



# The Ferris State Torch

93 YEARS OF ILLUMINATING THE TRUTH

Big Rapids, Michigan

Week of April 3 - April 10, 2024

www.fsutorch.com



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### Bulldog Social Hour:

Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in the Career and Professional Success Office

### ADHD Student Super Support Group:

Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in DEC 016



## Scan for more details

Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

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# News

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

## Travis Hall fire

Fire at residence hall damages room



Photo courtesy of Genesis Davis

One of the first responding firefighters inspects the mattress bedding that caught on fire.

Tate Zellman  
News Reporter

On Tuesday, March 26, a battery fire occurred in a resident's room in Travis Hall, causing everyone to evacuate.

The fire alarms began going off around 5:40 p.m. The Department of Public Safety Fire Log stated that the fire was accidental and was caused by a battery fire.

Merrill/Travis Hall Senior Staff Advisor secondary education senior Zach Rhodes was one of the first to take charge of the situation before the fire started to spread.

"Me and another [residential advisor] were walking down the lobby, walking at a calm pace and that was when I saw a resident run down with a fire extinguisher to the desk," Rhodes said. "After this took place, I began to get more concerned about what was about to unravel, and I was told by another RA that this fire was actually real. I began to take measures to secure the building and get everyone away from danger."

According to Rhodes, the immediate concern appeared when he first noticed that the whole Travis Hall first-floor

hallway was filled with black smoke at an intensive level to where he couldn't see two doors down, and all that was visible to the human eyes were the ceiling lights.

Allied health science sophomore Genesis Davis, who lived one door down from the resident, shared her experience when the fire first started happening.

"I was taking a nap, and I heard this scream," Davis said. "And then I heard his fire alarm go off and it sounded like it was from upstairs. I got up and grabbed my phone, my keys, and my backpack, and before I had my shoes on my alarm was going off. I opened my hall and six feet down it was black smoke, and I couldn't see anything. I screamed and started running."

Residents weren't allowed back into the room until 8:00 p.m. The resident of the room where the fire occurred relocated to another room. No one was injured in the fire.

Due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, housing declined to give the student's information to the Torch.

## MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour  
News Editor

**Michigan-** Michigan was the last state to lift its ban on the use of surrogacy contracts and compensated surrogacy.

The ban happened in 1988, and anyone who broke the law could receive jail time. Couples who wanted to use surrogates could not pay them and had to find a judge who would sign a pre-birth order so that they would be guaranteed their parental rights, however, a judge could refuse.

The ban was lifted on April 1, when Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed a new law that stated that surrogates could be paid.

According to NBC News, Alex Kamer had all her kids via surrogacy. While Kamer lived in Michigan, her kids were born out of state to avoid the ban.

"Surrogacy is hard — it's expensive, it's an emotional roller coaster, it takes up all of your energy for the years that

you're working towards it," Kamer said. "And in Michigan, that added stress for those first seven or eight months of this pregnancy of not knowing if our names would be on his birth certificate."

An anti-abortion group called Right to Life Michigan had issues with the new bill and stated so in a testimony.

"Payment for services rendered turns the generous act of being an altruistic surrogate into a money-making proposition," the testimony said. "Which in turn creates a market that can and does exploit poor and vulnerable women."

In addition to the bills signed into law to make surrogacy contracts and compensated surrogacy legal, Whitmer also signed several bills for protective rights for LGBTQ parents and in vitro fertilization.

## GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour  
News Editor

**United States-** There has been an outbreak of bird flu in cows in the last few weeks, with a case of it found in a person on Monday.

The person is taking an antibiotic, and according to the Washington Post, the Center for Disease Control believes the risk of others contracting the flu remains low.

"While cases among humans in direct contact with infected animals are possible, this indicates that the current risk to the public remains low," the Department of Agriculture said in a statement.

The outbreaks are continuing to be monitored, to assess if any evolution is going to happen. These include any possible threats to the animal's health, if it continues to circulate in animals, or if it spreads more easily between people than it currently is.

the flu has a higher risk in indi-

viduals and families who work with animals exposed to infected animals' environments.

The strain identified is the avian flu. In addition to this strain found in Texas, it has also been identified in Kansas and Michigan, with testing also happening in Idaho and New Mexico.

Officials in Texas are providing help with how to reduce people's exposure to the affected dairy farms. Residents have also been told to get tested if they feel any flu-like symptoms. They have also issued a health alert for those on the farms.





# Pool closure

## Recreational Center pool closed for repairs

**Kourtney Fairchild**  
News Reporter

The pool at the Student Recreation Center will be closed for the rest of the semester for maintenance.

According to the Director of University Recreation and Wellness programs Justin Harden, the staff had noticed some problems with the tiles on the bottom of the pool. Within a few days, the problem had gotten worse, so they drained the pool to see the extent of the problem.

Once drained, they realized the problem was with the seam where the shallow end meets the deep end.

"We have to fix that sooner rather than later because there's no way to just fix the small parts of the tiles that came up," Harden said. "We want to make sure our pa-

trons and students that use the pool are safe."

According to Harden, about 40 to 80 people use the pool daily on average. This includes a variety of students and community members.

Kathy Bell of Stanwood has been part of the senior aerobics class since last fall and used the pool two to three times per week for the class. Bell appreciated the opportunity to get low-impact exercise and the camaraderie between the regular attendees.

"I enjoyed getting onto campus and interacting with the student employees," Bell said. "I really miss it and hope they can get the pool back up and running soon."

The Recreation Center is closed for the summer due to a lack of student workers, however, the pool will reopen for the fall semester.



Photo credit: Ciara Brooks | Freelance Photographer

The SRC's pool is currently unavailable to students as the process of draining and fixing the bottom has begun.

# MWC3 conference

## Cybersecurity students compete at Grand Valley

**Isabelle Marks**  
News Reporter

The Midwest Collegiate Competing Conference was held on March 21 and March 22 at Grand Valley.

MWC3 is an annual technology conference that invites many Midwest Michigan schools to learn and compete.

This year's conference had a Ferris turnout of 37 students. Ferris students placed in almost all of the competitions.

Information security and intelligence sophomore Seth Brott was able to attend the conference this year. He competed in four competitions, two of which he placed first, along with his teammate Kyle Thompson.

Brott said he thought the purposes of the conference were professional development, the ability to work, and

socialize with students in the same field at different schools and learning opportunities.

"There were faculty, sponsors from the industry, and students from other schools there," Brott said. "They were all open to talk, and we had open sessions where they had a panel and then we could all discuss a topic. It was nice to see and meet people that are in the same programs and majors that we are, but at different schools, it gave us different perspectives."

The Ferris students who placed are as follows:

Cybersecurity: 1st place Seth Brott and Kyle Thompson, 3rd place Jacob Derenzy and William Kittredge

Data Analytics with MS Office: 2nd place Brendan Bender and Zach Vanderzanden

Data Analytics with Tab-

leau: 1st place Owen Myers and Logan Reynolds, 3rd Place Alyssa Tarkowski

Database Design: 1st place Seth Brott and Kyle Thompson, 2nd place Gavin Kelly and William Wurtz

ERP with ScrimmageSIM: 2nd place Lane Brady and Austin Hancock

Java Development: 1st place Jared Ricks

Mainframe Systems with IBM Z Xplore: 2nd place Kyle Thompson, 3rd place Lane Brady

PC Troubleshooting: 1st place Brendan Bender, 2nd place Lane Brady, 3rd place Walker Eyer

Project Management with SimProject: 2nd place Owen Myers

Python Development: 2nd place Gavin Kelly and William Wurtz



Photo courtesy of Mary Holmes

Students at the MWC3 conference.

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Ferris State Torch

# ON THE RECORD

Ember St. Amour  
News Editor

### Fight club

March 25, 8:15 p.m. - DPS responded to Brophy Hall after receiving a report that several students were arguing in the lobby. There were complaints of shoving and pushing, and the case was given to student conduct.

### They were roommates

March 25, 9:30 p.m. - Officers responded to Finch Court after a dispute between two roommates. One of the roommates reported that their roommate had retaliated and that they wanted to press charges. A housing change was made, and officers found no evidence of crimes.

### They were roommates: Part two

March 25, 9:15 p.m. - Officers were on standby as one of the roommates from the above case moved their belongings out of the apartment.

### No gun, no foul

March 26, 10:00 p.m. - A witness thought that they saw someone with a gun walk into Brophy Hall, and officers responded. The individual and their room were searched, but officers found that the individual did not have a gun.

### Apartment squatter

March 27, 10:00 a.m. - A student moved out of Robin Court, and their significant other was still living in the apartment. Housing asked officers to let the individual know that they needed to move out, and the individual left.

### Off-campus shooting

March 31, 12:43 a.m. - Students received an email from the Ferris Emergency Alert system that there had been reports of a shot being fired at Northland Flats Apartments. Officers picked up the individual suspected of firing the shot and took them into custody. Students received a follow-up email that there was no longer believed to be a threat to campus. The investigation is still ongoing.



ONE DAY FOR DAWGS IS COMING ON APRIL 10

# FERRIS.EDU/ONEDAY

## Start your team and help support Ferris State!



Your fellow community members, student leaders and Ferris State faculty and staff have been working hard; now it's your turn to continue the momentum!

**Snap the QR below to see their goals, set a reminder to make a gift, and spread the word about #OneDayforDawgs!**



# Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

## Prism returns, deadline extended

ELWL's annual student writing and art competition

**Blase Gapinski**  
Freelance Reporter

The Prism annual writing and art competition's due date has been extended until April 8, leaving students with less than a week to submit their work for cash prizes and become solidified in the school's history.

The Prism contest is run by the Department of English, Literature, and World Languages and has been going on since 1978. Students can submit essays, poetry, short fiction, and art projects into eight categories that ELWL faculty will judge.

Each winning entry will go into the annual journal "The Prism." First-place entries in each category receive \$150, and the second-place entries

receive \$75. Announced winners and honorable mentions on The Prism's website will be invited to a recognition event in the fall to coincide with the publication launch to showcase their work.

English professor Dr. Jamie Thomas has been working for The Prism as a judge since 2010 and has coordinated it since 2018. He encourages students to submit entries in each category to have their work critiqued and become comfortable with it getting judged.

"In the real world, our writing always exists," Thomas said. "It's important to put yourself out there because as we get into the professional world, we have to do that in our writing and our speak-

ing. We have to put ourselves out there and it's not always comfortable."

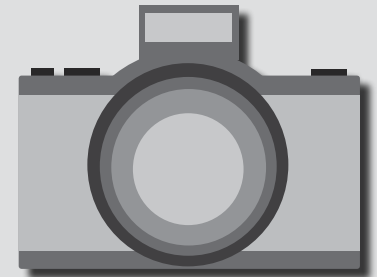
As the coordinator, Thomas is in charge of reviewing entries to ensure they follow contest rules, selecting judges from ELWL, and compiling the judges' decisions to establish the winners.

He has submitted his writing to contests, academic journals, and other publications, but recognizes there can come anxiety while entering. Thomas prioritizes anonymity, ensuring students that the names are removed from submissions during the judging process to try and take away potential nerves for anyone entering.

**CONT. ON PG. 7**

Join us at the  
Torch!

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HIRING**



Looking for:  
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Contact our 2024-2025  
EIC: Dylan Rider  
riderd1@ferris.edu

## The art of AI

New exhibit sparks conversation about AI usage in the art space



**Ni'Jah Rankin**  
Culture Reporter

Ferris' Fine Arts Gallery is bringing a new exhibit to campus that features Tylonn Sawyer's artificial intelligence artwork displayed by Ferris' design students.

Sawyer's recent and ongoing project is called "Blacktopia: Detroit 3000" which uses artificial intelligence to help him curate a different world. This is Sawyer's first time experimenting with using AI programs.

Sawyer started this project two years ago and used the AI program called Midjourney to tell a story of his hometown in Detroit and what it would be like in the year 3000, imagining it as a utopia.

"I wanted to imagine a future where we were going to be alright through hardships," Sawyer said. "I really wanted to create something that was aspirational."

With Sawyer's approval, Ferris' design students have been working on his work display for the Fine Arts Gallery.

Design professor Alison Popp Meier heard that AI artwork would be in the gallery. She became interested in designing the exhibit with

the help of her students.

Popp Meier was especially interested in this exhibit, so much so that she planned an assignment for her and her students to work on.

She reached out to the Fine Arts Gallery Director Carrie Weis to start working on the exhibit with her students.

"When I saw this exhibit, I was really excited and I changed one of my assignments and asked Weis if we could get involved," Popp Meier said. "We ended up doing even more than I thought. We ended up creating the exhibit and my students really got involved."

Over the years, Popp Meier has had her classroom work with Ferris' gallery.

"I've collaborated with the art gallery before with my classrooms," Popp Meier said. "Just designing, branding, concept, and production in various forms over the years."

Popp Meier and her students had multiple discussions about AI usage in the art space when she introduced the assignment.

"There are a lot of unknowns and even some questions about the legality and ethics of AI art, so we

had some conversations about it," Popp Meier said. "Then once we saw the images, we were intrigued and we thought 'Well, let's get involved.'"

Sawyer is also an instructor and believes that Popp Meier's idea for her students to help work on the exhibit as an assignment and talk about AI usage in art is beneficial.

"I dig how this is used, not only as a teaching moment in her class but also to get some territorial work done," Sawyer said. "I think it's really awesome that students get to do that."

Popp Meier and her students created a design for the exhibit and sent the idea to Sawyer for his approval. Sawyer highlighted how this was his first time being able to work on a project virtually and how it was a great experience.

"I've never done it this way before," Sawyer said. "I think it's cool how we are using technology to conceive of this entire show, it's an interesting way to work together."

The Fine Arts Gallery can be found on the top floor of the David L. Eisler Center. The exhibit will be open from April 1 through May 10.

A sneak peek of Tylonn Sawyer's artificial intelligence art exhibit that the design 320 class took part in creating.

Photo by: Ni'Jah Rankin | Culture Reporter

# Ramadan dining options Q&A

**Brook Blausey**  
Freelance Reporter

As the crescent moon brings in Ramadan, Ferris' dining services have tailored meal options for fasting students.

Ramadan is a sacred month in the Islamic calendar from March 10 to April 9. Muslims participate in fasting, prayer, reflection, and acts of charity as they celebrate the month. During this time, Muslims refrain from eating and drinking from sunrise to sunset, seeking a deeper connection to their faith.

The Rock Café and the Market will offer choices until the end of Ramadan for the dietary needs of those participating in the fast.

Director of Dining Services Rebecca Bogardus discusses the accommodations offered for these students.

**Q:** What are the accommodations Ferris is offering for students who participate in Ramadan?

**A:** Both of our dining courts are open before sunrise, and The Rock Café is open past sunset during Ramadan, we checked! This is a great resource for breaking the day's fast.

**Q:** What are the options offered?

**A:** We are also offering a Breakfast Kit in the Market for guests to pick up after dinner. These include dates, breakfast bread, and Greek yogurt with other goodies for the next morning. All of this can be purchased with a meal exchange.

**Q:** How many students have ordered these options since they have been available?

**A:** We chose to add the breakfast kits this year and are tracking usage, but we have no real data on who

comes into the dining courts and participates during our normal operating hours.

**Q:** Will this continue for future years?

**A:** If students use them, we will definitely do them again next year.

**Q:** How does a student order these options?

**A:** Anyone who needs assistance should ask for the manager on duty at the Rock Café. They can help arrange an additional meal exchange or to-go options during Ramadan.

The Rock Café is open every day from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and the Market is open Monday through Friday from 12 p.m. to 12 a.m. These options will end at the end of Ramadan on April 9.

For more information, contact the dining services by calling (231) 591-2648 or emailing [BulldogServiceCenter@Ferris.edu](mailto:BulldogServiceCenter@Ferris.edu).



Graphic courtesy of Ferris Dining

The Ramadan dining option stickers read "Suhoor Breakfast Kit" and "Iftar Meal Kit."

## The Song of Spring

Maksymilian Sidorowicz

How does it know to rain long enough  
to produce orchids

And to storm strong enough  
to wash out the shattered glass we call snow

Daring and quickly  
the sundance comes around once more

For the last track  
of the night

Taking our hearts along with the rhythm  
and our eyes along with their pace

We can't help but stare for too long  
looking away would be a crime punishable by death

But nobody ever dies while flowers bloom  
and nobody ever loves harder than now

No drama or heartbreak rings tonight  
for tonight we all are in awe

Driving toward what do not know  
but we are not afraid of,

The Song of Spring keeps us safe.



# Make way for Mr. Pharmacy

## College of Pharmacy hosts 9th annual pageant



Photo by: Kate Babel | Freelance Reporter

**Participating students counting pills for the skill section of the competition.**



Photo by: Kate Babel | Freelance Reporter

**Participants Adam Anderson, Max Flemming, Keven Metushi, Hassan Chahrour, Deklan Marshall, Gilbert Moreno, Kameron Stoddard and Ethan Akers.**

**Kate Babel**  
Freelance Reporter

Move over Miss America, the College of Pharmacy building held its annual Mr. Pharmacy pageant on Tuesday, March 26.

With an audience of 35 people, the eight contestants competed for the title of Mr. Pharmacy in four events, which included pill counting, vaccine darts, a drug spelling bee, and a Q&A.

Each contestant was a

representative of one of the many pharmacy organizations in the College of Pharmacy, with three judges awarding points for each event to the winners.

Vice president of internal affairs of Lambda Kappa Sigma pharmacy fraternity Jasmine Hawley organized the Mr. Pharmacy event.

"It's a pageant for pharmacy students and pre-pharm students to compete for the title of Mr. Pharmacy where they'll earn a crown and sash

and then there's a plaque on the wall that we put their name on," Hawley said.

Hawley, along with the Lambda Kappa Sigma president Macy Ilmberger, put together this event for many students to come and watch. The pharmacy organizations got to watch and cheer for their representatives as they competed.

This pageant has been around for eight years since it started in 2016. The students get to show off their

pharmaceutical skills during competitions, like the drug spelling bee, where contestants spell out the names of certain drugs, and pill counting, where they are judged on speed and accuracy.

For the contestants, Mr. Pharmacy serves as a break from the day-to-day classes and the workload that comes along with it. Because of this event, Ilmberger felt that she got to take time out of her busy schedule to stop and enjoy a day with her friends.

"It's just a way to build camaraderie with our class," Ilmberger said. "Pharmacy school is pretty hard. We have to study all the time and there isn't always a whole lot of opportunity to do fun things, so this is something fun that we can do with members of our class where we don't have to study."

Second-year graduate pharmacy student Kameron Stoddard competed in this year's pageant after taking home the crown last year.

"This gets the community together and gets people to come out and watch something and kind of relax for a sec[ond], so I think it's a great event," Stoddard said.

Even with confidence, Stoddard lost the crown this year but demonstrated good sportsmanship by crowning the new winner at the end of the pageant.

### PRISM CONT.

"We have two judges per category," Thomas said. "We try to keep judges off of the categories that they may teach, and they don't know who's writing or whose art they are judging. They look at each submission in their assigned category individually and rank them without consulting with each other. They then talk about their rankings; they come to a consensus and submit their decisions to me."

He is most impressed by the freshman and sophomore categories because he sees how well-crafted the younger students' work is.

Thomas encourages students who are nervous or lack confidence to try and enter for the experience.

"I think it's especially hard for the young writers to put themselves out there, so I'm always impressed by the quality work they put out," Thomas said. "Not that they

wouldn't, but these are young writers who are doing really amazing things as far as essays and research papers and it's cool to see. Even if you don't win anything, it is still an important and rewarding act because you're getting used to putting yourself out there."

"The Prism" journal is a book that is published each year. It takes students' creative endeavors and solidifies them as a part of history. Thomas believes it's important to receive validation from peers and the community. He realizes students put in a lot of work and "The Prism" journal is a way to eternalize their creations while receiving recognition.

"So much of what we do is impermanent," Thomas said. "Just on a daily basis we sort of live in impermanence and there is something special about being a part of something that you get recognized for, that you get remembered for and it makes you part of

a community. That is something that impermanence can't take away. It solidifies our place amongst everybody else."

Marketing sophomore Camden Whyte was one of last year's contest winners and has already entered this year's contest. He originally found out about The Prism when one of his professors told him his research paper was well written and recommended, that he submit it into the "Freshman/Sophomore Research Paper" category.

"My reaction to finding out that I was one of the winners was a state of shock," Whyte said. "I honestly wasn't hoping for anything. I knew my paper was good, but I never thought it would place in the contest. I was more shocked because I didn't realize I had won until eight months after they had announced the winners."

Whyte suggests students get involved with the con-

test as it is a chance to be rewarded for their dedication and creativity throughout the semester. He thinks the amazing feeling of being recognized for hard work is enough of a reason for students to try and get involved.

"It is important that Ferris creates something like "The Prism" journal each year because students should get the opportunity to showcase their creative abilities and the hard work that they have done throughout the year," Whyte said. "Plus, getting recognized as one of the winners is a great feeling and helps push students to keep working toward whatever it is they want in life."

Submissions for The Prism contest are extended until Monday, April 8. The winners are expected to be announced around the week before finals. For more updates, rules, submission questions, and other inquiries regarding The Prism, refer to ferris-prism.com.



Scan to submit your writing to Prism



# Opinions

Jackie Moglia | Opinions Editor | mogliaj@ferris.edu

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## EDITOR'S COLUMN: Running away



Graphic by: Jessica Oakes | Editor in Chief

**Jessica Oakes**  
Editor in Chief

I have 33 days until I walk across the commencement stage and 49 days until I run away to the Rocky Mountains.

For many years, I've dedicated my life to getting As and learning about journal-

ism, history, and politics. I've attended events and meetings I thought I had no business attending and met some impressive people. I have accomplished plenty as a student. Still, I've never seen a mountain.

The pressures of finding a fulfilling, ethical, and

well-paying job as a new graduate nearly crushed me last year. It seemed impossible, especially in today's job market. Something dawned on me last semester, and I realized there was no immediate need to do so.

Through the website coolworks.com, which I heard of

through a friend, I found a summer job in Colorado that would feed, house, and pay me to relocate. My job title is kitchen staff/cabin keeper.

Some people seem disappointed when they hear that I'm not jumping into my field. While I will have some resume-building opportunities while out west, I am ready to shift my focus for a few months. I'm finding it hard to care what others think about that.

New graduates need to find an identity for themselves outside of "student." We will have to understand success in a way not contained by Canvas or MyDegree. My intelligence won't be quantified.

Soon after I shed my fear of driving, I learned I had been shielding myself from so many experiences. It hardly matters what I know from books and articles if I have seen so little of the world with my own eyes. Although I will admit I am running away from Microsoft Word and textbooks, I am not running away from working and learning.

Being my own boss this year taught me hard lessons. From my classes to my work, I was in charge. This was not as liberating as some might imagine. I'm grateful for the opportunities that I'm grant-

ed in this position, but I crave something different now.

The day I have my degree, I am clearing the storage on my computer and storing everything I own in my car. I wanted to work with other people in a beautiful place and be tired at night because I was actually moving. I am sick of the fatigue that comes from staring at screens.

Aside from being a generic member of one non-profit's summer staff, I will also define my identity through creative pursuits. I'll be able to write with no limits on genre, AP Style, or word count. I can finally get into photography, one aspect of journalism I rarely dared to touch.

If any students feel a similar pressure to find their dream job within an unrealistic time frame, I encourage them to remember that there is no correct or incorrect way to be a graduate. Once you have your degree, it is your own business for how you use it.

I will return to journalism before too long, and I may even find other professional fields that inspire me. For the time being, I am fulfilled with my decision to take a detour. It is time for me to learn outside the classroom.

## Tastes like chicken Pescatarian of five years eats wing, bone in



Photo courtesy of Jasmine Baar | Web Editor

**Jasmine poses next to a herd of cows found next to the Sugar Creek restaurant off Northland.**

**Jasmine Baar**  
Web Editor

One week ago, I was a run-of-the-mill pescatarian, thinking about starting a TikTok page dedicated to a pescatarian and meatless diet. Today, I'm rethinking my relationship with food.

Six years ago, my lifelong friend Anna Graebner started her plant-based journey and quickly urged me to join her. Like anyone else, I said I enjoy salami sandwiches and steak too much to give up meat.

Eventually, she wore me down, and I reconsidered my choices. Although Anna and I haven't given up meat entirely, we only occasionally include fish in our diets. This diet is known as pescatarianism.

The fundamental reason

I stopped eating meat was ultimately because of the unknown. I do not know if the mediocre burger I ate had a best friend on the farm who misses them. Or if they even touched the grass. I do not know if the rotisserie chicken I shoveled down lived its life in a cage or had a clean environment. I had my own chickens growing up. The unknown of where the meat came from and how it lived is a wonder to me.

There is a likely possibility that I'm over-empathic for animals, which humans have always eaten to survive. To each their own. I'm a firm believer that compassion is a gift that not everyone has.

**CONT. ON PG. 9**



**TASTES LIKE CHICKEN CONT.**

If there is a potluck, pescatarians should be prepared to bring their own food.

Everyone should face adversity like this. It teaches you confidence and, most importantly, tolerance. Being the “odd one out” builds character, although having someone to share your odd ways with is key.

Imagine my surprise when I went to watch a video Anna sent me, thinking it was a fun, heartwarming video. It was really a confession.

Anna revealed that when she was at the grocery store, she bought a rotisserie chicken.

I was astonished that my best friend, who had influenced me to go plant-based, abandoned ship. This sparked the beginning of a new era, one of many identity crises in college. Anna was my pescatarian rock, we had shared recipes and pictures of beautiful meals. What was I going to do without this support?

The Ferris men’s basketball team played in the Elite Eight on March 26, and Buffalo Wild Wings had the game

playing on multiple TVs. This event made it so there was no shortage of people in the restaurant that night. I had woken up that Tuesday, wanting to step out of my comfort zone and put my heart and stomach on the line to see if I could really do it.

When the server brought our food, there were six platters of chicken wings and my southwestern black bean burger. All but one plate of the wings had the bone in, which felt the most safe to me. I would have ordered bone-in wings in the past, so I thought, “Why not?”

My friend forked me over a parmesan garlic wing, and I grabbed it with my bare hands.

The demeanor of the table quickly switched from eyes on the TVs to all eyes and phones with flash on me. My group’s excitement and my nervousness clashed. My face resembled a strawberry in these moments as I coerced myself into taking a bite.

I took a leap of faith, and with all my courage, I took a nibble from the wing. Soon after, tears filled my eyes uncontrollably, although I did

not let one drop.

Proudly chewing the most ghastly, off-putting, indescribable texture and swallowing, I felt a sense of relief. I had played around with the idea of trying to eat meat but could never mentally or physically go through with it. Relationships with food are difficult because everyone fights their own very different battles.

When you go so long prohibiting yourself from eating something, it will change your taste buds. That chicken wing tasted like my fake chicken nuggets with much more fla-

vor. So, if I can get that same flavor without the death of a living creature, I can go without.

Five years from now, I could hold the record for most hot dogs eaten at a contest, or I could be advancing my skills in the kitchen and writing a plant-based cookbook. I do not know. I know it’s important to have original ideas. It’s important to do what matters to you, even if it doesn’t make sense to others.

# The future of sports journalism

With journalism in peril, what happens to the sports section?



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

## Dylan Rider Sports Editor

As the sports editor at the Torch, it should be no surprise how important the world of sports and journalism is to me.

About a year ago, one of my close friends told me how “safe” sports journalism was since there will always be sports. Months later, I refuted their claim when the New York Times closed its sports department and moved all coverage to the Athletic. Shortly after the end of the department, the Athletic cut about 4%, or 20 journalists, from their newsroom, according to AP.

As someone who saw and

still sees a possible career in sports journalism, this is alarming. It’s been no secret that journalism isn’t an incredibly lucrative field. According to CareerExplorer, a journalist in Michigan makes around \$36,890 a year on average.

On top of this, sports journalism is ruthless in its turmoil. At the beginning of the year, Sports Illustrated announced massive layoffs, which created questions about whether the sports giant can continue its run.

Sports Illustrated held many issues before their layoffs. One of these issues includes a controversy where the publication used artificial intelligence to write articles,

They credited the stories to fake journalists.

As these long-time publications struggle, they raise concerns about the future of any aspiring sports journalist. What reasons have we given for someone to want to enter this field? The conversation around sports journalism has changed exorbitantly in the past few years. A week ago, Louisiana State University’s women’s basketball coach, Kim Mulkey, threatened to sue the Washington Post and Kent Babb for a “false story” that had not been released at the time of her comments.

Mulkey’s threats, no matter how truthful they may be, are a reminder that sports journalism is much more than

telling you what happened at a game. The Boston Globe’s reporting about Harvard women’s hockey coach Katey Stone revealed a toxic culture of humiliating activities and neglectful behavior. TSN’s Rick Westhead’s reporting has helped break open many hockey scandals from the NHL to national teams.

Another issue in sports journalism is still how much of a “boys’ club” it can be. Don’t get me wrong, women have come an incredibly long way in sports journalism. However, it still feels like the field falls short in terms of gender diversity alongside how women are treated in the field.

One fellow college sports

journalist, Madi Warden of the State News, explained her experience as a woman in sports journalism.

“As a woman in sports, I have had my own fair share of feeling discriminated in my field of work,” Warden said. “It may be as simple as receiving a one-word answer from a coach that made my own confidence feel a little bruised ... but it goes as far as being pushed off to the side while at a media availability for another man to get between me and the player being interviewed.”

Warden most certainly isn’t the only woman in sports journalism to experience some form of misogyny. While women attempt to

break further in sports journalism, it’s important to allow the avenue for them to do so. Our sports section is included in this idea. We, like others, have our shortcomings too. Our section currently has zero women. This has always been something I loathe and still wish to fix.

With the field in turmoil, sports journalism is in as much trouble as the whole. What happens to sports writing is up in the air, as the landscape continues to change daily. One thing is clear to me, however. Just as the future needs journalism, it will also need sports journalism.

# Sports

Dylan Rider | Sports Editor | riderd1@ferris.edu

## Men's basketball falls short of Final Four appearance

### Bulldogs defeated in Elite Eight by Minnesota State



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics/Kevin McDermott

**Reece Hazelton, junior, takes a jump shot over a Minnesota State guard.**

**Jeffery Walker**  
Sports Reporter

Ferris State men's basketball tournament run ends at the hands of No. 1 seed Minnesota State in a 98-70 blowout loss in the Elite Eight on Tuesday, March 26.

The Bulldogs were off to a good start against Minnesota State, as they only trailed by one with under 15 minutes to go in the first half. The Mavericks then began to pull away from Ferris with a commanding 21-point lead that was cut to 19 points

before the half after senior guard Amari Lee knocked down a pair of free throws.

Down by 19 points at half-time, the Bulldogs trailed again in the tournament. Early in the second half, the lead was cut down to 11 points with just under 17 minutes

remaining in the game after a 10-2 run in favor of Ferris. Minnesota State responded with a scoring run and led by 28 points with 10 minutes left in the game.

The Bulldogs had offensive struggles, with the team only shooting 37.5% from the field, 25% from three-point range, and 60% (15-of-25) free throws. Leading the team offensively was senior forward Desean Munson with 11 points and senior forward Deng Reng with 10 points.

Ferris ran into a hot Minnesota State offense that shot 58.4% from the field and 60.8% from three-point range. The Mavericks had three players reach double digits while two players scored 20-plus points in the contest.

Head coach Andy Bronkema gave props to Minnesota State's team.

"I mean credit to Minnesota State," Bronkema said. "I thought we started each half pretty well. Other than that, it was pretty much a buzzsaw

that we went through. They made a lot of shots, they made a lot of plays. We just couldn't get the usual momentum that we typically get in games, where we're going on big runs of our own."

With the loss in the Elite Eight, the Bulldogs' 2023-24 campaign comes to an end. Ferris finished its season with an overall 28-8 record and just two rounds short of the national championship game.

Senior guard Ben Davidson had a message for the underclassmen or future Bulldogs.

"The famous saying is 'it's easy to get to the top but it's hard to stay up there,'" Davidson said. "I feel like in my six years, we've done a pretty good job of staying up there. I got two regular-season GLIAC titles, one postseason GLIAC title, and a regional championship. The formula is there you just got to stick around it's not going to be easy."

The Bulldog's postseason run this year comes to an end. This year's squad has

overcome adversity with injuries and captured a GLIAC tournament title and a regional championship title on their quest to win it all falling just short.

Bronkema reflects on this year's team and what this season has meant to coach this squad.

"It was a lot of fun. At the same time as a coach, you put pressure on yourself to be everything you can be for those guys," Bronkema said. When you're in college that long or when you have a red shirt year plus a COVID year, that's a lot. That's a long time in college. Then fitting the pieces together, keeping them motivated, and figuring out the right buttons to push. It was a lot of work and it tested me as a coach."

The Bulldogs will enter the offseason with hopes of going further than this year. Ferris men's basketball will return next fall.

## Women's basketball run ends in Final Four

**Connor Grypma**  
Sports Reporter

The Ferris State women's basketball team fell in the DII Final Four versus Texas Woman's University on Wednesday, March 27.

The No. 3 seeded Bulldogs failed to reach the DII National Championship, as they fell to the No. 2 seeded Pioneers by a score of 68-52.

Ferris started out shooting well from the field, with them leading by four midway through the first quarter, which was their biggest lead for the entire game. After the Bulldogs jumped out to their lead, the Pioneers closed the first quarter on an 11-3 scoring run and would lead 25-16 after one.

The second quarter was all Pioneers, with Ferris shooting just 3-of-15 from the field in the second and were outscored 14-6.

Head coach Kurt Westendorp knew the Bulldogs could not afford to slow down in the tournament.

"We can't really have a cold stretch against a quality opponent in the Final Four," Westendorp said.

The Pioneers took a commanding 17-point lead into

halftime and led the Bulldogs 39-22. Ferris then cut the lead to as much as eight mid-way through the third quarter thanks to eleven third-quarter points from senior guard Mallory McCartney.

Going into the game, there was a lot of uncertainty about how much McCartney would play, as she suffered an ankle injury late in the Elite Eight game. However, the injury did not look like it affected her as she put up a team-high sixteen points and led the team with four steals and four assists.

The Pioneers dominated this game by getting to the free-throw line. Texas Woman's outshot Ferris from the line 20-8. The Bulldogs failed to retake the lead at any point in the second half and fell in the tournament.

Although the season did not end how the team would have liked, senior forward Chloe Idoni knows what a successful season they had.

"It is clearly good for the program," Idoni said. "We are proud that we can be a part of the team to lead this program to where it is at right now."

The Bulldogs reached new

heights this year, setting a program record for wins in a season with 26 and being the only team in program history to reach the Final Four.

McCartney wants this historic season to be the building blocks for future seasons of Bulldog basketball.

"We hoped to do more but this program is just getting started," McCartney said. "Hopefully we have created a legacy and are making this the new standard for this program."

With their exit from the tournament, women's basketball finished their season with an overall 26-6 record and a 15-3 record in the GLIAC.

Westendorp recognizes how special his team was this season, not just on the court but off the court as well.

"I have coached some teams that won a lot of games but didn't have that kind of chemistry they had," Westendorp said. "They have such great character, this is the type of team that does reunions and they will see each other for the rest of their life."

Ferris is graduating three seniors, McCartney, Idoni,

and forward Amaka Unobagha. All three played a pivotal role in the Bulldogs'

record-breaking season, and Westendorp has nothing but praise for the three, saying

that they're "amazing people first, as well as amazing basketball players."



Photo by: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

**Junior guard Kadyn Blanchard sprints down the court during the match against the Texas University Pioneers.**



## Final Four predictions (for full predictions go to fsutorch.com)

Caden Hofmaan	Dylan Rider	Jeffrey Walker	Nolan Matthews	Connor Grypma
Semifinal #4 Alabama vs. #1 UConn Prediction: UConn	Semifinal #4 Alabama vs. #1 UConn Prediction: UConn	Semifinal #4 Alabama vs. #1 UConn Prediction: Alabama	Semifinal #4 Alabama vs. #1 UConn Prediction: UConn	Semifinal #4 Alabama vs. #1 UConn Prediction: UConn
Semifinal #11 N.C. State vs. #1 Purdue Prediction: Purdue	Semifinal #11 N.C. State vs. #1 Purdue Prediction: Purdue	Semifinal #11 N.C. State vs. #1 Purdue Prediction: Purdue	Semifinal #11 N.C. State vs. #1 Purdue Prediction: Purdue	Semifinal #11 N.C. State vs. #1 Purdue Prediction: Purdue
Championship #1 Purdue vs. #1 UConn Prediction: UConn	Championship #1 Purdue vs. #1 UConn Prediction: UConn	Championship #1 Purdue vs. #1 UConn Prediction: Alabama	Championship #1 Purdue vs. #1 UConn Prediction: UConn	Championship #1 Purdue vs. #1 UConn Prediction: UConn

Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

# Tennis continues dominant play

## Both tennis programs defeat Grand Valley State Lakers in rivalry matchup

Connor Grypma  
Sports Reporter

The Ferris State tennis teams defeated the Grand Valley State Lakers at home on Saturday, March 30.

The men (12-4, 3-0 in GLIAC) swept their matchup 7-0, and the women (9-7, 3-0 in GLIAC) won 4-3.

Head coach Mark Doren made sure his teams were prepared heading into the rivalry match.

"I challenged the lower-classmen to really look at what the Grand Valley rivalry means to the other sports on campus and the upperclassmen on our team, and show that it means that much to them as well," Doren said. "They came out today and really showed that Bulldog fight."

### Men's tennis

The men's squad extended their winning streak to seven matches with the win on Saturday.

The Bulldogs captured the doubles point early with wins from the first doubles pairing of senior Jan Koupil and senior Benjamin Lortie. The

second doubles tandem of sophomore Esunge Ndumbe and junior Alessandro Santangelo secured the point with a straight-set win.

The men went on to sweep singles play, including straight-set wins from senior Yannic Alexander Mader and sophomore Erik Kovacs.

Ndumbe knew the Bulldogs were ready for the rivalry matchup.

"Playing our rival school isn't just another match, it's a clash of tradition," Ndumbe said. "There was a lot of pressure coming into the match today, but we had been mentally preparing ourselves after our win earlier this week."

### Women's tennis

After a 1-3 start to their season, Saturday's win marks a fifth straight victory for the women's team.

The Bulldogs took the doubles point courtesy of wins from the one-doubles team of senior Morgan Waller and sophomore Ana Sofia Hernandez Ferrer and the three-doubles pairing of sophomore Maria Hernandez Ferrer and freshman Katherine Earnest.

Earnest knew the team was prepared for singles play after she helped capture the doubles point.

"Everyone was focused and ready to dominate," Earnest said. "As a freshman, helping secure the doubles point was extra special. You could tell the team went into singles with a high amount of energy and confidence. Beating our biggest rival on our home courts was thrilling."

Ferris then won three of the six singles matches to give them the 4-3 win.

Waller and Ana Hernandez Ferrer both captured their second win of the day, and senior Sophie Daavettilla won her fifth straight singles match to gain the victory for the Bulldogs.

Both tennis teams are set for an in-season break before returning next weekend. The women's squad is back in action at home against the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals on Saturday, April 13 at 12 p.m. before both teams take on the Wayne State Warriors on Sunday, April 14. The men's match will begin at 10 a.m. with the women's match following at 2 p.m.

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# Hockey transfer

## Antonio Venuto transfers to Merrimack

Dylan Rider  
Sports Editor

Senior forward Antonio Venuto, who led the Bulldogs in scoring in the 2023-24 season, committed to Merrimack College on Saturday, March 30.

Venuto, a Hobey Baker finalist this past season, had 12 goals and 14 points for Ferris in 36 games. The Whitmore Lake, MI native joined the Bulldogs in the 2020-21

season. Since then, the senior forward racked up 23 goals and 31 assists for 54 points in 121 outings.

Venuto's departure comes as no surprise, as head coach Bob Daniels told the Torch on March 20 that the 6'3 forward had entered the transfer portal alongside senior goaltender Logan Stein. Senior netminder Noah Giesbrecht, forward Austin McCarthy and defenseman Ben Schultheis are also in the

transfer portal without any commitments as of April 1.

The Merrimack College Warriors are a DI program located in North Andover, MA. The Warriors posted a 13-21-1 record in 2023-24, which included a 6-17-1 finish in the Hockey East conference.

For updates on Ferris hockey, please visit <https://fsutorch.com/category/sports/hockey/>

# Softball wraps opening week

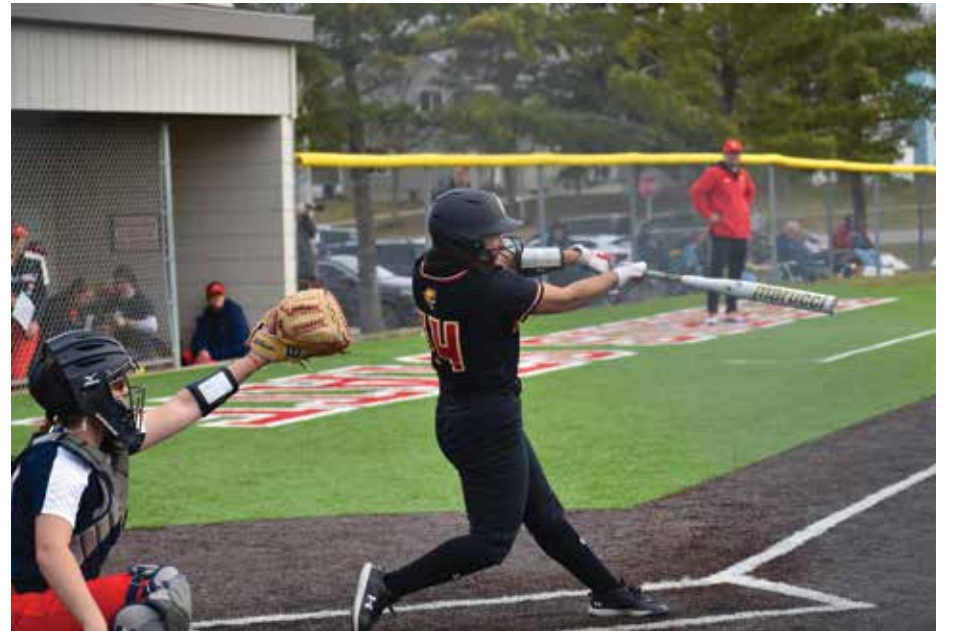


Photo by: Brianna Wichman | Freelance Photographer  
Freshman Ashley Webb pitches while playing against the Saginaw Valley Cardinals.

Photo by: Brianna Wichman | Freelance Photographer  
Sophomore catcher Emily Killion bats for the Bulldogs during the game on March 25.

## APRIL SPORTS CALENDAR

SATURDAY, APRIL 13	FRIDAY, APRIL 19	SATURDAY, APRIL 20	SUNDAY, APRIL 21	TUESDAY, APRIL 23
<p><b>12:00 p.m.</b> Women's tennis vs. Saginaw Valley</p> <p><b>1:00 p.m.</b> Softball vs. Davenport</p> <p><b>3:00 p.m.</b> Softball vs. Davenport</p>	<p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Women's tennis vs. Michigan Tech</p> <p><b>2:00 p.m.</b> Men's tennis vs. Michigan Tech</p>	<p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Women's tennis vs. Lake Superior State</p> <p><b>1:00 p.m.</b> Softball vs. Wisconsin Parkside</p> <p><b>2:00 p.m.</b> Men's tennis vs. Lake Superior State</p> <p><b>3:00 p.m.</b> Softball vs. Wisconsin Parkside</p>	<p><b>1:00 p.m.</b> Softball vs. Purdue Northwest</p> <p><b>3:00 p.m.</b> Softball vs. Purdue Northwest</p>	<p><b>1:00 p.m.</b> Softball vs. Lewis (Ill.)</p> <p><b>1:00 p.m.</b> Softball vs. Lewis (Ill.)</p>

Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

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