to the scene, the two female students did not want to cooperate with the officers. The officers let the squabble fade out and escorted the non-resident to her car so she could go home safely.

Absolute shocker

Jan. 25, 8:11 p.m., DPS was alerted to Brophy after the scent of Marijuana was discovered that Monday evening. After finding the source of the smell, DPS asked a couple of questions from the student who later admitted to smoking weed in their dorm. The student also consented for the DPS officers to search around in which led for them to discover more weed. The search concluded with the student getting a minor in possession of marijuana civil infraction.



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Biden

Continued from page 2

This form lays out how you have been affected by the pandemic and that you have explored all other support options. Biden has also requested that Congress provide more rental assistance to the tune of \$30 billion.

Part of the aforementioned food assistance program also provides a 15% increase to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

One of the more controversial relief orders he has signed guaranteed unemployment insurance for workers who refused to work because of the heightened risk they face working during the pandemic.

Social change and racial equality

One of the first orders Biden signed was an order that promotes racial equity. This order outlined a plan for government agencies to evaluate and reallocate resources to “advance equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved.”

A win for the LGBTQ+ community came in the form of an executive order that adds them to the list of those protected under the federal nondiscrimination policy.

Biden also signed an order that ends the controversial Trump-era Muslim travel ban. This ban was placed on seven countries, and the US will begin processing visas from these countries within 45 days.

On day six, Biden signed an order lifting the transgender military service ban. This order immediately halts such things as denial of enlistment or reenlistment, involuntary separations and gender-based discharges.

Biden also signed two significant orders that affect immigrants. He incorporated undocumented immigrants responses into census data and reinstated protections for those who fall under the guidelines for the DACA program.

Climate change

Another primary order signed by Biden makes good on one of his largest campaign promises; rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement. This agreement is an international effort to reduce emissions like greenhouse gasses that speed up global warming.

Another controversial order included pulling the permits for the Keystone XL pipeline. This pipeline was supposed to be a 1,200-mile line that transported crude oil from Canada to the US. The line would run through protected indigenous land. This order also gave back protections to national monuments that were taken by the previous administration. It also paused the leasing of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for the purposes of oil and gas.

Two months of silence

University declines to speak on employment status of Thomas Brennan

Cora Hall
Editor in Chief

Ferris has had over two months to investigate Thomas Brennan, who was put on administrative leave on Nov. 19, 2020 after the Torch reported on a Twitter account under his name that spread misinformation about COVID-19 and promoted racist language.

In the time since the last official statement on Nov. 19, 2020, Brennan openly claimed the Twitter account as his and defended his opinions expressed in a letter that was originally sent to MLive. He attempted to explain his use of the n-word, why atom bombs and the moon landing are fake and explain why his antisemitic tweets did not make him antisemitic.

President David Eisler released a statement on Nov. 23, 2020 about Brennan’s Twitter, condemning the opinions expressed on the account. Since then, there has been no updates or statements offered from the university.

Six requests have been made by the Torch in the past week for a statement from the university regarding the investigation into Brennan. No updates or statements have been offered and Eisler forwarded requests for comment to News Services and Social Media Manager Sandy Gholston, who has yet to provide any statements.

Part of the delay in the process is likely due to Brennan’s rights to due process and just cause protections in the collective bargaining agreement between the Ferris Faculty Association and the university. This includes notice, a complete investigation, representation, and a formal decision, all of which takes time, according to legal studies professor Emily Fransted.

Ferris is a governmental actor as it pertains to the First Amendment, and the contract that the FFA is currently under provides an extent of academic freedom to faculty.

“We’re a government actor for purposes of the application of the Constitution,” Fransted said. “That doesn’t mean that everybody on campus can say anything that they want at any time. There are limitations to our First Amendment freedoms everywhere. But by that same token, more than a private employer could, Ferris needs to be respectful of their employees First Amendment protections.”

Section 7.4 of the FFA contract outlines the faculty members’ academic freedom. Two of the key points in this case are:

- “The concept of freedom should be accompanied by an equally demanding concept of responsibility. When Members speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline. They should at all times make every effort to be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint, show respect for the opinions of others and indicate that they are not an institutional spokesperson.”

- “Members are entitled to academic freedom in the classroom in discussing their assigned subjects and disciplines, and should alert their students to the various scholarly views related to those subjects, and avoid presenting totally unrelated material.”

The first provision outlines how academic freedom applies to faculty members outside of the classroom. This distinction gets extremely blurry, especially with social media now, according to Fransted. While Brennan identified himself as a Ferris faculty member, he did not claim to speak on behalf of the university in the tweets posted.

“As a result of that, he’s got an argument that he was acting in his personal capacity at the time that he was making these statements,” Fransted said. “To that extent, it’s more difficult for Ferris to touch him when he’s speaking in his personal capacity than it is in his official capacity. I don’t want to say that he’s untouchable at any time, because he’s not. Ferris can take action against him for things that he’s saying in his professional or personal capacity. But it’s a harder argument for them to make when he’s coming up with the defense that he was acting in his personal capacity and that his first amendment rights are being infringed upon by the university.”

The second provision under 7.4 outlines academic freedom in the classroom, which only extends to the faculty member’s area of study, or “assigned subjects and disciplines.” Here is where Fransted believes the university has a stronger case legally against Brennan.

Multiple former students of Brennan’s have stated that he spent entire class periods showing videos of the moon landing to explain why he believed it was fake during a physics class. Other students have said he frequently uses class time to talk about conspiracy theories related to cellphones, which he consistently tweets about.

A tweet from Jan. 30 states “the only way to cure the world of covid is to turn off the wifi and cell phone towers. Not just 5G, but 4G and all the Gs.”

According to Brennan’s personal website, which is linked to his Twitter profile, his university email was deactivated and his profile has been taken down from the university website.

For previous reporting on this issue, go to fsutorch.com.



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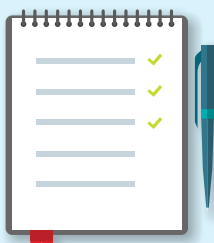
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LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

How Leonardo Almanza found his voice

Senior finds passion through his upbringing and campus involvement

Marissa Russell
Lifestyles Editor

From walking around the University Center to creating events for one of his six RSOs, Leonardo Almanza is a common face around campus.

The criminal justice senior has been trying to be someone others can rely on, someone his mom could be proud of. His life goal after graduation is to be a youth specialist for at-risk youth and be their mentor. Almanza will also be the first to graduate from college from his family.

"It's still unbelievable," Almanza said. "I mean, even saying that I can graduate with my bachelor's, a minor and an associate's all at 21. That even within itself is a blessing. And I think that's for anyone, even besides being a first-generation student. That's a blessing for anyone."

While at Ferris, Almanza stayed busy by being a part of six RSOs, while holding various leadership roles including president of his fraternity Sigma Lambda Beta and staff lead for the Anti-Violence Alliance. At Eastern Michigan, Almanza went to a conference with the Anti-Violence Alliance about sexual assault. There Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said something that has stuck with him ever since: "Be the voice for people that are still trying to find their own."

"When you're in this leadership position you have to be able to utilize your voice to help your community," Almanza said. "Because when it comes to Hispanic culture at least Mexican culture, the way I was raised is if you're up there, bring everyone along. And if you can't bring everyone along to be a voice for them while they try to find their way to get there. Everyone's going to find their voice eventually it's just a matter of when and where. Will it be here at Ferris? Maybe, maybe not. I had the chance to find mine."

Being a voice on campus

While Almanza was also accepted to Central and Western, he decided on Ferris solely for the criminal justice program and the career he wanted to go into. The RSOs he joined and communities he became apart of were just a bonus. Almanza wanted to

find a community and a support system that helped him further his dreams and career goals. While he might not have known exactly what part of criminal justice he wanted to go into when he came to Ferris, he was able to figure it out through all of the events and organizations he spoke at.

"It's sometimes going to be a little difficult to try to figure out what you actually want to do," Almanza said. "For me, I'm only 21, I just turned 21 in August. So in regards to what my goal is, in life I mean, my goal at the end of the day is to help people. That's always been my intent. In ways that I want to do that, I'm still trying to figure that out. As of right now, I'm looking for jobs in youth specialist positions. So I want to be able to advocate for at-risk youth and give them a voice, I just wanted to be their mentor or something like that, or someone to look up to at least just because once I was almost at-risk."

The way Almanza sees it, at some point in every person of color's life they are at risk. But he found a way to keep himself out of trouble growing up.

Why he wasn't at risk

Back in his hometown at Fennville, Almanza's family owns a stable filled with racing horses. At 4 years old, Almanza's father put him in a pen with a horse and a whip and started him riding. At the time Almanza was so small that his feet couldn't reach the stirrups, but he grew into them as he continued riding.

While most 16-year-olds get their driver's license on their birthday, Almanza got his rider's license and began riding horses professionally. While it was easy money to ride other people's horses for a few hours, Almanza saw it as a way to spend time doing his passion and get experience in something he loved even if he couldn't do it as a career.

"You know Fennville isn't necessarily a bad place, don't get me wrong, but you can sometimes, depending on the crowd that you're with, you can get mixed up with the bad people," Almanza said. "And if you don't have people that push you to do the best you can do, you get caught up in the crowd and it throws you off track for your luck. One thing



Photo courtesy of Leonardo Almanza

Almanza riding around on one of his family's horses as a child.

on your record while you're in school and you have to consistently say you have a record on your job application. So horse racing definitely took a toll or took the stress off of that, if that makes sense. There'd be weekends where my friends wanted me to hang out with them and I still managed to go around it but even during the weekdays my friends wanted me to come over, but again I had obligations and commitments, at home."

Horse racing kept Almanza away from getting involved in the wrong crowds and allowed him to beat his odds for being at-risk and not making it to college.

Now after riding for 17 years, 5 professionally, Almanza has his own horse, Chico Beach. This will be his first year racing and Almanza swears he will do big things, like pay off his college.

Four walls covered in achievements

Almanza puts tribute to all his accomplishments on the walls of his bedroom from posters hung up, from past events he put on to his fraternity apparel, to pictures from horse racing. Almanza never has to try and remember what he brought to campus because he is surrounded by reminders.

The first big event Almanza was a part of was a 5 Star event he hosted with Saul Flores called The Walk of the Immigrants.

"I went to a conference and it was meant to see keynote speakers," Almanza said. "And I wasn't even supposed to go to Saul Flores as a speaker. I remember I was already sitting in a room 10 minutes left, and then I read his description on the app for the conference. I ended up going with 10 minutes left I had literally the last seat in the room. And I heard his story. And it hit me on such a personal level, just because I thought of my mom at the time and how much my mom means to me and my mom is like the world to me."

Almanza's mom, who didn't know any English, started a factory job three months before Almanza was born. The reason she went to get the job was to get health insurance for Almanza's birth. Almanza's mom believes she only got the job because she was pregnant and they felt bad for her. She still has the job today.

"So, it hit me on such a personal level I remember he did an activity where peo-

ple wanted to stand up and see what they mean. Or what his story meant to you, and he talked about his story. And he made people share. I shared my mom's story and I ended up, tearing up cracked my voice I couldn't even hold it up, and I didn't even finish the story, but I remember I stayed after."

Almanza got Flores's personal number and made it his mission to get Flores to Ferris the following October. Though there were many long nights and piles of paperwork to fill out, this 5 Star event had the biggest attendance that semester with over 160 people.

Tim Musso, a male sexual assault survivor, was another speaker Almanza brought to campus this past semester for a 5 Star that was held virtually.

"A lot of people think of sexual assault and they think of women, which is really really bad and that sucks to hear but there's also always going to be that other side that a lot of people don't talk about is the male perspective," Almanza said. "So even getting the chance to, to have to Musso come out, virtually, and present his side and how it is for males."

While the event didn't end up getting the amount of attendance it was intended to, Almanza was still proud to be able to bring Musso's voice to campus.

Another big accomplishment for Almanza was speaking at the Black Lives Matter rally at Ferris over the summer. Because he is Hispanic and not black, Almanza almost passed up the opportunity to speak because he didn't feel this was his place, it wasn't his culture to talk about. But Byron Brooks, the Ferris student who lead the rally, reached out to Almanza personally and said that we need to all come together to end this.

"I didn't hesitate after he told me that, I still wanted to go through with it," Almanza said. "I remember, we went through all the staff, student leaders and different people, different ethnicities and colors, and he called my name. And I ended up going and he gave me the microphone. Honestly, I didn't have a speech or anything, I just went up there and I spoke from my heart. I spoke for about three and a half minutes. I did my best and I kind of blacked out there cause that was just my heart speaking that wasn't



Photo courtesy of Leonardo Almanza

Almanza competing in a horse race where he was neck and neck.

Special Olympics canceled again

Former club president finding ways to keep athletes connected virtually

Kendall Rooks
Lifestyles Reporter

For the second year in a row, the Area 5 Special Olympians have had to cancel their competitions.

Area 5 is the Southwest region of the special Olympics which includes participants from Mecosta, Osceola, Oceana and Newaygo counties. Area 5 works closely with the Ferris community and organizes games such as basketball, volleyball and flag football with Ferris students.

In the 2020 summer games, a highly anticipated event that takes place at CMU, was canceled.

"That is always the most looked forward to event among athletes and the support staff that volunteers," Ferris sports communication graduate Savanna Stout said. "Our area 5 athletes were very sad to hear that their own practices and games were canceled as well."

Stout was the president of the Special Olympics RSO in 2020 however, the RSO has been relatively inactive since then. As far as the plan for 2021, there will be no Special Olympics sporting events allowed on campus.

"Over quarantine, we organized a day and time that a few students from the RSO and some of the area 5 athletes will jump on zoom for a little social event," Stout said. "It was nice to see their faces again and catch up. For now, we are sticking with the social events."

According to the athletes and volunteers, the cancellation of the games is really disappointing. They look forward to them each year.

"It is important to me to involve them at Ferris simply because it allows them to be a part of something bigger and better," Stout said. "A lot of the athletes don't have much to look forward to because they can't work, might be done with school or just can't do much. Getting them active is very important."

Unfortunately, due to the special Olympian athletes' disabilities, they are a part of the high-risk population susceptible to contracting the virus. Both the state of Michigan and Ferris have been taking extra precautions to go about things the right way, especially for high-risk members of society.

"We will have to make sure that the students are not going to put the athletes at risk," Stout said. "For our area director, she is making sure that the volunteers and coaches that help out will be tested and get proper education for issues relating to COVID-19."



Torch file photo

Area 5 Special Olympics athlete Kim Kenyon shoots in the last annual Heart to Heart basketball fundraiser.

Although the games have been put on pause, fundraising is continuing. Area 5 is always looking for new creative ways to fundraise. They get a lot of support from the community but Stout said the funds for travel, equipment, medical checks and event rentals are running low.

"The ideal situation would be to have people that work well with those that have mental or physical disabilities. It is

not for everyone and we understand that," Stout said. "The Area 5 athletes will teach us more about how to create natural bonds and connections with humans than what people without disabilities can," Stout said.

To get involved email stouts1@ferris.edu for information on meetings and related events to attend.

The cancel culture debate

Alyssa Myers
Lifestyles Reporter

Cancel culture has become normalized by users on social media platforms and it spares nobody. A-list celebrities and small content creators alike have become targets of cancelling.

Cancel culture is a practice in which a group of people express their disapproval of someone's actions by withdrawing all support and encouraging others to do the same. Cancelling often ends with their target being ostracized and losing future opportunities.

It seems to have originated from a misogynistic joke. Aja Romano from Vox writes, "Possibly the first reference to canceling someone comes with the 1991 film *New Jack City*, in which Wesley Snipes plays a gangster named Nino Brown. In one scene, after his girlfriend breaks down because of all the violence he's causing, he dumps her by saying, "Cancel that bitch. I'll buy another one."

"Cancel culture in social media is blowing up and is pretty much unavoidable when you regularly use multiple social media platforms," Zay Gentry, a general studies major, said. "It's gotten to the point that it seems like everyone's 'favorite people' are getting cancelled for this or that reason from the past. Sometimes it's well deserved; many sex offenders and pedophiles get found out and cancelled all the time and that makes me very happy. However, the majority of the time, people will attempt to cancel celebrities or social media influencers for things that are genuinely petty."

Though many public figures have had to deal with cancel culture, few people have been cancelled to the degree that TikTok user @emmuhlu has. In the begin-

ning, she used her platform to speak on racism, equality, feminism and mental health. She was transparent with her own struggles and her 1.4 million followers saw her as relatable and trustworthy.

This content attracted an audience of socially aware young adults who embodied her same beliefs, and that is one of the reasons why her cancelling was so severe. Last year, someone released videos from an old Instagram account showing her saying the n word on multiple occasions. Her followers viewed this behavior as a betrayal.

In the aftermath of this scandal, she lost thousands of followers, she was doxed and repeatedly mocked and harassed. Because she was vocal about her mental health struggles there were rumors that she overdosed and was in the hospital.

She has repeatedly tried to come back to TikTok, but she has yet to achieve the same level of success she had before. As of now, her TikTok account has been banned due to multiple community guideline violations and she has released multiple singles and an album under the name Emma Lu.

Cancel culture has also found a space in politics. The Republican party has repeatedly voiced their disdain for this practice.

When accepting his party's nomination during the RNC, former president Donald Trump said, "The goal of cancel culture is to make decent Americans live in fear of being fired, expelled, shamed, humiliated and driven from society as we know it."

Cancel culture is a polarizing subject, and the consensus is that it is a harmful practice, which leaves many questioning why something that is so widely frowned upon can be such a regular occurrence.

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Updated August 13, 2020

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Uncovering Ferris' hidden gems

A new way for students to learn and get active

Alyssa Hubbard
News Reporter

Students are invited to discover the history of Ferris State University by geocaching hidden treasures around campus and Big Rapids at any time.

Geocaching is an outdoor activity in which people use a GPS or mobile device and navigational skills to locate secret containers, called "geocaches" or "caches," marked by specific coordinates. This recreational pastime has surged in popularity since its creation in 2000.

The Ferris History Task Force has hosted multiple geocaching events in the past. Their most recent event happened during the Founders' Day celebration at the beginning fall 2020 semester.

"We wanted something that was memorable, interesting and entertaining in order to celebrate the 135th anniversary of Ferris's founding," audio and visual technician for IT services center Zachary Kipfmiller said. "When COVID hit, it became more imperative to bring activity to campus, and geocaching was a fantastic way to help with social distancing and get people active outside."

Kipfmiller worked as the chair of the geocaching event for the History Task Force. He expressed his love for both geocaching and history, so it only felt fitting to pair the two together. Kipfmiller enjoyed helping tell Ferris' stories through the unique activity that persuaded him to step outdoors and learn.

"This Geo-Trail was a great opportunity to not just talk about history but to show it to people by bringing them to these important places and helping them visualize more clearly the places and events that once were on campus," Kipfmiller said.

Geocachers can receive rewards for traveling on the Geo-Trail. This reward is called a PathTag. The coin is "trackable online and sports the Ferris Bulldog with a compass background."

One of the many geocache creations, a bulldog crafted out of metal, was remodeled by students in the welding program. "Rusty the Bulldog," named accordingly, is located near the football field.

Welding engineering technology junior Karl Ludwig was one of the students to help with Rusty's modifications. Ludwig had involvement in the design, layout, fabrication and construction of the statue.

Ludwig said it took six weeks in total to complete the work.



Photo courtesy of Zachary Kipfmiller

This is a geocaching spot in Big Rapids. Get on the app to find where he's hidden!

"I am glad that we were able to help," Ludwig said. "I welcome the creative challenge the odd project presents, and I think most welding students would as well. The bulldog presented an opportunity for the welding program to show some of its capabilities while helping the university."

Ludwig has also been geocaching before, so it was interesting for him to take part in the activity while using his welding skills.

"A very big thank you to the Lab Aids in the welding program working out of the WELD-113 class," Kipfmiller said.

There are 25 live caches and people will be able to locate them year-round. Between 70 - 90 accounts have found these caches so far. Kipfmiller anticipates an increase in activity during the spring and summer months.

Kipfmiller and the History Task Force are currently planning more geocaching events for the 2021 - 2022 school year.



Photo courtesy of Leonardo Almanza

Almanza showing off his award and sash after being selected for homecoming ambassador.

ALMANZA

Continued from page 5

me speaking. I said what I had to say and I think it definitely gave awareness to other people."

Along with speaking at rallies and events, Almanza is a part of several organizations on campus. His organizations include Sigma Lambda Beta, Hispanic Student Organization, Anti-Violence Alliance, Student Alumni Gold and the United Greek Council. During his four years at Ferris Almanza has held various roles in each organization.

Because of all his participation and hard work Almanza won Homecoming Ambassador last fall. Even though he couldn't celebrate it like he wanted to he does hope it helps people remember all the things he did around campus to be able to achieve that title.

"I want to leave an impression here that regardless of your skin color regardless of what obstacles you have to go through everything is possible if you really put your mentality to it," Almanza said. "And what I want to leave here is some impression of saying 'oh Leo, he was the one who won homecoming ambassador. Oh, why did he win it?' and they do their research and they see why I won."

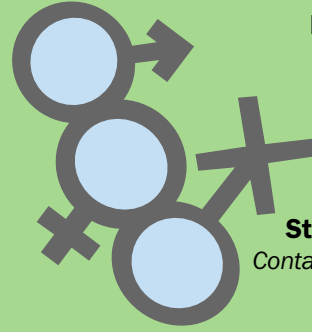
Almanza advises having a community at Ferris because at the end of the day they will be the ones who have your back and support you no matter what.

"After that, is don't be scared to get out of yourself. I know a lot of people are lost when they go into college; they're lost, they don't know what to do with their lives. So, you know, find opportunities to get involved, because sometimes you will run into people that will be your best friend for the rest of your life."

Events calendar

WEDNESDAY

Feb. 3



**LGBTQ+ Resource Center
Coffee House**

Contact: Sarah Doherty
SarahDoherty@ferris.edu

Location: Virtual
Time: 4 - 6 p.m.

Strengths Finder Workshop

Contact: Center for Latin@ Studies
CLS@ferris.edu

Location: Virtual
Time: 5 - 6 p.m.

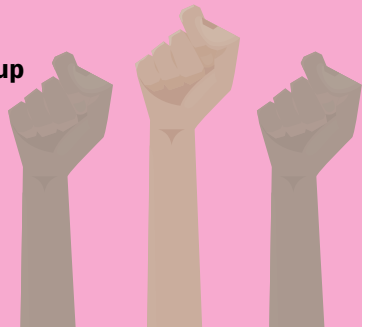
THURSDAY

Feb. 4

**Leadership Academy Group
Leadership: Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion**

Contact: Sydney Starmar
starmes@ferris.edu

Location: Zoom
Time: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.



FRIDAY

Feb. 5

**Virtual Study Abroad
Workshop**

Contact: Megan Hauser-Tran
MeganHauserTran@ferris.edu

Location: Virtual
Time: 1 - 2 p.m.

Virtual Grocery Bingo

Contact: Lane Steffke
steffkl@ferris.edu

Location: Virtual
Time: 7 - 9 p.m.



SATURDAY

Feb. 6

**Student Leadership
Conference "Virtual"**

Contact: CLACS
clacs@ferris.edu

Location: Virtual
Time: 12 a.m.



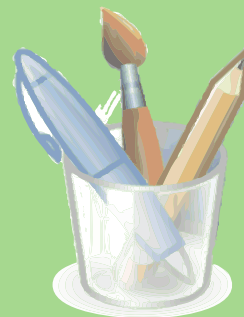
MONDAY

Feb. 8

**Artist Talk with Robert Andy
Coombs**

Contact: Ashley Hawley
ecds@ferris.edu

Location: Virtual
Time: 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.



For more events, check out calendar.ferris.edu

OPINIONS

Cora Hall | Editor in Chief | hallc36@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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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

By Cora Hall

Let them have resources

There is a fine line between using sports as an outlet for the stressors of daily life and depending on it to treat depression and anxiety.

It's a quietly toxic idea in sports culture; your mental health will improve if you get to play sports, you just need to focus on your sport and it will help you with your depression.

I am not discounting the positive impact sports can have on releasing stress and improving overall mental health. I was a year-round athlete in high school and it was incredibly cathartic to throw myself into practices and extra workouts. I think sometimes it did help me cope with my stress and baseline improved my mental health. But I didn't experience feelings of depression or anxiety in high school. And if you do, you shouldn't be relying on sports to fix your mental health issues.

I read an article last week that made me really think about this. A senior at Mona Shores High School died by suicide on Jan.

18. Seeing that story made my heart ache, for more reasons than one. It's one of the most devastating things in life, to see someone so young struggle silently and in the end, decide their life is not worth living.

The way the story was written, however, made my blood start to boil. The story leads with 18-year-old Brennan Dethloff being able to "count on" hockey to help him "battle with depression and anxiety." Once the pandemic put a halt on high school sports, "it was too much" for him to take. The way this story is written, most of the blame is put on the governor's order to halt high school sports and if only he had been able to play, he might still be here. A good portion of the story is also about the "Let Them Play" protests at the Michigan capitol.

Besides the issue of depending on sports to fix mental health issues, it feels disrespectful to use this tragic death for political gain—I saw a report that his name is being used as the main plaintiff

in a lawsuit filed Monday to allow high school sports to resume play.

The article does not mention if he was seeking therapy, or was on any sort of medication. But it repeatedly implies that if Brennan was not able to cope with his depression without hockey.

Why isn't the main takeaway from this gut-wrenching death a cry for more education on how to treat mental health for our teenagers? Why are we ignoring the point that is glaring us in the face: we are hurting our young athletes by letting them mainly—if not only—depend on playing their sport to deal with their mental health. Instead of an outcry for more resources and education for teenage athletes struggling with depression, a tragic death is politicized.

Sports can be ripped away from teens for a number of reasons: serious injuries, suspensions or simply aging out of competitive play. What should they do then? When a pandemic is no longer the reason for ending their

careers? When there isn't a government mandate to blame? I'm not saying whether or not high school sports should be playing. But simply resuming play without seriously making efforts to increase education on how to treat your mental health is just delaying the issue.

Your depression or anxiety will catch up with you one day. Are we going let our future kids get by with sports to cope and then leave them without knowing how to effectively deal with their very serious struggles once they can no longer play?

Your response to this can be to advocate for the kids to go back to playing, but not if you are going to disregard the real issue. We have to start talking to teenagers about their mental health and give them resources. The more we talk about this, the more kids we can reach and the more likely they are to seek out the research-based help that might save their lives.

Don't hate on herbal methods

You can support pharmaceutical and herbal remedies



Kaylin Johnson
Managing Copy Editor

"I'm both pro-herbal medicine and pro-vaccination because you can treat burns with aloe vera juice and sore throats with lavender-infused honey but you can't rid a country of polio with plants," said Tumblr user sedumjoy.

With the start of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, there has been more discussion than ever on the safety of vaccinations. Many people who generally favor vaccinations seem to be feeling apprehensive about these new vaccines.

Those who are against vaccination in any situation are often referred to as anti-vaxxers. The anti-vax movement has become increasingly common in the United States and only seems to be growing during the pandemic, though those who refrain from the COVID vaccine may not consider themselves full-fledged anti-vaxxers.

So how do anti-vaxxers plan to stay healthy? For many of them, the answer is herbal remedies. Since the anti-vax community has rightly acquired much contempt (Buzzfeed released an article titled "The Absolute Dumbest Things



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Manager

Anti-Vaxxers Are Actually Saying During the Coronavirus Pandemic"), it seems that the idea of herbal medication has also been scorned. And perhaps it should be in certain situations. I mean the claim that drinking orange juice will cure COVID-19 is ridiculous.

But I am here to vouch for the safe use of herbal remedies in conjunction with pharmaceutical medicine.

First of all, herbal remedies won't always work the same for different people, in the same way that medications can have differing effects. The best thing to do is to research your options. You may find that, despite lavender being the most popular herbal remedy to stress, it has no effect for you. Or maybe

Herbal methods | see page 9

HERBAL METHODS

Continued from page 8

you decided to try a melatonin supplement before getting a sleeping pill, but it keeps you up rather than putting you to sleep.

These are not uncommon occurrences in either natural or pharmaceutical medicines. Even with doctors you often have to try more than one medication before you find the one which works for you without concerning side effects. On three separate occasions, I have been given a common medication for my symptoms and have had to switch to something new because it did not work properly.

I have had this happen with both my prescriptions and with herbal remedies. Though activated charcoal is especially good at ridding the body of toxins, it will not work for me because it may also rid my body of the prescription medications I take.

For me, a combination of natural and prescription medicines have been my solution. I am on a common anxiety medication which helps but does not cure me. When I have breakthrough attacks it's lavender I turn to in order to help me calm. I am on a common migraine medication but I will still have around

six migraines a month. When these breakthrough migraines occur, I look for peppermint, eucalyptus and camphor.

Herbal remedies can be less expensive, are often helpful in strengthening the immune system and there are typically fewer side effects. Herbal remedies are realistic options to heal mild illnesses and injuries. That is the purpose and should be the extent of herbal medicine, though. As the original poster said, "you can't rid a country of polio with plants." Serious illnesses, mental disabilities and injuries should always be treated professionally with pharmaceuticals.

I use herbal medicine to supplement my own medications because I see it as healthier and it is what helps me the most. With my already numerous pill bottles, I don't see the value in adding more for issues I can deal with naturally. In saying that though, it is important to confirm with your doctors that there are no reactions between your herbal and prescription medications.

So get your vaccines and prescriptions but don't forget about the benefits of integrating herbal remedies.

GOT AN OPINION?

HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Deadline for submissions every Friday by 5 p.m.

Cora Hall | Editor-in-Chief | Email: hallc36@ferris.edu

1. Think of a topic that you feel strongly about.
2. Write out your thoughts in a coherent and respectful manner.
3. Include a headshot and some information about yourself (location, age, etc.).
4. Email your opinion to the editor for a chance to have your work published in our next issue!

Let the free market be free

The invisible hand in the market shouldn't be the government's



Ry Rodriguez
News Editor

This past week has shown the U.S. Government and owners of hedge funds not to mess with the average Joe.

GameStop common stock was averaging out \$40 closes before subreddit r/Wallstreetbets told their followers to help the struggling business out and buy the stock. Later that week GME topped out at 347.51 per NYSE.

Out of this the short-sellers, people who buy struggling to almost failing stocks to flip for profit, and hedge fund owners, aggressive group investors, struggled to make money and asked for buyouts.

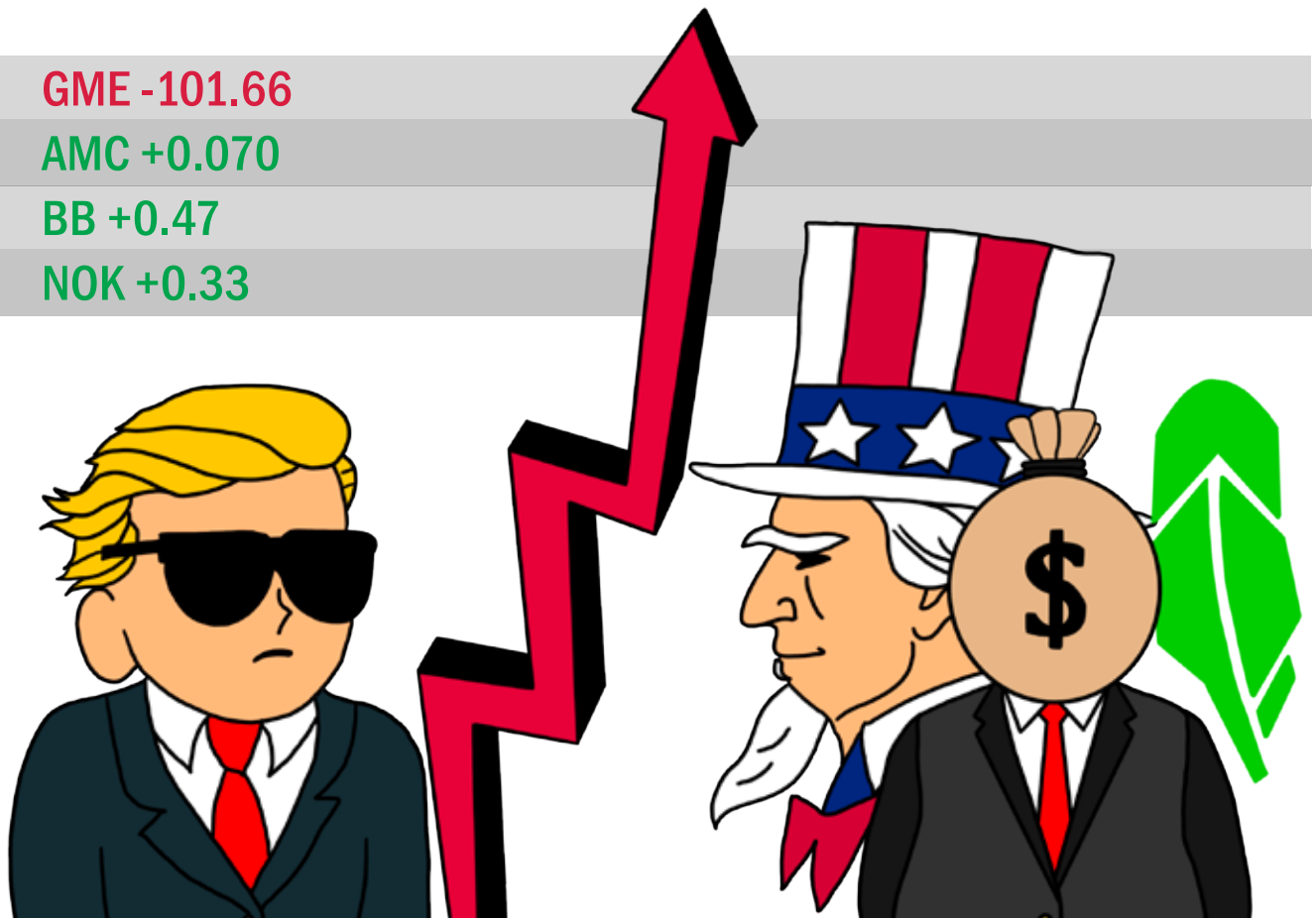
In my opinion, they should absolutely not be granted buyouts. One, they knew what they were doing, just because they profit most of the time, they know the high risk, high reward part, they should not get a bailout.

Two, hedge fund owners should not be comfortable in that being their only job, just because the internet can band together and mess up your business does not mean you should be mad at them, be mad that this risky job was yours and you lost it. Sorry, not sorry.

The government should always stay out of the NYSE in my opinion. The government and the NYSE is not a good measurement anymore. In 2020 we saw a Bear and Bull market just a few days from each other.

This should not happen if the government is struggling to help others and the NYSE is a counter-way to measure what the government is doing.

GME -101.66
AMC +0.070
BB +0.47
NOK +0.33



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Manager

If the government allows a bailout, I will be the first to write a list of names who voted to do so and make sure we see their replacement in the next election cycle.

I'm glad there is a probe with the market and how it stopped buyers from getting stocks and different terms being put in place because of GME and Reddit buyers.

Honestly, the government needs to focus on the struggling not the struggling to get rich. It makes no sense for the government to helpout the people who do not

need it, but just watch the people who need help the most struggle.

The governments place in a free-market is to keep it free, the invisible hand should not be the government. They should not help out hedge funds at all.

Market manipulators should not get a free pass or get out of jail free card because most of the government has shares in these hedge funds, it sucks to watch money go down the drain but again you knew what you were doing.

If it has to come down to it, I think there should be more probes into businesses that decided to put caps on stocks that only reach a fraction of the cost of a fortune 500 that has no caps.

Let the market be free and let the people control it. Just because you do not like what is going on does not mean you have to stop it.

Let the people actually trade, take down big money, and let average Joe win if they found a loophole in the NYSE. If not, expect a list of names to vote against soon.

SPORTS

Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor | sandeb16@ferris.edu

‘GERRY TIME’ ALL THE TIME



Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Wild

Mayhew scores his first career goal during his NHL debut last season. Mayhew scored two points last season and made season debut Jan. 31 against the Colorado Avalanche.

Former Bulldog hockey star beginning his second NHL season

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

Since his time as a Bulldog from 2013-2017, the legendary nickname “Gerry Time” has followed NHL player, Gerald Mayhew, everywhere he’s gone.

“I thought it would leave after I left Ferris State,” Mayhew said. “I do not know why it stuck. Some guys still call me it daily. I hope it stays with me the rest of my life.”

But where did this nickname come from? It began in 2014 after Mayhew, as a freshman, scored a game-winning overtime goal to send the Bulldogs to the WCHA Final Five Championship game. In a social media post following the game, former team beat writer, Harrison Watt, brought the nickname to life.

“I only had a second to think,” Watt said via email. “I knew the guys called him Gerry and I felt like it was no longer overtime, it

was his time. #Gerrytime was born in that tweet.”

The former bulldog winger is now in his second season in the big leagues with the Minnesota Wild. He previously spent nearly four seasons with the American Hockey League’s Iowa Wild after going undrafted. In his last season in Iowa, Mayhew earned the prestigious honor of winning the Les Cunningham Award as the league’s most valuable player in 2019.

“Gerry had this enormous chip on his shoulder,” Watt said on Mayhew’s play. “He played like he was playing for his life, like he had to prove to everyone that he was great.”

It was then on May 10, 2019, Mayhew was told to pack his bags at an unexpected time.

“I was at the bar after the game with teammates getting something to eat and having some beers,” Mayhew said. “Then I

got the call. I had to go to the rink and get my stuff. I was overwhelmed. It meant a lot to me.”

He then joined his new team and began learning his new role with Minnesota.

“It was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do,” Mayhew said. “You go from playing 25 minutes a night in the American (Hockey) League and come up to the NHL and play maybe six to seven minutes some nights. I just try to make the most of every shift.”

As the time ran down in an early-season defeat against Toronto, Mayhew was delivered his chance to play in his first NHL contest. He certainly delivered, scoring a rebound goal to complete a dream-like experience.

“I couldn’t really celebrate since we were down, so I acted like I had done it before. Deep down, I was ecstatic.”

In this unorthodox new season, Mayhew and the Wild are still getting used to the changes with COVID-19.

“I had COVID, so I don’t have to be tested every morning like other players due to protocol. (Since) we were in the bubble for playoffs, some of those guys had an intro to it.”

While there are many changes off the ice, there are noticeable differences on the ice as well.

“There are no fans in the stands, which (was) a momentum builder. Since everyone is locked into the game, no one really notices it. The NHL has done a pretty good job of trying to make fake crowd noise and keep it the way it was. I think everybody has done a good job adjusting to it.”

Mayhew and the Wild will face off on Feb. 4 against the divisional rival Colorado Avalanche.

WEEKEND
SCORECARDWomen’s
Basketball

Jan. 29 - Ferris 51, Michigan Tech 66
Jan. 30 - Ferris 55, Michigan Tech 63

Men’s
Basketball

Jan. 29 - Ferris 60, Michigan Tech 57
Jan. 30 - Ferris 56, Michigan Tech 54

Hockey

Sept. 14 - Ferris 4, Northern Michigan 5
Sept. 15 - Ferris 3, Northern Michigan 5

Preparing to carry on the legacy

How volleyball plans on defending conference titles

Brody Keiser
Sports Reporter

Maintaining the elite standard of Bulldog volleyball established by the program in recent seasons will not be easy, but the team is ready for the challenge.

The Bulldogs are coming off a 25-6 record from last season and have won six consecutive GLIAC regular seasons and tournament championships. They have also appeared in nine consecutive NCAA tournaments. Junior setter Julia Mitchell understands what it takes to continue the success of Bulldog volleyball.

"Bulldog volleyball is so much more than just volleyball," Mitchell said. "It's being completely devoted to the team and what we stand for, continuing the legacy of the players before us and respecting the game by leaving Bulldog volleyball in an even better place than the one we received it as."

As a veteran player, Mitchell knows that she cannot expect her team to be good simply because they have been good in the past. However, she believes her team can continue the success of previous Bulldog teams by trusting the process and rising to the challenge. Part of that is using her experience as a player to help the underclassmen.

"It's been tough because we've had six freshmen come in and they didn't really get a taste of what it's like to be a college athlete because of COVID," Mitchell said. "I'm doing my best to get them prepared for whenever the real world starts again so that we're ready to kick butt."

Ferris was ranked 17 by the 2021 American Volleyball Coaches Association Division II Coaches Top 25 Spring Pre-season Poll. Not only did the Bulldogs earn recognition as a Top 25 team, but they were also the only school from the GLIAC to earn that honor.

Despite the ranking, Mitchell understands that her team still must prove that they deserve that ranking by playing strong volleyball when they first take the court Feb. 19 against Northern Michigan University.

"Being ranked is sweet, but at the end of the day, if we don't come out in our first games and show what we've been working on then the rankings don't mean anything," Mitchell said. "It's sweet, but now we have to prove it."

Offseason work was especially important this year because of COVID-19. Mitchell said most of their team meet-



Photo by: Benjamin Totten | Torch Photographer

The Ewigleben Sports Arena will be empty due to GLIAC rules prohibit fans in arenas.

ings were virtual and focused on team chemistry rather than volleyball. She feels building that chemistry allowed her team to be "at a more advanced level" when they first took the court together this year.

A large part of building chemistry included integrating new assistant coach Hannah Wuest into the program. Wuest believes her time as an assistant coach at the University of Indianapolis and playing experience at Elmhurst College helped prepare her for her role with the Bulldogs.

"As an assistant coach, you have to have relationships with the players," Wuest said. "The most important thing about my college career was that it allows me to relate to the players. I know about the early mornings, the lifting, the practices and playing through injuries. There's a lot of connection and ways we can build trust to make a successful program."

Mitchell echoed similar thoughts about her new assistant coach.

"She brings a lot of new experience because she was a college athlete and she's been in our shoes," Mitchell said.

"It's really nice being coached by someone who's been there and done that. She says things in a way that resonates with us. That is a really, really good thing for us. She's a confident coach and I think that's what we needed, especially during this crazy time."

Wuest's time so far at Ferris has been "amazing" and she looks forward to seeing what the team can do in a shortened fourteen game spring season and GLIAC tournament before picking back up in the fall. Through everything, her goal is to be consistent.

"I want to come into practice with the same mindset and just control what I can control," Wuest said. "We might have to miss a few games or have someone test positive for COVID. There's so many variables and our lineup could constantly change, so I want to be that one constant person in their lives who can put them in the right positions to succeed."

Dominant play on the court has become the norm for Ferris volleyball, and Mitchell and Wuest believe the team has what it takes to continue that dominance into this season.

Slow starts

Women's basketball drops back-to-back games against Michigan Tech



Photo by: Cora Hall | Editor in Chief

Mallory McCartney takes a shot over a Michigan Tech player; McCartney averaged 11.5 points over the weekend.

Brody Keiser
Sports Reporter

The Bulldogs struggled in the first quarter of both their matchups with Michigan Tech over the weekend, setting the tone for consecutive losses against the Huskies.

Ferris was outscored 24 - 13 in the first quarter of their Jan. 29 matchup with Michigan Tech and 22-9 in the first quarter of their Jan. 30 matchup.

"Michigan Tech did a really nice job," head coach Kurt Westendorp said following the Bulldog's 66 - 51 loss on Friday, Jan. 29. "They put us on our heels a little bit, which is one of the things we were trying to do to them. I felt like we were getting a lot of looks that we wanted, but they just weren't going down in that first quarter. I felt like we did a decent job offensively and just weren't able to capitalize."

After leading 24 - 13 in the first quarter, the Huskies went on a 7 - 0 run to start the second quarter. Ferris freshman guard Kady Blanchard ended Michigan Tech's run with a pull-up jumper from the free throw line to get the Bulldogs on the board in the second quarter. Ferris would go on to outscore the Huskies 15 - 12 in the second quarter and trail 36 - 28 at halftime.

"We had a great second quarter," Westendorp said. "We played with so much pace and tempo and we had them on their heels. That's also when we were able to get stops defensively. Then we were able to get going in transition because we didn't have to take the ball out of the basket."

Sophomore guard Mallory McCartney spoke on her team's slow start to the game.

"So far that's what we have been known for is battling our way out of holes that we dig by ourselves and I think we are finally realizing you can't do that against good teams and still expect to win," McCartney said. "We just need to be more consistent in everything we do and play with a chip on our shoulder."

In the third quarter, Michigan Tech pulled away quickly with a 12 - 2 run in the first six minutes of action, giving them a 46 - 3 0 lead. They ended the quarter outscoring Ferris 22 - 7 and took a 58 - 35 lead into the fourth quarter.

The offense for Ferris heated up in the fourth quarter. They scored 14 points in six minutes and forced the Huskies to use a timeout to halt the

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Women's Basketball

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Bulldog's momentum after cutting the deficit to 15 points. Michigan Tech's lead did not slip below 15 for the remainder of the game, resulting in their 66 - 51 victory.

The loss knocked Ferris to 3 - 5 overall and was their third loss by double-digit points this season.

Blanchard led the Bulldogs in scoring with 12 points and chipped in eight rebounds and three assists.

Ferris finished the game with their second worst shooting percentage of the season, hitting just 34.4% of their shots from the floor, including 21.4% from three-point range.

Following the loss, Westendorp said his team has to "step up and learn." He added that his team was "a step slow."

The Bulldog's second matchup with the Huskies came on Saturday, Jan. 30. Ferris committed four turnovers on its first four possessions, allowing Michigan Tech to claim an early 10 - 0 lead just two minutes into the first quarter.

Michigan Tech extended their lead to 14 - 0 before senior guard Samantha Krauss got the Bulldogs on the scoreboard with a layup with 3:30 left in the first quarter. At the end of the first quarter, the Huskies led 22 - 9, including 11 points off eight Bulldog turnovers.

In the first five minutes of the second quarter, the Bulldogs went on a 12 - 2 run and cut the Huskies' lead to three points. Ferris kept the momentum going after a Michigan Tech timeout and trailed 31 - 28 at halftime. Junior guard Ellie Mackay led the Huskies with 17 points in the first half and Blanchard led the Bulldogs with 11 points.

Westendorp liked that his team fought back to keep the game competitive after a rough start.

"Our kids showed heart today," Westendorp said. "We've got a group in that locker room that knows what it takes. You could never doubt the fiber of their character. They're a bunch of fighters, and we knew they'd come out here and fight, so I'm really proud that they were able to make that a game after about as bad of a start as you could have ever had."

Part of the reason for the Bulldog's strong second quarter was limiting the Huskies to just nine points. That mark represented the second fewest points Ferris has allowed in a quarter all season.

To start the third quarter, McCartney hit a three pointer to tie the game, but the Huskies would go on to outscore the Bulldogs 17 - 15 in the quarter. They took a 48 - 43 lead into the final quarter of play.

The Huskies prevented Ferris from ever capturing the lead in the fourth quarter and emerged victorious 63 - 55. They did not trail throughout the entirety of the game, and Mackay finished with 31 points, tied for the second most points a player has scored against the Bulldogs all season.

Ferris struggled from the free throw line all game. They made just 40% (6-15) of their tries from the line, well below their season average of 78.9%. Blanchard and McCartney each had 13 points in the loss.

Despite losing a second game in a row, Blanchard was proud of the way her team played in the second game.

"Our team has so much grit and fight and it really showed to be able to come back against a good team like Tech," Blanchard said. "We put up a hard fought battle that second game. Tech is a very physical team and I don't think any of us backed down, we gave it right back to them."

After losing consecutive games against the Huskies, Ferris sits at 3 - 6 overall and will face Grand Valley Feb. 6 and 7.

Super Facts LV

Super Bowl LV will be one for the history books



Graphic by: Brooke Martin | Production Assistant

Austin Arquette
Sports Reporter

For the first time in the NFL's history, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers will host the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl 55 inside Raymond James Stadium.

This Super Bowl will have multiple historical happenings even before kickoff. While both teams squared off in the regular season back in week 12, when the Chiefs beat the Buccaneers 27 - 24 at their home stadium, the game was still a hard-fought close contest. Now that they will face off again in Tampa, both teams understand their opponents and are ready to compete at a shot for glory.

The Chiefs won Super Bowl 54 and look to become the eighth team to repeat as champions. However, on the other side of the ball, this will be only the second time that the Buccaneers will play in the Super bowl. The first time was in 2002 when they beat the Oakland Raiders. Kansas City will make their fourth Super Bowl appearance as they look for their third win.

While the Buccaneers make their second appearance in the big game, their quarterback is not shy from the spotlight. This will be Tom Brady's 10th Super Bowl appearance, which is an NFL record. Brady made his first nine Super Bowl appearances with the New England Patriots.

When talking about Tom Brady in the Super Bowl you cannot leave out Brady's six Super Bowl rings. If his team wins Sunday Brady will become the first player ever to win seven NFL championships. Three other NFL players have won a combined six championships: Fuzzy Thurston, Forrest Gregg and Herb Adderley.

Kansas City's side of records will include their star quarterback Patrick Mahomes. He will be looking to become the youngest quarterback in NFL history to win multiple Super Bowls at the age of 25. Age may be just a number to both quarterbacks, but to Brady, father time will not slow him down. At age 43 this will be Brady's third Super Bowl since he turned 40 and no other quarterback has ever made the big game in their 40s.

This matchup between the two quarter-

backs, Mahomes and Brady, will mark the first time the previous two winning Super Bowl quarterbacks will face each other, as both quarterbacks look to add another most valuable player to their resumes so will their head coaches.

Andy Reid, the head coach for Kansas City, and Bruce Arians, who coaches Tampa, have only coached two games against one another. In those two games each coach has a win over the other and both were decided by three points.

Kansas City's path to Super Bowl LV started by the team winning a franchise record of 14 games in the regular season and then they beat the Browns and Bills in the playoffs to advance. Tampa Bay however made it to the Super Bowl after they went 11-5 in the regular season, while they took on Washington, the Saints and the Packers in the playoffs. Both teams met in the regular season prior to their match up on Sunday.

Each team will look for their offenses to be the focus of their games as this is the heart and soul of both teams. Arians and Reid are both pass oriented coaches with each team having solid options at star quarterbacks. Mahomes and Brady both ranked in the top five of the leagues in passing yards and touchdowns this season. Brady threw for 4,633 yards (third) and 40 TDs (second), while Mahomes threw for 4,740 yards (second) and 38 TDs (fourth). Both quarterbacks also rank in the top three in passing yards per game as Brady averages 289.6 and Mahomes averages 316.

The two teams will look for their star play makers that have shined all year to get them to the Super Bowl. The Chiefs will look for wide receiver Tyreek Hill and tight end Travis Kelce. The Chiefs pass catchers will also have Mecole Hardman to help catch passes but will lean more on Hill and Kelce.

While Kansas City confines itself to less play makers than Tampa Bay, the Buccaneers will look to make use of all their options. The Buccaneers will spread the ball more evenly throughout wide receivers Mike Evans, Chris Godwin, Antonio Brown, Scotty Miller and tight end Rob Gronkowski.

Miller might be the biggest secret weapon in the Super Bowl, as he has been one of Brady's top deep-play targets with an average of 15.2 yards per catch. The running game for both teams will be there but the emphasis will be on passing.

Unfortunately, the defensive side of things is not going to be a huge decision maker in the winner of this game. Both defenses have been vulnerable but have areas that will help their respective teams. Kansas City will have major interior presence in Chris Jones and the backfield Tyrann Mathieu will roam around. Tampa Bay has an effective pass rush behind Jason Pierre-Paul and Shaquil Barrett as well as rookie safety in Antoine Winfield Jr.

The Chiefs defense will be intriguing to watch as their defensive coordinator for Kansas City, Steve Spagnuolo, has schemed against Tom Brady. Spagnuolo helped the New York Giants upset the Patriots perfect season in the Super Bowl back in 2007. However, with so many weapons and players to scheme around in Tampa it will be a heavier task. Super Bowl LV will mark the second straight championship in which both teams primarily wear red as their main uniform colors. This might make it difficult for viewers to distinguish who is who.

The Super Bowl will still host fans. There will be 22,000 fans in total. 7,500 of them will be vaccinated health care workers who have received free tickets from the league. Sarah Thomas will become the first woman to officiate in a Super Bowl this year apart of Carl Cheffers crew.

The Super Bowl LV halftime show will be headlined by three-time Grammy award winner The Weeknd. Miley Cyrus will perform as the headliner to the NFL's TikTok tailgate party, which is new this year. R&B artist Jazmine Sullivan will join country singer Eric Church for a duet of the national anthem. This year's Super Bowl will host a special pregame coin toss as poet Amanda Gorman will recite an original poem.

Jim Nantz, Tony Romo, Tracy Wolfson and Jay Feely will call Super Bowl LV which kicks off Sunday, Feb. 7 at 6:30 p.m.