



The Ferris State Torch

93 YEARS OF ILLUMINATING THE TRUTH

Big Rapids, Michigan

Week of March 20 - 27, 2024

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Feeding Ferris

Group takes on updating food pantry on campus



Photo credit: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

The food pantry located in the West Campus Commons is filled with essentials for students to access throughout the year.

Isabelle Marks
News Reporter

A small group in the leadership program at Ferris, coordinated by the Career and Professional Success office, chose to tackle food insecurity as their community impact project.

While there are several food pantries on campus, the group decided to focus on the pantry located in the West Campus Commons. The group wanted to focus on promoting to students that they have access to resources for food on campus.

Criminal justice junior Katlynn Sturis believes that the project is an important one.

“During my time at Ferris, I’ve noticed a lack of information about existing food pantries or other initiatives aimed at addressing food insecurity,” Sturis said. “This lack of awareness stems from insufficient advertising and promotion. I am determined to change this by actively pro-

moting these resources to aid students in need.”

The group is also working on providing healthier options at the food pantry, as well as recipes.

“We’re helping try to create recipes to spark creativity for students to use all non-perishable items,” Ellis said. “So, your pasta, canned fruit and vegetables, different sealed things that will last on a shelf for quite a while.”

Pre-medicine junior Elizabeth Reed expressed how this project is personal to her.

“I work two jobs just to afford tuition, food and the books that I need for these classes,” Reed said. “I kind of have the personal experience of not being able to afford food. I’ve seen the negative impact of not being able to eat breakfast one morning, and then you still have to go to that 9:00 a.m. exam, and it is a struggle.”

Business administration senior Madison Ellis saw how people generally react to food

insecurity.

“We noticed that there is a certain stigma about students going to a food bank,” Ellis said. “They think that it is scary or unknown, and there is a certain social stigma surrounding them that might want to fray them away from it. So, we want to help eliminate that stigma and help normalize it.”

The group expressed that there is a lack of promotion of available resources here on campus, which can lead to students not knowing what is available to them.

“I think some of the negativity behind getting food assistance in general is you have to ask for help, and sometimes people just don’t know where to ask for help,” Reed said. “My first two years here at Ferris I didn’t realize that we had a food bank or the Wesley House.”

The West Campus food pantry is open to all students, and you only need your student ID number to get food.

“Accessing the pantry requires visiting their office, where you’ll be asked to sign in. No income requirements or paperwork are necessary; simply present your student ID during the sign-in process. From there, you will have access to the food pantry,” Sturis said.

If you wish to donate, Amazon wishlist links are advertised across campus on posters, as well as posted on social media. You can also donate non-perishable items. You can drop them off at the CAPS office on the lower level of the David L. Eisler Center. Lastly, monetary donations are also accepted at the CAPS office, although checks cannot be accepted.

The food pantry, located within West Campus Commons, operates from Monday to Friday, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The food pantry is closed on Sundays.



Photo courtesy of Trishia Blackwell

Flyers for the food pantry can be found around campus.

Got news? Let us know.
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News

Ember St. Amour | News Editor | stamoue@ferris.edu

Gasless gas station

Big Rapids Wesco's pumps close down



Photo credit: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

Wesco, located in front of the Big Rapids Walmart, is currently undergoing construction on their gasoline pumps.

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Wesco gas pumps were blocked off while construction began on March. 4.

The Big Rapids Wesco is the only Wesco in the area without gas. The pumps have been blocked off to prevent people from entering the area. The store is still open, selling a variety of snacks, drinks and lottery tickets.

Secondary English education freshman Kyren Passenier is part of Wesco's rewards program.

"If there was a Wesco that was 20 minutes away, I would still think about it," Passenier said. "Just because I would rather be able to use my rewards and get like money back for buying gas from them than going to another gas station and ending up just like paying more overall."

The closest Wesco that has gas is in Reed City, so those looking to get their rewards for buying gas in Big Rapids will have to travel roughly 30 minutes to obtain their rewards.

Psychology junior Abby Winkle noticed that the gas pumps were barricaded when she drove past the area.

"I do wonder why they have to barb it off," Winkle said. "Are people just gonna try to use it anyway, don't they see the sign? I feel like the bars and the caging are a little excessive."

Winkle plans to continue to go to Wesco for the convenience store, as she has been going there weekly.

"I'll probably go to Wesco still for the slushies because that's kind of our little tradition," Winkle said. "We do that before we watch 'The Bachelor' on Mondays."

Wesco plans to reopen their gas pumps before Memorial Day, but they will continue to run as a convenience store in the meantime.

Wesco declined to comment on why the pumps are closed at the time of this article.



Photo credit: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor



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WWW.FSUTORCH.COM

Ferris State Torch Corrections

"Being Brutus"

Kolton Grice was misnamed as "Kolton Grive" in the photo caption.

"Bulldog hockey suffers first round exit"

The accompanying photo was taken at a game against Northern Michigan, not Bemidji State. Stepan Pokorny was wrongfully excluded from the list of seniors.

"Gotion Timeline"

Ferris State is not a financial partner in the Gotion project.

Corrections can be submitted through email at fsutorcheditor@gmail.com

More than coffee

Veterans use weekly coffee days as more than just a get together

Tate Zellman
News Reporter

Veterans schedule Wednesdays to enjoy free coffee but use them as opportunities to grow bonds through their different backgrounds, experiences and stories.

The Veteran Coffee Days take place in 121C Veteran Resource Center in the David L. Eisler Center. Free coffee is given to Veteran students, faculty and staff on campus. While the event is held, Veterans have the opportunity to share their backgrounds and past experiences of their times of service with one another to help grow the community of those on campus.

History junior Joshua MacDonald, a member of the Civil Affairs, noted why the Coffee Day event is more important than just a social gathering.

"Everyone in the military loves caffeine," MacDonald said. "So, it's a way to bring us all together. But we want to raise awareness that there is a space for Veterans to use and not just Veterans, like children of Veterans, literary anyone can use that space. But also create that kind of community that if you need something we can help. So, we're trying to build a space that we can really cultivate that for everyone at school."

Additionally, MacDonald shared an experience where a Veteran needed a ride to the other side of the state. They had somebody else already going there so they were able to give them a ride. MacDonald also stated that a lot of time in the military, some start missing a feeling of camaraderie, which can cause some to have shared experiences and build connections.

History junior Jonathan Brown, a work person and socializer for the Veterans, tied in the opportunity to listen to different stories from military individuals as being one of the important aspects of the Coffee Days.

"Each Veteran has their own story," Brown said. "Some will tell, while some won't tell. You have to sit there and listen and build that trust with them to actually hear their story. The awesome thing about the army, or any military branch you're in is we're not all the same. We look the same but come from so many different backgrounds and so many different experiences it's awesome when you get to pull an event like coffee every Wednesday where you get to listen to stories."

Brown also mentioned that the Veterans call themselves a "ginormous" family, and

Veteran Resources

How to get benefits:

- Send Military Transcripts to Ferris
- Apply for Veterans Affairs Benefits

If qualified apply for:

- Ferris' Military Veteran scholarship
- Children of Veterans Grant
- Michigan National Guard Tuition Grant

Veteran Resource Center helps with:

- Transition assistance from the military to college
- VA compensation and disability claims
- Applications for VA healthcare
- Retrieval of military records
- Answering any military questions

Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

their student status draws them together. Brown himself described it as a rapport with brothers and sisters.

Assistant Director of Veterans Services Sean Allen shares an example of other events related to the Veterans.

"The Student Veterans

of America's RSO comes to campus, and they have their meeting every two weeks to talk about what they're doing on campus," Allen said. "And every year they struggle with it, and we're getting back to the idea of turning it back into a social type of event. That's essentially what the

SVA is, which that people in that group can share awareness in a meet in greet. Being a part of that you want to be with like-minded people, and that's what that group is, is for like-minded Veterans being in that space."

The next event for the Veterans will be a Veteran Sup-

port Table on Wednesday, March 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and it'll take place at the Rankin Center just outside the Center for Student Involvement. Visit the ferris.edu Campus Calendar to learn more.

ON THE RECORD

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Ghost witness

March 12, 9:30 a.m.- Officers responded to lot 9A after a student reported that her car had been hit. A note was found on the vehicle from a witness; however, the witness did not get the plate number. The case was closed due to lack of information.

False intruder

March 12, 8:30 p.m. - Officers responded to the Center of Virtual Learning after a student was trying to gain access to a part of the building and ignored the employee asking for identification. The officers found out that the student was authorized to be in the restricted area.

Accidental swiper

March 13, unknown time - Officers responded to Finch Court after someone reported that their roommate who had moved out had stolen some of their stuff. The roommate was leaving in a hurry and had accidentally taken the students' things. No charges were filed.

Burst of flame

March 14, 4:54 p.m. - A vehicle spontaneously caught on fire in lot 7B. The fire department responded and the fire was extinguished.

Oops I forgot

March 15, unknown time - A student called to report that their vehicle had been stolen from lot 3G. The student ended up finding their car in a different part of the lot.

Let's play robbers

March 17, unknown time - A Cramer Hall student reported that their room had been ransacked and that their stuff had been stolen. The student later found out that their friends had taken their stuff as a prank, and the items were given back.

One month of ScholarshipUniverse

Students report issues with new scholarship program

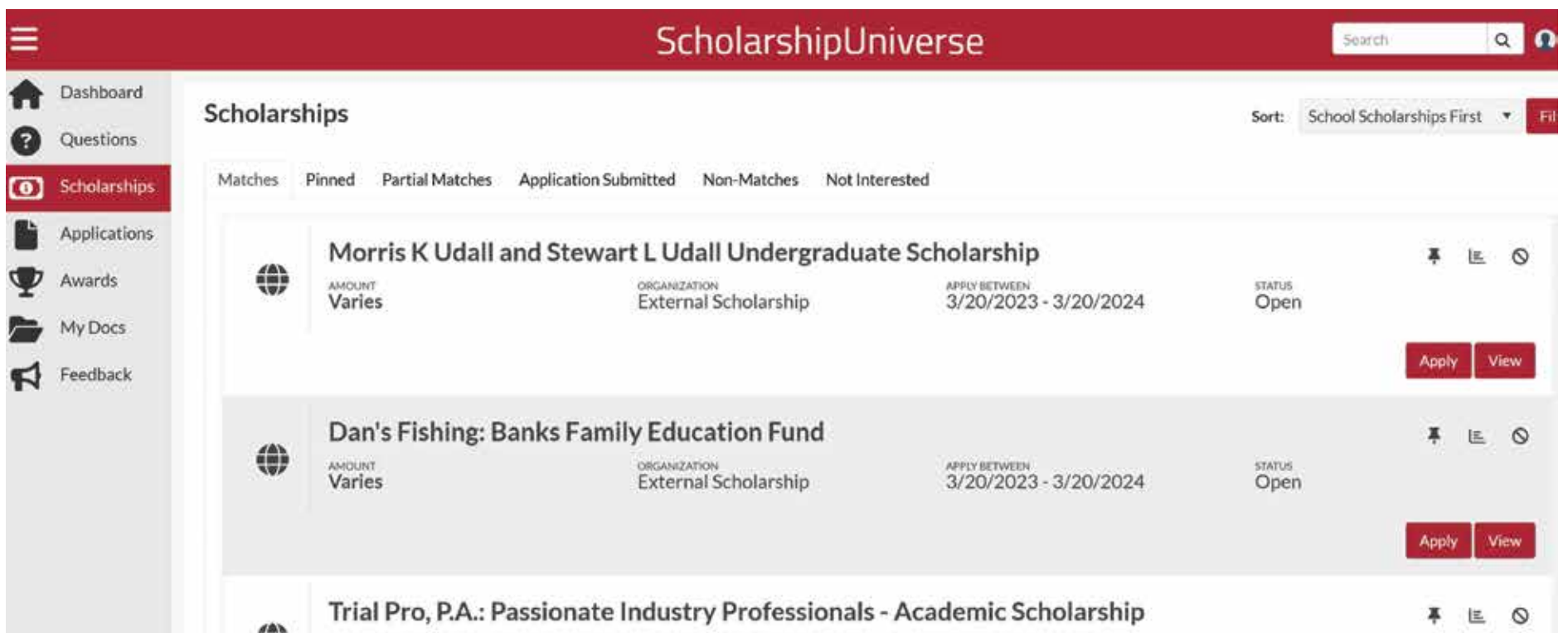


Photo credit: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

The scholarship search page that students can utilize within Ferris's new ScholarshipUniverse site.

Kourtney Fairchild
News Reporter

Ferris recently announced Phase I of ScholarshipUniverse, a personalized scholarship platform for students, after a delay in the release of Free Application for Federal Student Aid information.

Federal Student Aid announced that they were delaying the release of the 2024-25 FAFSA data to colleges until "the first half of March." After Ferris receives this data, the release date for Phase II will be announced.

Phase I has over 10,000 external scholarships for students to apply for. Phase II will include all of the donor scholarships as many of them are "need-based," so FAFSA information is needed to determine each student's eligibility.

When students first open ScholarshipUniverse, they are asked to answer a series of questions about themselves and their family history. This includes military experience, medical history and job history.

The system tracks how

many scholarships the student is eligible for as questions are answered, and more scholarships are recommended the more questions are answered.

Some students who have tried the platform have reported problems with the system's recommended scholarships.

Digital animation and game design sophomore Maddie Epps said the recommended scholarships either do not match up with your answers or have very specific requirements that were

not asked about.

"You're spending time looking into the scholarships thinking you'll apply, but you don't qualify," Epps said. "They give you all these options but it's just wasting your time."

One of the questions the system asks is if you are considering going to law school. Despite answering no to this question, Epps reported getting many recommended scholarships for law students.

Radiography junior Adrian Ewald said the platform al-

lows you to filter for scholarships you're a match for, but the matches are inaccurate.

"I used the filters but a lot of the scholarships still didn't pertain to me and were for nursing students or required you to already work in your field," Ewald said. "The hardest part was finding scholarships that are relevant to my program and I can actually apply for."

Students also reported that some of the scholarships have video or essay requirements that are unclear on ScholarshipUniverse.

Despite these issues with the platform, many students agree that it is the best option they have right now and they're eagerly awaiting the next phase.

The FAFSA information should be sent out to colleges soon, so look out for the Financial Aid Office's announcement of the release date for Phase II.

The Financial Aid Office declined to comment at the time of this article.

Maddie Epps is a former Torch employee.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Michigan: The Michigan State Police announced Thursday that they plan to amend their high-speed chase policy, reduce the amount of accidents.

The policy will take place immediately, with officers being instructed not to engage in a pursuit unless they have probable cause that someone in the vehicle has committed a felony, according to The Detroit News.

Michigan State Police Director Col. James F. Grady feels that the

"High-speed pursuits are one of the most dangerous circumstances police officers face," said Grady. "A key consideration in any pursuit must be the seriousness of the underlying crime and whether the risks of a pursuit outweigh the public safety benefits of immediately apprehending the suspect."

MSP first LT. Mike Shaw explained that the high-level crimes that would allow a

pursuit to still take place include things like kidnapping, murder and home invasion, according to CBS News.

"The reason for that is we can count on the troopers and their driving ability and how they pursue people and all the training that they get, but we can't count on the suspects...and usually what happens if you get into some of these low-level crimes, the suspect will end up hitting an innocent bystander or a trooper will end up getting injured in that pursuit," Shaw said.

The policy only prevents the pursuit of chases. If the officers get whoever's breaking the law's license plate information, they are still able to determine who to charge for the crime.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Gaza: Al-Shifa Hospital in Northern Gaza was raided by Israeli troops on Monday.

Israeli troops used roughly 15 tanks and bulldozers to raid the hospital, according to The New York Times. They also stated that the Israeli military raided the hospital in retaliation to shots that were fired at them from the hospital.

The Israeli military has made claims that the hospital is being used as a secret base for the Hamas military, which the Hamas military denied.

The hospital and the surrounding area have roughly 30,000 patients, citizens and medical workers.

The Israeli military has also claimed that they have killed 20 militants so far. They also said that they had killed senior Hamas official Faiq Mabhouh, but the claims were not confirmed.

Israeli military's chief spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari spoke about the ongoing war.

"We know that senior Hamas terrorists have regrouped inside Al-Shifa Hospital and are using it to command attacks against Israel," Hagari said.

The evacuation process for those in the area has begun. While no one is going to be forced to leave, Hagari said that passage would be provided for those who want to evacuate.

Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

SDS and GPhiO host Palestine discussion



Photo by: Blase Gapinski | Freelance Reporter

Senior Forest Hamilton presents his demands for Ferris' involvement.

Blase Gapinski
Freelance Reporter

Students for a Democratic Society and Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority hosted a movie night and presentation on March 13 to shed light on campus about the injustices faced in Palestine.

SDS is a new registered student organization, and the primary focus since its initial start has been organizing against wars waged by the United States. SDS is aiming to inform students about the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

The selected documentary was "Gaza Fights for Freedom," directed by Abby Martin, which focused on life in Gaza well before the attacks in 2023.

The movie night gave students a chance to see boots-on-the-ground footage of what's happening in Palestine and to talk with

fellow students after the film to discuss how they felt and what they believe needs to be done.

Since Israel became a nation in 1948, the land has been a scene for religious and geopolitical conflict as well as occupation and violation of international law.

Hamas, an Arabic acronym for the Islamic resistance movement, has been in control of Palestine since 2007. Hamas is the largest militant group across Palestinian territories such as The Gaza Strip and West Bank. They are committed to armed resistance against Israel and the creation of an Islamic Palestinian state in Israel's place.

Oct. 7, 2023, marks the start of a wave of surprise attacks led by Hamas on Israeli military posts and civilian communities. Since then, the Israeli military has continued attacks on Hamas to this day.

Welding engineering senior For-

rest Hamilton is the president of SDS. He selected the film for the event to try and show the humanitarian side of what is happening to the people living in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

"Over 30,000 people have died there and there's very little talk about it on campus," Hamilton said. "Often in our history classes, we talk about how we wouldn't let something like the Holocaust happen again, but hundreds of innocent people are being killed every single day. This has been going on far longer than our recent media portrays and something has to be done."

CONT.ON PG. 7

Radiant resilience

Ferris' theatre program presents the story of the "Radium Girls"



Photo by: Anthony Malinowski | Managing Copy Editor

Jason Zawacki and Andrew Klepser rehearse for the upcoming musical.



Photo by: Anthony Malinowski | Managing Copy Editor

Junior Emma Olinger and freshman Andrew Klepser act out a scene during rehearsal for "Radium Girls".

Ni'Jah Rankin
Culture Reporter

Ferris theatre's 2024 spring production brings a theatrical version of the true story "Radium Girls" to Williams Auditorium.

The spring play is about a group of female factory workers, also known as the Radium Girls, who painted glow-in-the-dark watches for World War I and contracted radium poisoning. The play tells the story of women trying to hold their company accountable for causing their illnesses.

Theatre director Dennis Henry believes this story is significant because it shows how these women defended themselves.

"These women could have just taken quick payouts or gone away quietly," Henry said. "They made a really big difference and got a lot of attention because they stood up to the people who were hurting them."

The play takes place from 1918 to 1928, around the time that women received the right to vote. Henry references the culture of that period because not a lot of people pushed back against injustices.

"This was 100 years ago, so that sort of thing didn't happen a lot," Henry said. "Even though they were going to die, they never gave up hope."

Even though the story may seem sad, Henry describes it in a different light and believes that it's hopeful and enjoyable.

Elementary education freshman Branden Tippy plays a reporter named Jack Youngwood in this production.

"Initially, it was just a thing to do with my friends," Tippy said. "Then I grew to love it on my own."

Biotechnology senior Kendall Paige plays the role of the sob sister, Nancy Jane Harlan. She first started theatre at Ferris by a Zoom audition during COVID-19 and has continued to audition for roles since.

"It's one of the more serious plays we've done in a while," Paige said. "It's been really fun to experience that side of acting."

Paige also notes that watching a live performance is a great experience and would like everyone to enjoy it.

"We want you to be clapping and

laughing," Paige said. "It's an art I think everyone should see at least once in their lives."

For more information, there will be a "Radium Girls" show informational tabling at the David L. Eisler Center on Thursday, March 21 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door.

"Radium Girls" performance will be throughout March 21 to March 23 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Sunday from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Spreading anti-violence awareness

AVA's events for the rest of March

Kate Babel
Freelance Reporter

The Anti-Violence Alliance has plans for the next few weeks as they spread their message about prevention in their upcoming events.

The AVA helps create a safer campus environment for students by raising awareness to prepare students on how to deal with these problems and how to prevent them. They are hosting their curriculum "Bringing in the Bystander" throughout March to teach students that being a bystander is not standing on the sidelines and doing nothing.

Office on Violence Against Women Project Director and Violence Response Coordinator Sydney Mingori states how the curriculum can help people learn about and know what to do when a potentially harmful situation comes.

"Bystanders get a really bad rep of just not doing anything or the people often think that they're harmful to a situation," Mingori said. "It absolutely can be, but if you aren't given the right tools and skills to learn how to intervene, then you can make

Bringing in the Bystander

Thursday, March 21

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
David L. Eisler Center, Founder's Room

Monday, March 25

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
David L. Eisler Center, Room 213

Recognize and Response Table

Thursday, March 21 & Tuesday, March 26

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
David L. Eisler Center, Interdisciplinary Resource Center

ANTI-VIOLENCE ALLIANCE

Visit the AVA website



fsuantiviolence.org

Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

that role as a bystander be a positive thing and you can look out for those harmful things and intervene."

The AVA provides the necessary information and resources needed to help students on campus identify a situation and learn how to handle it, as well as prevent it in the future.

"Our goal and mission are to educate people on our

campus whether that be faculty, staff or students by educating people on the world of interpersonal violence that includes stalking, intimate partner violence, domestic violence and sexual violence," Mingori said. "If we educate people on this, what to look out for those green and red flags of a relationship, we can create this space here on campus. [A space] where

survivors feel safe and heard because people can call out and recognize those harmful behaviors."

"Bringing in the Bystander" takes place on March 21 in the David L. Eisler Center Founder's Room and on March 25 in the DEC 213 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The AVA is also hosting its "Recognize and Response" tables on March 21 in the

DEC and March 26 in the Interdisciplinary Resource Center from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. These tabling events provide information on working with how to support someone who has survived or been harmed by domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

Music and entertainment business senior Olivia Lentner believes that the AVA is a

great organization to provide safety for everyone on campus.

"The most helpful is the resources for others is how you can help and what you can do even if this isn't directly impacting you, you can help somebody else," Lentner said.

For more information, visit the AVA's Instagram page @fsuantiviolence.

OMSS interim director steps in

Brook Blausey
Culture Reporter

Ferris' Office of Multicultural Student Services faces a significant change in leadership as its director and assistant director part ways with the university to accept jobs elsewhere.

Michael Hopson and Byron Brooks were chosen for their roles at OMSS at the beginning of the spring semester. After three months, both have left the office. Brooks, former assistant director, has started a new job at Yale University's Afro-American Cultural Center.

Brooks was unavailable to comment at this time.

OMSS interim director Colleen Green has been working for the university for two months. Despite the change in leadership, Green plans to keep OMSS' resources available in full effect.

"Hopson and Brooks were able to create educational programs for the students, staff, and faculty on campus," Green said. "Services of OMSS will not be affected."

Green feels that OMSS is a great place for students to come to and encourages new members to check it out.

"From my perspective, I have had nothing but great interactions and community since being on this campus. Everyone has been helpful and willing to answer questions and be of assistance throughout these past few months," Green said.

Business administration junior Khi Hunt is an OMSS employee. He believes that even though the change in leadership is difficult, it has taught the employees and members of the office to "roll with the punches."

"We have new students from high schools that are coming and looking at us," Hunt said. "We are still up and running as normal, and [we're] doing what we can for our members."

Psychology senior Rayona Charles is a member of OMSS. She acknowledges the team's effort in keeping the office running as usual.

"The biggest way to keep things going is for everyone to work together," Charles said. "Right now, there are student employees that have higher positions and that are trying to keep everything going... to make sure that the events are still possible to the best extent they can be. When we actually work as a team and we keep getting those events pushed out, then it's less of a negative impact."

Though OMSS is looking to fill the positions of a new director and assistant director, OMSS workers and members encourage other students to stop by the office. They are looking forward to their future events, including their end-of-the-year picnic that will take place in April.



Photo by: Ni'Jah Rankin | Culture Reporter

Autumne Peoples and Jared Wallace working the front desk at the OMSS office located in FLITE.

PALESTINE CONT.

The documentary emphasized the violence the Israeli military has provoked against Palestinians, and that this has been going on for years.

Hamilton wants the Big Rapids community to know how these attacks are funded and carried out.

"It is a war that everybody is hearing about, and it's also where our tax money is going," Hamilton said. "We actively see people in the community struggling and we're watching our tax dollars support death rather than preserve the lives of people in need here."

Business administration student Hilary Sanchez is GPhiO's president. She helped coordinate this event along with Hamilton. Both groups have seen little to no support for Palestine, so they came up with this event to start conversations around campus.

"Tonight is a way to make an impact on students and inform them about the genocide happening in Palestine," Sanchez said. "It hasn't been talked about a lot through the university and through our students so it is a great way to get conversations started

and I am hoping there will be a change in the community trend."

One thing that surprised Sanchez on campus is the support that Starbucks is still receiving despite boycotts happening internationally.

Starbucks Workers United made posts condemning the occupation and threats of genocide that Palestine faces. Starbucks requested that the posts be deleted, later stating they are a neutral company with no political agenda and have no intention of supporting any war. This led to the corporation receiving backlash ultimately leading to a boycott.

"I don't think Ferris has made any changes to show support for Palestine. Starbucks is still here even though they are one of the biggest supporters of the war right now. I see students still going there and supporting them every day, so this event is a way to educate them further as well as leave an impact on them," Sanchez said.

After showing the film, Hamilton asked the audience how it made them feel. One student, who wished to remain anonymous, said it had made them "sad and it feels like there is not a lot I can

personally do to help."

Hamilton's presentation afterward aimed to display what students and administration can do to help. One of the first steps Hamilton called on the university to issue a statement demanding a "permanent ceasefire."

Another measure Hamilton encouraged is to divest from companies that contribute to Israel's military. Hamilton believes students should get involved with these demands by making appointments with the administration to let them know how they feel. Students can also show their support by spreading this topic.

"We hope to build a group of people around campus that support the liberation of the people in Palestine and the end to the Israeli occupation," Hamilton said. "We can't do this without getting people together and having important discussions. We need to remember no one is free until we are all free."

For updates and inquiries regarding SDS and GPhiO, contact sdsferris@gmail.com and ferrisstate.gphio@gmail.com. Also, check their Instagram pages @newsusds and @gphioferris for future events.



Photo by: Blaise Gapinski | Freelance Reporter

Attendees of the event watching a documentary on the violence in Palestine.

Who is your favorite woman from history and why?

Jane Goodall-
 "I wanted to be a biologist when I was younger and she had a big impact on my like for animals. She was just a good egg to me."-Digital Animation and Game Desgin Junior Reine Carrasquillo

Ruth Bader Ginsburg-
 "She did a lot for womens rights when it wasn't super popular."-Social Work Freshman Collin Wallace

Harriet Tubman-
 "After she escaped slavery she risked her life time and time again to save others from the pain and suffering of slavery."-Psychology sophmore Julia Alcantara

Madam C.J Walker-
 "She made a name for herself. She changed her life and the lives of other black women. Her hair care buissness Madam Walkers Wonderful Hair Grower had encouraged and gave confidence to black women to not only feel but look beautiful."-Diagnostic Medical Sonography Senior Keymoni McKinney

Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

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Opinions

Jackie Moglia | Opinions Editor | mogliaj@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.

Our Location:
Arts and Science Commons
1016
820 Campus Drive
Ferris State University
Big Rapids, MI 49307

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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

Behind the wheel

Driving out my anxiety



Photo by: Jessica Oakes | Editor in Chief

Jessica Oakes shares her experience in becoming a more confident driver, and how that helps her move through life.

Jessica Oakes
Editor-In-Chief

On my 16th birthday, I failed my road test trying to parallel park. This convinced me that I was a terrible driver and that I would never get better.

I did receive my driver's license less than a month later, but I still couldn't shake the idea that I was a danger to myself and others whenever I pulled my 2008 Mercury Sable out of the driveway.

Being nervous behind the wheel is not only limiting on the freeway.

To so many other people, driving is the most mundane part of their day. To me, it was this huge piece of normal adult life that I was a failure in.

Not being able to drive long distances or through cities was infantilizing. I avoided plans that required me to drive more than half an hour.

For years, I believed I'd never be able to live in a city. The thought of driving through traffic was too much for me.

Learning to drive in the woodland of northern Michigan, I never even saw traffic. Four-lane highways and roundabouts were just scary stories to me. By the time I moved away and had to experience them for myself, it felt like I wasn't allowed to be there.

This anxiety restricted my life almost every day. If there was a chance of snow, I would stay home. If I had a long drive ahead of me, I

thought about it for a week straight.

All my fears, rational and irrational, made me feel like the punchline in a tired, misogynistic joke.

My time as a woman, and as a visitor in Ferris' Museum of Sexist Objects, has made me well-acquainted with the stereotype that women are bad drivers. During one storytelling event last semester, my registered student organization advisor and a member of the Ferris Women's Network articulated this feeling beautifully.

This woman shared her family's fear of the road, and it was cemented during an unhealthy relationship. She realized that, in being a passenger, she gave so much of her power to the man who

drove her.

I listened intently as she shared her story with us and ached from how much I could relate. Driving, in many ways, is freedom.

Over time, I slowly became more comfortable. If my dad was at the hospital or if my mom was at the airport, I found it in me to be helpful and pick them up.

It still wasn't until last summer that my mentality fully shifted.

This shift in perspective came from a summer full of plans that I needed to drive myself to. My desire to have fun finally overpowered my fear of US Highway 19.

This opened my world up infinitely. If I could drive in Florida, I could do anything.

It is absurd to spend my

time driving feeling like I'm not supposed to be on an entrance ramp or near other drivers. I'm in a car. Those are the only places I'm supposed to be.

I've been able to use this point of view in other areas of my life as well. There's no need for me to feel inferior or out of place applying for big journalism jobs or graduate school. I am a journalism student with a full résumé. That's exactly what I should be doing.

With less than two months until I cross the stage in my cap and gown and two 1,000-mile drives waiting for me and my Subaru, I feel free to place my future wherever I want it.

Finding unconditional love on campus

Why joining a sorority was a great choice for me



Photo courtesy of Kari Hoppenrath

Members of Phi Sigma Sigma pose for a photo during their bid day in the Fall of 2023.

Isabelle Marks
News Reporter

Growing up, I have always been somewhat shy, finding it difficult to make friends and hesitant to participate in various events and clubs. Upon

enrolling in college, joining a sorority became a deliberate choice. I saw it as an opportunity to break out of my shell, engage with my community, and forge friendships.

Admittedly, I didn't do it my freshman year. I was intimi-

dated by the idea of sorority life, fearing judgment and doubting whether I fit the typical sorority girl image. With just a few close friends and my inherent shyness, the idea of joining was so scary to me.

However, by my sophomore year, I decided to try it out. I mustered the courage to participate in recruitment. It took a lot of strength to navigate through the process despite my apprehensions, especially amidst the perceived judgment of other girls. Yet, as I talked with different sororities throughout the day, I began to feel more at ease. Learning that even current sorority members shared similar nerves during recruitment was reassuring. It made me realize that perhaps I wasn't as out of place as I had feared.

Receiving a bid and running home to the sorority was another nerve-wracking experience. I found myself among unfamiliar faces, feeling overwhelmed by the new environment. Nevertheless, I pushed through, facing my fears head-on, and ultimately accepted the bid.

After being a member of the sorority for a full semes-

ter, I've taken on a role in the executive council as the public relations chair. I never would have imagined myself in a sorority at all, let alone in a position of power.

While I still struggle with shyness and occasional apprehension about attending events, I've proven to myself that I can overcome my fears. Joining the sorority has been an amazing experience, challenging my misconceptions and allowing me to grow in ways I never thought possible. I also learned that the stereotypes about the typical sorority girl are far from the truth. My sisters have never made me feel judged or stupid for anything.

To the shy girl who has thought about joining a sorority but has been scared of judgment or the process in general, just try it. Each sorority is different, and each sister in a sorority is different, so it is important to find the fit best for you.

You can be accepted for who you are, and your flaws will be embraced because joining a sorority, to me, means unconditional love.

Your sisters will always be there for you in your good times and bad. They will always be willing to talk you through what you are feeling and help ease your mind because we have all been in a position where we have felt vulnerable in our lives.

Let this serve as a reminder that it's alright to feel scared about something, and it's okay to not be ready to conquer it. But, to challenge yourself shows great strength. It shows that even though you were afraid, you pushed through. Embrace the unknown. The greatest growth often stems from moments of discomfort and vulnerability.

“Dune 2” discourse

Understanding Villeneuve's adaptation of the cautionary tale

Sam Mulder
Torch Photographer

The discourse regarding the film “Dune 2” concerns me as a fan of the books by Frank Herbert. People are failing to understand the point of the movie and see the titular character, Paul Atreides, played by Timothée Chalamet, as a heroic figure. The movie and the book warn of the dangers of religious fanaticism and blindly following charismatic leaders.

The discourse, in part, was fueled by the popcorn bucket released by AMC, with an interesting design choice. People began making videos that were trending on platforms like TikTok and Instagram, dressing up and in turn, making fun of specific characters.

I found in the comments of videos mocking the unwavering fanatic belief in the messianic figure Atreides shown by Stilgar, played by Javier Bardem, and the other native Fremen people, and there were many debates regarding the theme of the film and the message it was trying to communicate. I began to notice that many people are misinterpreting the film in a way that echoes how readers of the original book did back in 1965.

I am not unbiased when it comes to the “Dune” franchise as well as the work of Denis Villeneuve. To say I am a fan of both would be an

understatement. I first read Herbert's 1965 epic “Dune” back in the seventh grade and have since reread it multiple times along with its sequel “Dune Messiah.” These novels are among some of the greatest I have ever read.

Villeneuve has become my favorite director and is one of the best storytellers of our era. It's debatable that his work on films such as “Arrival,” “Blade Runner 2049” and now the two “Dune” films make him one of the greatest science fiction directors of all time. He is also an avid fan of the books. The amount of love he has for Herbert's work is evident in the care he took to create a faithful adaptation of his novel. Such an adaptation has begun to show signs of what caused Herbert to have to write the sequel “Dune Messiah.”

After the release of the book “Dune,” people began to make the same mistakes they are making today. In the book, Atreides has prophetic visions that show that if he were to take on a role as a religious and military leader to the native Fremen. It would lead to a holy war that would kill billions.

He is originally against taking up this mantle and is a very moral person. However, through tragedies and betrayals that befall himself and those he loves, he loses that sense of morality becoming a vengeful and hate-filled

person. The book and film adaptation both end with him ascending the imperial throne and calling for a galactic Jihad.

The story revolves around the tragic downfall of this person's moral character. He may begin as a good person, but it becomes clear that he is not someone who should be rooted for. It seems as though many people had a difficult time making the switch from loving to despising this person. Because of this, Herbert had to write “Dune Messiah” to drive home the point that he tried making in the first book and now it seems as though Villeneuve will be making a third movie to do the same.

I feel as though “Dune” will join the list of media in which people have a hard time understanding that the protagonist is not a good person. I have seen this same pattern with shows such as “Breaking Bad,” “The Sopranos” and the movie “The Wolf of Wall Street”. All of these tell the story of the deserved downfall of truly evil, greedy and hateful men; but often Walter White, Tony Soprano and especially Jordan Belfort are seen as heroes.

I see this mistake made most often by college-aged men like me; men who are looking for stories of success and men who are so encouraged by the power of the previously mentioned Icarian fig-



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

ures that they fail to see their flaws. Men who hang Stratton Oakmont flags in their dorm rooms and idolize Jordan Belfort for making millions.

I truly hope that one day these men begin to understand the point of what sto-

ries like “The Wolf of Wall Street” and now “Dune” are trying to say. I hope that one day they can enjoy these stories for the cautionary tales they are. I also hope that they find new stories to help them define success; stories

in which financial wealth and self-actualization are obtained not by the destruction or abuse of others, but through empathy, compassion and determination.

Sports

Dylan Rider | Sports Editor | riderd1@ferris.edu

Men's basketball continues NCAA tournament run

Bulldogs beat No. 4 Northern Michigan and No. 1 University of Indianapolis



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Senior Ben Davidson avoids being blocked by his Northern Michigan Wildcat opponent during the match on March 16.

Jeffery Walker
Sports Reporter

Ferris State men's basketball remains dancing in the DII NCAA tournament following their victories over the Northern Michigan Wildcats on Saturday, March 16 and the University of Indianapolis Greyhounds on Sunday, March 17.

The Bulldogs entered the tournament as the No. 5 seed. The team is fresh off a GLIAC tournament title and looks to make a run deep into March. The team traveled to the University of Indianapolis' Nicoson Hall to face off against an inter-conference foe in the No. 4 seeded Northern Michigan. The Bulldogs earned an 81-65 win to upset the higher-seeded Wildcats to move on to the next round.

The Bulldog's first half got them off to a great start, which Northern Michigan failed to come back from. Ferris' combination of defense and offense had the team take a 41-24 lead at the half.

Head coach Andy Bronkema likes what he saw from his team tonight and is happy they are moving on.

"I liked our focus tonight," Bronkema said. "We weren't perfect, but it's a game of mistakes, and when we made a mistake we moved on. We focused back in on the next play and we made

a lot of plays. Guys stepped up tonight and made a lot of plays."

Ferris won the rebound battle, as they outrebounded their opponent 44-35 and dominated the points in the paints 38-26.

Ferris had three players reach double digits in the game with senior guard Ben Davidson and junior guard Ethan Erickson leading the way with 19 points. Senior forward Desean Munson finished with 12 points along with a team-leading eight rebounds while senior guard Amari Lee finished with a game-high eight assists.

Davidson is excited to be in the second round again and is thankful for it while knowing more work needs to be done.

"It's not easy," Davidson said. "You can do everything right and not get here. This is three straight years we have been able to get to the round of 32 and the last two years that's as far as we've gone. We did everything right, we had talented teams [but] it's basketball. Anybody can win, we're just excited to be here. We're having fun but it's also a business trip."

The Bulldogs then took on the No. 1 seed and region host University of Indianapolis, which ended with Ferris advancing to its first Sweet Sixteen for the first time since 2018 following a 94-87 upset in overtime.

The Bulldogs once trailed by 13 points with under 10 minutes remaining in the game. However, Ferris was able to fight back and tie the game up with 48 seconds left. Both teams were unable to take advantage of the opportunity to get the go-ahead basket, causing the game to be sent into overtime. The Bulldogs went on to outscore their opponents in the extra period 20-13 to advance to keep dancing.

Senior forward Dolapo Olayinka is pleased with the all-around team effort that pulled off the comeback upset win.

"We all did the best we could," Olayinka said. "Play defense and just kept fighting no matter what, we were down a lot and just kept fighting. That's why we're dawgs, baby. We have the heart and we don't want to go home."

Leading the team was Davidson with 25 points, Erickson with 22 points, Munson with 15 points and Lee finished with 11 points.

By the time of publishing, men's basketball will have competed against the Lake Superior State Lakers in the round of 16 on Tuesday, March 19. For results, please visit <https://www.ferris-statebulldogs.com/sports/mbkb/2023-24/schedule>.



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Senior Amari Lee flies into a layup while playing against the Indianapolis Greyhounds.

Women's basketball advances

Bulldogs beat Lewis and Ashland to keep dancing in NCAA tournament



Photo credit: Caden Hofmann | Sports Reporter

Senior Chloe Idoni aims to pass against the Ashland Eagles.



Photo credit: Caden Hofmann | Sports Reporter

Senior Mallory McCartney takes the ball down the court on offense.

Caden Hofmann
Sports Reporter

The Ferris State women's basketball team advanced in the NCAA tournament with a win on Friday, March 15 against the Lewis University Flyers and a win against the Ashland Eagles on Saturday, March 16.

In the DII NCAA tournament, the No. 3 seeded Bulldogs (24-5, 15-3 in the GLI-AC) took down No. 6 seeded Lewis University (23-9, 19-3 in the GLVC) in the Midwest region quarterfinals by 75-53. Ferris also took down the No. 2 seeded Ashland Eagles (31-2, 20-0 in the GMAC), who are the reigning DII national champions, with a score of 64-59.

The Bulldogs' win versus Lewis was the program's first NCAA tournament win in 12 years. Ferris picked up this win in dominating fashion, as the team never trailed in this game and jumped out to an early 18-12 lead after the first quarter. The Bulldogs continued their run into the second quarter as they outscored Lewis 25-8. Ferris led by as many as 31 in the first half.

The Bulldog defense was on point as they held Lewis to just 36.5% from the field and 12.5% from long range compared to Ferris' 43.3% from the field and 24% from three.

The defense was a point of emphasis for head coach Kurt Westendorp.

"We pressured their shots well, they didn't have many clean ones and when they did they did not go down," Westendorp said. "We disrupted their rhythm extreme-

ly well on that end of the court."

Senior forward Chloe Idoni led the team in scoring with 23 points in just 24 minutes and senior forward Kadyn Blanchard finished second on the team in scoring with 17 points. Sophomore guard Elle Irwin added 11 points off the bench for the team as well.

Ferris getting their first NCAA tournament win in 12 years means a lot to the players and the program.

"I had no idea about that coming in," Idoni said. "Being able to do that with us girls who are so close on and off the court is amazing, it gives us great momentum"

The Bulldogs defeated defending national champions Ashland the following day in the Midwest region semi-finals. Ferris handed Ashland their only regular-season loss earlier in the season 66-62.

Ferris put up a tremendous first quarter and set the tone of the game the team won the first quarter 22-10.

"Getting out to a hot start was a key, Ashland isn't a team you can play from behind against," Westendorp said. "Not just knocking down shots but really keying in defensively."

Ferris shot 57% from the field compared to the Eagles 27% in the first.

The Bulldogs were able to turn their defense into offense, leading the points off turnover battle 23-11.

Ashland stayed in the game and made a few runs to keep the game close, but that did not faze Ferris.

Senior guard Mallory McCartney knew that the Bulldogs were going up against a team with a high-powered offense.

"Ashland is an extremely powerful offense, we knew they were going to make shots," McCartney said. "The biggest thing was knowing we are a powerful offense too, they might get a couple on us but they won't be able to stop us."

Idoni led the Bulldogs in scoring with 21, Blanchard added 16 and McCartney tallied 10.

For results of the Bulldogs' contest against Grand Valley on Monday, March 18, please visit fsutorch.com or scan our QR code below.



Scan to read
the results

Tennis teams triumph

Men's team sweeps weekend, women's team splits matches



Photo credits: Jack Starkey | Freelance Photographer

Senior Benjamin Lortie hits a strong serve while his partner Jan Koupil, also a senior, prepares for the return.

Connor Grypma
Sports Reporter

Men's tennis

The Ferris State tennis teams were in action on Friday, March 15 against the Tiffin Dragons and Saturday, March 16 against the Walsh Cavaliers.

Head coach Mark Doren was encouraged by both teams' play coming off their spring break trip.

"We got that much-needed match play outdoors last week," Doren said. "Now that we're back indoors, it was good to have these matches. Both Tiffin and Walsh brought their best and that's what we need to prepare for our conference schedule. Both of these teams were ranked in the top 50, so getting a couple of dominant wins feels great."

Coming off a victory in their final Florida match, the men's team (8-4) added to their win column with a strong 4-3 win over the Dragons.

Despite losing all three doubles flights early on, the team came back to dominate in singles play, winning four of the six matches to take the overall victory. Seniors Benjamin Lortie, Yannic Alexander Mader and Jan Koupil all won in straight sets, along with sophomore Erik Kovacs.

The Bulldogs extended their winning streak to three matches after a clean 7-0 sweep of the Cavaliers.

CONT. ON PG. 12

TENNIS TRIUMPH CONT.

The first doubles tandem of Lortie and Koupil, along with the second doubles team of sophomore Esunge Ndumbe and junior Alessandro Santangelo secured straight-set victories to propel the Bulldogs to the doubles point.

The men swept the singles field with six victories, only one reaching a third set.

After his weekend of wins, Lortie gave his thoughts on what brought the team to victory.

"Everyone brought a lot of energy," Lortie said. "Everyone played great tennis, and it's always great to get two convincing regional wins. This will definitely help build our confidence going into GLIAC matches next week."

Women's tennis

After a 5-2 loss to the Dragons on Friday, the women's team (5-7) won a convincing match against the Cavaliers 6-1 on Saturday.

The Bulldogs took all the doubles matchups behind wins from the one doubles of senior Morgan Waller and sophomore Ana Sofia Hernandez Ferrer, the two doubles team of senior Sophie Daavettila and senior Amelia Laverdiere and the three doubles tandem of sophomore Maria Fernanda Hernandez Ferrer and freshman Katherine Earnest.

Singles play saw Ferris take all but one flight, including a win from freshman Aimee Reynoso Cupido.

Saturday's contest was also the first match back for Daavettila this semester after an injury from earlier this

year.

Doren spoke on getting Daavettila back in the lineup for the matchup against Walsh.

"It was nice to have [Sophie] back," Doren said. "The whole team has worked so hard, but it's always good to get back one of our winningest players back in the lineup."

Friday's matchup with the Dragons saw the Bulldogs drop the doubles point first and four of the six singles flights. Reynoso Cupido and Maria Hernandez Ferrer secured the two Bulldog points of the match to make the final score 5-2.

Ana Hernandez Ferrer highlighted the team's weekend path after the win over the Cavaliers.

"It's important for us as a team to remember that one loss doesn't define us," Fer-

rer said. "Everyone felt more motivated after yesterday to prove how good we are and that we have the level of skill to win the conference this year. The energy our team brings inside and outside of the court is always a big part of our performance, so we always try to be as loud as possible no matter what."

Both tennis squads will be back in action for GLIAC conference play this weekend. The Bulldogs will travel to take on the Davenport Panthers on Friday, March 22, and the Purdue Northwest Pride on Saturday, March 23. Match play will begin for both teams at 11:30 a.m. on Friday and 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.



Photo credits: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Sophomore Maria Fernanda Hernandez Ferrer serves.



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