



## Beware of barnacles

Ferris State DPS will begin using Barnacle Parking in spring 2026



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

The Barnacle parking notice is placed on a car's windshield to indicate a parking violation, alerting drivers to follow campus parking rules.

**Emma Walters**  
News Editor

Ferris State University's Department of Public Safety will begin using the Barnacle parking service beginning in the spring semester of 2026.

Barnacle Parking is a parking enforcement service that allows parking managers to apply a large yellow device to car windshields when motorists have exceeded their parking time.

According to the Barnacle Parking website, a parking enforcer inputs the vehicle information and places the Barnacle onto the vehicle windshield, where it suctions to the glass.

In order to remove the Barnacle from their vehicle, the motorist can call the phone number listed on the device

or visit the website to pay their fine.

Upon payment, the motorist is given a release code that they input onto the device, which allows for it to release. The motorist can then deliver the Barnacle to a nearby drop box.

Ferris State University is no stranger to parking issues, with students around campus dubbing enforcement officers as "meter maids".

Currently, the system DPS utilizes to monitor vehicle parking is physical officers on the ground, running plate numbers and writing tickets for meters that have run out.

DPS officer Robert Glentz explained that the decision to transition to the Barnacle program comes from a need to improve efficiency on campus and maintain fairness across

campus.

"Unpaid parking citations and repeat non-compliance create both an administrative burden and a fairness issue for the broader campus community," Glentz said. "The Barnacle system provides an effective enforcement tool that offers greater accountability for repeat violators, reduces the need for more extreme measures and encourages timely resolution of unpaid citations."

Glentz clarified that implementation of the Barnacle system will be limited to the Big Rapids campus only, with Kendall College in Grand Rapids exempt from the service.

He further mentioned that the service will help to streamline the process for resolving unpaid tickets and reduce the labor-intensive

reponses of towing and physically booting vehicles.

The idea of the Barnacle is centered around the visibility of the device. The hope is that the attention it draws from others will prompt motorists who have violated parking rules to not repeat their offenses.

According to a post made on the DPS social media pages, motorists who have six or more unpaid citations are the only individuals that will be eligible to have the Barnacle deployed on their vehicles.

Human resources management junior Destiny Douglas expressed that parking has posed an issue during her time at Ferris and expressed concern over the implementation of the new Barnacle system.

"I think that parking can

improve in a lot of areas. I work at Starbucks and live all the way over in West Campus, and I have to walk. If it's raining or storming in the winter, it's a harsh walk," Douglas said. "If I get done with a long shift and I see that thing on my car, it's going to go with me. That is so much of a hassle. We can build a dorm on a stadium where we already have a lack of parking and now I have to pay for this barnacle thing?"

Douglas expressed doubt over the effectiveness of the Barnacle system, stating that people are stubborn and may find a way to drive away with it attached to their vehicle.

While some students may be concerned about the Barnacle, others are not so worried.

Business management

sophomore Diamond Cabbil expressed that the new parking system would be beneficial if students were properly informed.

"I wouldn't be filled with rage or anything if I found it on my car," Cabbil said. "I would be questioning it on what it is, especially if I was clueless. I would be wondering if it was something dangerous but I do believe that paper tickets are just a piece of paper. A lot of people aren't going to pay that until it catches up with them."

DPS officers are currently in training for the new system.

### News

With the Red Zone period approaching, learn about how to keep yourself safe and resources available on campus to assist. **PG. 2**

### Culture

Halloween is not celebrated in many other cultures, but Ferris students from all backgrounds are embracing its many traditions! **PG. 7**

### Opinions

Happy Halloween! Tire Fire returns with senior obituaries, chilling stories, and horror-scopes for your Halloween predictions **PG. 8**

### Sports

Kadyn Blanchard is back after a season ending injury last year, learn about her comeback and how she is looking ahead to this season. **PG. 10**





# News

Emma Walters | News Editor | waltere8@ferris.edu

## Michigan

Blase Gapinski  
Editor in Chief

In the last week, Michigan gas prices have increased nearly 30 cents, which comes shortly after Statewide prices reached a new low.

Prices in Michigan were the lowest they have been since April 2021. The average price for unleaded fuel in Michigan right now is \$3.08 cents a gallon. This major jump comes after a refinery fire in Indiana, which caused the national average to slightly rise.

The current national average price of unleaded fuel is right around \$3 and the areas in the Midwest affected by the fire will likely see another price decline in the coming weeks.

Head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy, Patrick De Haan stated in a release that “While the spike in prices in affected areas was significant, relief is likely in the weeks ahead as the situation stabilizes.”

## National

Blase Gapinski  
Editor in Chief

On Thursday, Oct. 23, Miami Heat guard Terry Rozier and former Detroit Pistons guard and current head coach of the Portland Trailblazers, Chauncey Billups were arrested as a result of a federal gambling investigation.

Based on numerous reports, Billups was arrested and charged with allegedly taking part in an illegal poker operation tied to the Mafia. Rozier was arrested and charged in a separate but related case for allegedly using insider information to place unlawful sports wagers on the NBA.

The FBI has been investigating this matter since 2019. The investigation spanned across 11 states and involved four Mafia families.

In total, 34 people have been arrested so far in these separate but related cases. Both Rozier and Billups have been placed on leave by their respective teams.

## Global

Blase Gapinski  
Editor in Chief

The Jamaican government has ordered evacuation for parts of the capital, Kingston and the entire island has been classified as “threatened,” as Hurricane Melissa has been upgraded to a category five storm.

The people in Jamaica have been preparing for impact, as this is likely the strongest Hurricane to ever hit the country. Forecasters are warning that destructive winds and life-threatening storm surges are expected to hit Jamaica.

Hurricane Melissa has sustained maximum wind speeds of up to 165mph and is likely to strengthen as it nears closer to Jamaica.

Jamaica’s Prime Minister, Andrew Holness has already ordered the immediate evacuation of several vulnerable communities, which have already been significantly impacted by the heavy rainfall that the storm has brought.

In a post on X, he urged citizens to prepare to stay indoors throughout the course of the storm and to comply with evacuation orders as they are announced.

# Safety during the fall

## What is the “Red Zone”?



Photo courtesy of the Torch Archives

Halloween weekend is particularly a time when students go out and enjoy large social gatherings.

Liz Brown  
Podcast Manager

The period between the beginning of the fall semester and Thanksgiving break has come to be known as the “Red Zone.” This is due to the majority of sexual assaults on college campuses occurring during this time.

The fall semester hosts many of the pivotal college events on the FSU campus. With football, frat rushes and Halloween to keep everyone occupied and partying, it is important to be aware of these heightened atmospheres as assault cases are especially prominent during this time.

While students may feel an overarching worry about safety during this time, there are several resources available to students to help them keep themselves and others safe during the party season.

Anti-Violence Alliance (AVA) Violence Prevention Coordinator, Sydney Mingori explained why the Red Zone exists.

“People are just getting into college, trying to estab-

lish their schedules and get involved in a whole bunch of different things,” Mingori said. “So that does mean, unfortunately, that there are people who are looking to prey on those things.”

One of the best ways for students to stay safe during the Red Zone is to educate themselves about what to do in uncomfortable situations.

AVA Staff Assistant Collinee Butler mentioned some ways to be proactive in these situations.

“It allows people to implement more buddy systems and makes more students aware,” Butler said. “Specifically, freshmen. If they know about it, they can know they’re more at risk for it.”

No one wants the thought of sexual assault looming over their head while trying to have a fun time, but it is the unfortunate reality.

The easiest way to prevent a situation of this manner is to be informed about consent. The idea of “no means no” seems simple in theory; however, many still struggle with the concept. Consent should be the first thing any-

one discusses in a sexual encounter.

Mingori offered up a few examples of when consent is most important.

“Assuming a yes when somebody isn’t saying anything, or while they’re under the influence of drugs or alcohol,” Mingori said. “Or if they’re just straight up unconscious, they can’t say yes to that.”

According to Rainn.org, female college students are at three times the risk of experiencing sexual violence. While male students do not see the same amount of risk, they are not exempt from these statistics. 6.8% of male undergraduate students experience sexual assault to some level.

Anyone could go through this. It is important that we know what to do in order to get out of a situation or prevent it in the future.

Butler ran through a few of the “five D’s” that AVA uses to intervene in a potentially harmful situation.

“A ‘Distract’ method is when you see somebody who looks uncomfortable, and just going up and being

like ‘Hey, can you show me where the bathroom is?’ Butler said. “‘Delegate’ is maybe having that one friend who is a little more intimidating or comfortable handling it.”

Another important part of this is “Delay.” Following up and comforting a victim after an event. Witnessing or hearing about these things can be scary, but imagine how they are feeling. Trusting someone enough to share that kind of information is hard, so listen and accept what they have to say.

Rainn.org says only about one of five people will actually report what they have gone through to law enforcement. Many people believe it is something they have to deal with on their own or that it is not important enough, neither of which is ever the case.

The AVA provides many resources for students and survivors of sexual violence. The organization is offering several campus events to educate students during the Red Zone time period, which can be found on the campus events calendar.

# Ferris Athletics partners with AI company

## Three-year partnership expected to integrate FanWord Assist across programs



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Ferris Athletics teams up with FanWord Assist, partnering with the software company for the next three years.

Davaria Pharr  
News Reporter

On Oct. 15, Ferris State University athletics announced that they have entered into a three-year partnership with FanWord, which is an AI tool that generates content and assists with storytelling for college sports.

FanWord can assist in creating written content, game recaps, feature stories and player bios.

Athletics Director Rob Bentley explained that with so much sports content that needs coverage, the partnership should help with the efficiency of the marketing team.

“It’s a tool that will allow us to help speed up some of our content that we do,” Bentley said. “We have seven or eight teams all competing at the same time. It helps speed up the process of the research and writing side of it.”

Bentley further expressed that the new AI tool further helps with updating a player’s bio and uploading statistical data.

For example, the tool is helping to interpret statistics such as a team having a 10-game winning streak.

Bentley further explained that the partnership is about keeping up with the times

and evolving as needed.

“You know, I think in this day and age, we have to keep up with what everyone else is doing. A lot of it is going the AI route, just like it is everywhere else,” Bentley said.

Following the press release announcing the partnership, Ferris has faced backlash on their behalf for implementing AI sports content.

Television, Design and Media Production senior Francie Hoffman expressed that the new AI may take away the chance for students to participate in learning experiences surrounding sports writing and the ability to showcase their creativity.

“I think it takes away from our critical thinking and our creativity. Instead of us coming up with these ideas, we’re just telling a robot how to do it,” Hoffman said. “I think we should try to push ourselves more in that sense.”

Hoffman further explained that she feels the tool endorses laziness and low-effort thinking amongst students.

Other students feel the tool is a disregard for the creative majors here at Ferris.

Television design and media production senior Adam Jewell explained that with programs like graphic design, journalism and sports com-

munication, there should not be a need for this tool at the university.

“I feel like the introduction of generative AI is in its own way, disrespectful. It is telling the people in these programs, you don’t really have an actual purpose or career ahead of you,” Jewell said. “I feel like they’re trying to create a pipeline where the AI major will be doing athletic stuff instead of sports communication people. Basically replacing the sports communication majors.”

Jewell explained that in other fields, such as healthcare, where AI is not used in a generative way but rather as an assisting tool, it is acceptable.

He also expressed concern that Ferris is just another university hopping on the AI trend, taking away from creative programs offered at the university level.

Bentley explained that the implementation of FanWord is not meant to take opportunities away, but to lighten the load and promote efficiency.

“It’s kind of like using ChatGPT or something like that but there’s still a lot to account for in the process that you have to go back and adjust errors,” Bentley said. “I don’t think it takes away

from anybody’s position or anything like that, it’s just another tool for us.”

Hoffman voiced further concern over job security and the loss of the human aspect behind content creation.

“We should be able to showcase students’ work

and give them that opportunity, not some AI. Put them in a position where they can fail because they are learning,” Hoffman said. “I feel like there’s something AI can’t replicate and that’s the human aspect, of knowing that another human created this.”

At this time, it is unknown exactly how much the FanWord AI tool will be utilized by athletics regarding content creation itself.

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# ON THE RECORD

Emma Walters  
News Editor

## Assault and Battery

Oct. 21 – Ferris State officers spoke with two parents who reported that their 17-year-old daughter may have been assaulted on during a campus visit that occurred on Sept. 20. The parents stated that they found concerning videos, photos and messages on their daughter’s phone. The investigation remains ongoing.

## I wouldn’t drink that if I were you

Oct. 20, 3:45 p.m. - Residence staff observed alcohol in plain view inside of a refrigerator in a Cardinal Hall suite while completing routine health and safety checks. Two residents in the suite were found to be under the legal drinking age and all occupants were notified of the policy violation.

## Caught sitting still

Oct. 20, 11:30 p.m. - Ferris State officers contacted an individual sitting outside a campus parking area after a staff member expressed concern for the individual’s welfare. Officers discovered that the individual had an outstanding warrant from another jurisdiction. The subject was taken into custody without incident and turned over to state police for transport and lodging.

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Philippians 4:13





# Culture

Grace Heethuis | Culture Editor | turnek29@ferris.edu

## The human condition on stage

Ferris Theater Department performs “Welcome to the Monkey House”



Photo by: Blase Gapinski | Editor in Chief

Donovan Coates (left) and Imogen Hill (right) on stage as Harry and Helene during the productions second act, “Who Am I This Time?”

Blase Gapinski  
Editor in Chief

The Ferris Theater Department took the Williams Auditorium stage for its first show of the 2025-26 school year with “Welcome to the Monkey House,” which featured four short stories acted out entirely by students.

The production is a screenplay adaptation of Vonnegut’s “Welcome to the Monkey House.” The four stories featured on stage explore themes of technology, conformity and human connection, topics that continue to resonate more than half a century after Vonnegut first wrote them.

The four stories reflect Vonnegut’s lifelong concern with humanity’s moral balance in an age of progress. From government overreach in the opening play “Harrison Bergeron,” to emotional vulnerability in “Who Am I This Time?” The false promise of technology in “The Euphio Question” and redemption through empathy in “The Kid Nobody Could Handle,” each warns against humans losing their compassion amid modern advancement.

Theater director and assistant professor of humanities Dennis Henry was hoping the audience would be able to walk away from the show

reflecting both on the humor and humanity within Vonnegut’s work.

“A big part of Vonnegut’s writing was about the dangers of modern weapons, the dangers of modern technology, and the importance of having empathy for other human beings,” Henry said. “I think we get a lot of that in this play.”

The audience filled the auditorium for opening night, responding with laughter and applause as each story unfolded on stage.

Henry described what it was like directing a show as intricate as “Welcome to the Monkey House” and where the inspiration came from.

“Because there are no theater majors, we only have time to do one play a semester, so to accommodate as many people as possible, I try to look for a big cast, usually between 25 and 35, and we had 29 students in our cast here,” Henry said. “The other things we have to look for is whether there are enough roles for women, so we have to consider gender balance. Apart from that, we’re looking for things that are fun to do, that are interesting and that maybe have something to say about modern society.”

Henry’s message about empathy and human connection

wasn’t just something explored on stage as it was something the cast felt deeply behind the scenes.

Integrative studies senior and Alpha Si Omega community liaison Jordan Bos, who performed in “The Euphio Question,” said the unique structure of the production helped the cast grow closer.

“At first, we were all separated into smaller story groups, but once tech week starts, we’re all together,” Bos said. “That’s when it gets more fun, and you really get to know everyone. That’s

what I love about theater. It’s a community.”

In “The Euphio Question,” Bos played the wife of a sociology professor who helped create a machine that emits euphoric waves, sending the entire town into a blissful, trance-like state. She mentioned how the audience plays a part in shaping the role she is in.

“Honestly, hearing the audience laugh helps me stay in character,” Bos said. “It’s like method acting and it just keeps me smiling.”

Bos said the story’s mes-

sage was just as much about

like method acting. She felt the message was timely, reminding audiences of the importance of balance and emotion in a world increasingly drawn to instant gratification.

“It’s okay to be happy, but not all the time,” Bos said. “Emotions is important and it’s okay to feel sad or angry too.”

General business sophomore Imogen Hill also found joy in the camaraderie of the cast coming together for the first time and said the experience was just as much about

personal growth. Hill played Helene Shaw in “Who Am I This Time?”, a reserved woman whose life changes when she’s encouraged to join a local community theater in the town of North Crawford.

“When Helene first starts acting, she’s terrible,” Hill said. “But once she opens up emotionally, she completely transforms. She referred herself as being trapped in a big glass bottle, and by the end, she’s finally out of it, becoming happy, expressive and the person she wants to be.”

Hill said working on the show helped her connect more deeply with her character and her fellow castmates. Because rehearsals were divided by story, she didn’t see the full scope of the production until tech week.

“It was exciting, but also a little nerve-wracking, because we hadn’t all been together before,” Hill said. “But once I saw the show as a whole, I really understood it more and it made so much more sense. Everyone coming together helped me immerse myself into my character because everyone else was too.”

Through their dedication and teamwork, the cast brought Vonnegut’s message of empathy and humanity to life on the Williams Auditorium stage.

The Ferris Theater Department will return to the stage in the spring semester with “The Guy Who Didn’t Like Musicals,” a dark comedy about a world where song and dance take over everyday life.



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# Literature in person returns

Kathleen J. Waites presents her debut novel



Photo courtesy of Kathleen Waites

Author Kathleen Waites celebrates her latest work with Ferris State University during the final literature in person event of the year.

**Grace Heethuis**  
*Culture Editor*

Tuesday, Oct. 21, Kathleen J. Waites visited campus with her debut novel, “The Faithful Ones,” for the final Literature in Person event of the semester held in the Fine Art Gallery.

Waites, a Philadelphia native, recently retired after nearly three decades of teaching at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

She is from a very large, Irish Catholic family, which aided her in writing her novel. Waites reflected on how her family history influenced the process of writing her book.

“I understand the tenor, the way they behave, what they care about and that sort

of thing,” Waites said. “I think I oftentimes find myself falling back on family stuff that I’ve learned growing up in my writing.”

The event was attended by many, including students, faculty, locals and even former Literature in Person speaker and author, Philip Sterling.

Waites reflected on her experience at the event, noting the audience’s participation and interest in her reading and conversation surrounding her novel.

“The audience was very receptive,” Waites said. “They were very curious, and they seemed enthusiastic about the topic, and especially the reading that I did.”

Waites read the prologue of her novel, as well as a few pages from different sec-

tions, talked about the true story behind her writing and how she decided to write the story.

“It’s a family story, that as I mentioned before, kind of intersects with a very important national scandal,” Waites said. “It kind of sheds light on an epic, a very important moment in American history that most people are not familiar with.”

For Waites, writing “The Faithful Ones” meant much more than just putting her work out into the world. It was a way to help people learn about an important time in history and honor a family story.

“I hope it will enlighten people about families and how secrets in families can unwittingly do damage,” Wait-

es said. “Also, I think I want people to come away with it knowing that history is important, and that we need to understand the present and move forward in the future.”

Carrie Weis, the director of the Fine Art Gallery on campus, was one of many to attend and spoke about what drew her to the event.

“I love to support Deirdre and Literature in Person,” Weis said. “And even though I haven’t met some of these authors that she’s brought in, there’s always something that I find really interesting and engaging.”

Weis also recalled what she found interesting about attending the Literature in Person event.

“This really touched me,” Weis said. “I had no idea

what this book was about at all, and I have a family member that actually died in a mental institution here in Michigan.”

Deirdre Fagan, professor, coordinator of Creative Writing, coordinator of Literature in Person, assistant chair and advisor to the English Society, has been hosting Literature in Person events since her first year as a professor at Ferris.

Fagan talked a little bit about how she got to know Waites and chose her to be one of the speakers for Literature in Person.

“I actually, for a very brief time, worked at the same university that she’s now retired from, and my husband was her colleague,” Fagan said. “I was looking for somebody

who could speak to creative nonfiction, and so she just seemed to be the perfect fit.”

Additionally, Fagan discussed her thoughts on the Literature in Person event, including what she found interesting as an attendee.

“People were really engaged,” Fagan said. “I think what is interesting about this book is how it blends fiction and nonfiction, as historical novels tend to do, and that it’s based on a true story.”

For more information about the Literature in Person Reading Series, check out the Ferris Literature in Person website.



# Campus Halloween spirit

## Students dress up for costume competition



Photo by: Tate Zellman | Freelance Reporter

Students get into the spooky spirit during the Office of International Education’s annual Halloween costume party, celebrating as a community.

**Tate Zellman**  
*Freelance Reporter*

The Office of International Education hosted its annual Halloween costume party to get students into the Halloween spirit by displaying their costumes to their community. With over 30 students attending the party, everyone got the opportunity to vibe, dance and enjoy the judgment-free environment before the costume competition took place. The party was hosted at the Interdisciplinary Resource Center, and took place on Friday, Oct. 24, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Immigration and Student Service Coordinator Yue Moua enjoyed being the main

host of the event and allowing students to celebrate the holiday, especially those who don’t normally celebrate Halloween in their cultures. “It means a lot in terms of fun,” Moua said. “It’s something that’s American culture since Halloween is an unofficial holiday in some places. For a lot of these kids, Halloween is not really big in their country. For them, it’s like watching a movie, but here they’re actually doing it by dressing up as something unique and special.” Moua also expressed the importance of celebrating Halloween while students are at college. “You’re only a student once in your life,” Moua said.

“You’re never going to be this young ever again. I think Halloween as a college student is the most fun you’re going to have as far as celebrating the holiday. You have the youth and the energy and just want to have fun, and I think that’s something that doesn’t happen too much after college.” About an hour into the party, the costume competition officially began. Students who dressed up could participate in one of three categories for the competition: the silliest, the scariest and the best duo. After each student representing the specific category showcased their costume, everyone else would be pre-

sented with a QR code where they could vote for the winner of the costume category. Interior design freshman Nate Craft won the scariest costume award for dressing up as a Pierrot clown and was both honored and shocked to have won that category. “I didn’t think my costume was that scary, so I was kind of nervous to participate in the scariest costumes,” Craft said. “But it means a lot because I really like clowns. I feel like I’ve always resonated with them.” Additionally, Craft mentioned multiple ways of celebrating Halloween while on campus and wanted to express the spirit of the holiday. “I had a Halloween-themed

event at my hall a couple of days ago and now I’m doing this competition,” Craft said. “I wanted to join this competition because of the fun aspect and to get out of my comfort zone a little bit.” Not only was the competition hosted by the International Education staff, but a few students got the opportunity to help host and create a fun environment. One of them was animation and game design senior Nhi Tran, who comes from an area where Halloween is not celebrated. Having the experience of putting the event together allowed her to be a part of various cultures. “I’m from Vietnam, and over there, Halloween is not

a thing,” Tran said. “Seeing people dress in full outfits and costumes is so interesting. Getting to prepare for this event and creating a good vibe for people and seeing them dress up is pretty cool. I’m from another culture, but now I get to participate in other cultures.” All students are encouraged to enjoy the Halloween festivities on campus. Whether that be dressing up with friends or going to events or parties, all students can find a way to dress up and celebrate Halloween if they choose, as participating in the Halloween fun on campus only lasts a few years.

Tire Fire

Jackie Moglia | Opinions Editor | mogliaj@ferris.edu

Legal Disclaimer:

The Ferris State University Tire Fire is a satirical newspaper featuring fabricated or exaggerated stories written by members of the Ferris State Torch staff. Pseudonyms and false job titles have been adopted for each of the Torch staff members whose work is included in the Tire Fire. The Tire Fire utilizes invented names and quotes in its stories unless public figures or notable university personas are being satirized or described for the sake of our personal enjoyment, and the enjoyment of our readers. All other use of real names is coincidental. While the Tire Fire is an extension of the Torch, it is meant to be satirical and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Torch, nor Ferris State University.

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Senior obituaries

Obituary headers for Blase Gapinski, Jackie Moglia, Hailey Nye, and Emma Walters, each featuring a RIP sign and a photo.

Obituary text for Anita Break, Jack-o'-Lantern, Halite Gneiss, Embalma Waitress, and Carly Jefferson, detailing their deaths and tributes.

Obituary headers for Carly Judge, Liz Brown, and Blake Flanery, each featuring a RIP sign and a photo.

Obituary text for Elsbeth Black, Blake Skeleman, and other staff members, detailing their deaths and tributes.



# Campfire stories

## Spooky stories that are sure to give you a thrill

**Trevarious Bonehead**  
*Ghost Writer*

Every night before Halloween, it is rumored that Brutus’s twin brother, Benny, strolls around campus selecting students to become his victims.

Many years ago, when Brutus was elected to become the university’s mascot, Benny became jealous. What many students don’t know is that Benny was also in contention to be in the spotlight. But Brutus stole the position, causing Benny to flee the area of Big Rapids in shame.

Enraged by jealousy, Benny strolls around campus every night wanting to scare students with intimidation. He intentionally waits to sneak up on students at night since that’s when

most students are occupied in their dorms.

Dating back to 1986, Benny has a total of scaring 34 students before Halloween. Many students believe that Benny doesn’t exist since his last scare occurred in 2021.

One dark October night, Benny crept around Stetson Hall, hoping to catch students. Benny went to the window of Stetson Hall 108 and started scratching his paws on the window. His scratching was so loud that it woke up business junior Morgan Peaches.

Peaches got up from her bed and screamed when she saw a dog. She described the situation as “the most scariest thing I’ve ever witnessed. It was from out of nowhere, and I didn’t know why that dog was so angry.”

Benny had become so aggressive that he bit the window

with his teeth. Peaches then screamed so loud that she woke up her suitemate, social work junior McAnna Tellman. When Peaches opened the door for Tellman, Benny was gone. The scratches and teeth marks, however, were visible on Peaches’ window.

When asked about seeing a dog, Tellman said, “I never saw a dog. The scratches could’ve been anything. I feel bad I can’t believe her [Peaches], but since I didn’t see the dog, I don’t know what it could’ve been.”

While the mystery of Benny remains unknown to some and not others, it is always best to stay alert if you see any mysterious dogs roaming around campus. Remember to be cautious and aware of your surroundings at night. Any student can become Benny’s next victim.

**Lucent Freedyn**  
*Ghost Writer*

In an unprecedented global disaster now being called “The Rumbling,” hundreds of thousands of colossal titans have emerged from under various buildings of Ferris’ campus, and are advancing across western Michigan, leaving destruction in their wake.

Witnesses reported that notable campus structures, such as FLITE and the University Center, began collapsing, revealing that their structures were composed not of stone and metal, but of enormous humanoid giants over 60 meters tall. The creatures began moving outward in synchronized formation, triggering massive earthquakes. Entire cities vanished within minutes.

Sources confirm that Brutus, the university’s mascot, has

activated this power after Ferris’ win of this year’s Anchor-Bone Classic, along with the annual trophy, and assumed control over the advancing titans. Eyewitness footage shows the bulldog leading the march across continental territories.

Governments around the world are declaring full states of emergency. Communication lines have gone dark in numerous

states, and the national infrastructure is collapsing. Refugees are flooding into remaining inland areas, though officials warn there may soon be nowhere left untouched.

Military analysts estimate that, at their current pace, the titans will eradicate nearly all civilization beyond Big Rapids within weeks. Leaders of the world’s remaining forces are urgently seeking countermeasures, but experts acknowledge that conventional weapons are proving ineffective against the advancing army of giants.

Analysts describe the event as apocalyptic — one that may mark the end of modern civilization.

This is a developing story. Further updates will be broadcast as long as transmissions remain possible.

Until then, stay indoors, stay alert... and hope The Rumbling never reaches you.



ports that he was bitten near the Torch office. The unworking security cameras on campus, unfortunately, didn’t pick up the incident or the culprit.

“It’s really sad,” Walters said. “But again, this could just be Jackie without bronzer on.”

DPS is investigating the disappearance, but doesn’t have many leads. These vampire sightings are recurrent, usually happening in the fall semester around midterms and in December before exam week. They fully expect Gapinski to be returned unharmed and without neck pain.

Allegations were made in previous years about the Ferris State Torch members being vampires, an allegation that has absolutely no merit whatsoever. “It just doesn’t make sense,” sports editor Yeslan Matthews said. “I mean, Blasé went missing, so he obviously wasn’t already a vampire. I’m certainly not, either.”

Other members of the current Torch staff were unavailable for comment.

DPS is encouraging students to carry garlic salt with them at all times and wear thick scarves to protect from the biting cold and the biting vampires on campus.

## HORROR-SCOPES

Don't beware, just be aware of what the stars have in store for you



- Aquarius:** Beware! This Halloween, you will run into your doppelganger. Don't worry, this will definitely not upset the balance of the universe... it will just cause an existential crisis when you realize the doppelganger is you and not them.
- Pisces:** Bloody Mary may not be real, but the spirit of Woodbridge sure is, and he's not happy you skipped class last week. It may be time to get that attendance up or start running.
- Aries:** Yes, you should absolutely sneak into that cemetery! Just be sure to leave the spirits an offering, or they might take your living body as an offering instead.
- Taurus:** You're not fooling anyone with that costume...we know who you really are, Count Dracula.
- Gemini:** The stars say that joining the Torch is your destiny. Welcome to the team! You have three articles due this Friday by 5 p.m.
- Cancer:** Do you know the question, "Would you still love me if I were a worm?" Yeah, you should've been more specific because the universe loved that question so much they plan to turn you into a gummy worm on Halloween. Yikes! Look out for the feral sugar-driven kids trick-or-treating out on the streets.
- Leo:** This year, be sure not to lie to yourself; you wouldn't survive your favorite horror movie, you would definitely be the first to die.
- Virgo:** Let's hope you have enough treats to balance out all your tricks! Not to worry you, but the stars are always watching, and they know what you did last Halloween.
- Libra:** Listen, Halloween is literally yours! Embrace it and wear that trademarked "Sexy Brutus" costume on sale at Ferris Outfitters.
- Scorpio:** Lucky you, your clown Halloween costume is already ready to go! It's time to stop clowning, you're not passing that chem class and you should definitely drop with a 'W' while you're still ahead.
- Sagittarius:** You should know your family's Halloween decorations are ethically sourced...don't you ever wonder what happened to Jim next door?
- Capricorn:** We're not saying the Lorax costume is overhyped, we're just saying you might want to go as one of the little bears instead.



# Sports

Nolan Matthews | Sports Editor | matthen4@ferris.edu

## Bouncing back

Senior guard Kadyn Blanchard talks injury



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Kadyn Blanchard has amassed over 1400 points during her career at Ferris.

Devin Wardrop  
Sports Reporter

Growing up in Freeland, Michigan, senior guard Kadyn Blanchard was always surrounded by sports. Her dad played basketball and baseball at Olivette, and Blanchard herself grew up dribbling a basketball while she watched TV. Starting in fourth grade, Blanchard began playing travel basketball, competing for several different teams throughout her time in the program, which helped her secure a college

scholarship. Her high school career was full of accolades and success, as in 2020, she was awarded the MLive Saginaw Girls Basketball Player of the Year and led Freeland to the Division 2 state title game in her junior year. As a senior, she led Freeland to the 2020 Division 2 regional final before the season was canceled, averaging 20 points, 6.5 rebounds, 3.2 steals and 2.5 assists. Blanchard then decided to commit to Ferris. She spoke about her recruitment and

why she chose Ferris. “I got on campus for my visit and the girls made me feel welcome, like a family,” Blanchard said. “That was super important to me. I also didn’t want to go somewhere huge where I wasn’t going to have that family feel and be able to get to know my professors and stuff like that. Relationships are really big for me, so I love the size of Ferris.” As a freshman in the 2020-21 season, Blanchard averaged 14.6 points per game while adding 2.3 as-

sists as well. The following season in her sophomore year, she bumped that up to 16.3 points per game while keeping the 2.3 assists average. Senior guard Elle Irwin talked about the type of teammate Blanchard is. “Kadyn is the kind of teammate who makes everyone around her better,” Irwin said. “She shows up every single day ready to give her best with a positive attitude that lifts the entire team. I’m so thankful to have someone like her on the team because

her energy, consistency, and dedication set the standard. Off the court, she is a great friend and someone I will always go to for advice.” Senior guard Mia Riley seconded Irwin’s statement. “Kadyn is the type of teammate that is hardworking and driven,” Riley said. “You can always trust her to give her best effort and leave everything out on the court. She is also very optimistic and has a great outlook on life, making her a joy for everyone to be around. I’ve been blessed to have her as my teammate

in all of my years at Ferris.” As a senior in the 2024-25 season, Blanchard averaged 17.5 points per game with 3.1 assists per game. She only played in 13 total games and four conference games, as she tore her ACL in the middle of the season. Before her surgery, Blanchard wondered how she would make it through such a difficult time, especially because she still had to be a leader for the team when she didn’t want to be in the gym. Blanchard shared what she learned from her injury and how her relationship with God helped her the most. “I learned so much from it, and so many different perspectives of the game,” Blanchard said. “I was able to contribute from more of a coaching standpoint. I have really good people surrounding me, and I honestly grew my relationship with God a lot more. I can’t do it myself, so I found my strength through him, and he’s put good people in my life to help me get through things. Blanchard spoke about how detrimental the injury was to her life and how she was able to get by. “It was definitely the worst thing I’ve ever been through in my entire life, but just knowing that God is always going to be there for me, and that anything on this Earth is not worth the fact that he gave his one and only son to save us from our sins,” Blanchard said. “We don’t deserve that but he has unconditional love for us. My relationship with him is the biggest reason why I made it back.” Blanchard loves being a Bulldog with the culture that Ferris State has and how the teams support each other. Athletes from different sports would come to basketball games and support each other in the weight room as well. Blanchard likes how all the athletes understand what each other go through on a different level. With her final year of college, Blanchard wants to be in the moment with her teammates since she says they’re the reason she came back, as well as to stay healthy. The ultimate goal for Blanchard is to win a National Championship, and she believes they have the team to do it.



# Wildcats come to Top Taggart

Ferris State looks ahead to final regular season home game



Photo by: Clark Vance | Photographer

Slot receiver Taariik Brett attempts to make a Gand Valley defender miss a tackle.

**Nolan Matthews**  
*Sports Editor*

After their 21st straight win against arch-rival Grand Valley, the Bulldogs welcome the Northern Michigan Wildcats to Top Taggart for the final home game of the 2025 regular season.

The No.1-ranked Bulldogs (8-0, 4-0 in GLIAC) take on the Wildcats (1-7, 1-4 in GLIAC), only two games removed from the Wildcats' first win since the 2022 season.

Northern Michigan defeated the Roosevelt Lakers on Oct 18 by a score of 42-21, which was the first win since the final week of the 2022 season. Before the win, the Wildcats had a 0-28 record, which was the worst streak in program history.

The Bulldogs are currently on the complete opposite side of the spectrum, coming into this matchup with many streaks on the line. The Bulldogs are riding a 22-game winning streak, a 24-game winning streak at home, and a 13-game winning streak against the Wildcats spanning back to 2010.

Ferris got their 22nd consecutive win against Grand

Valley on Oct 25 by a score of 38-31 to keep the Anchor-Bone trophy in Big Rapids. Head coach Tony Annese gave his thoughts on the hard-fought victory.

"What a war, I mean, I am just so impressed with the way Grand Valley came in here and played," Annese said. "I mean, they were just relentless, they played so hard. Our guys played hard, it was just a hard-fought game. I think the 1,000 people who were here to watch it, according to ESPN, got their money's worth."

Despite the Wildcats' unfortunate season, they still have one of the best rushing attacks in the nation, as they sit in the top 10 in rushing yards. Spearheaded by red-shirt freshman running back Noah Dobert, Dobert sits in ninth in the nation in rushing yards with 890 and has run for seven touchdowns. With sophomore running back Jahi Wood having 632 yards on the ground and scoring seven touchdowns himself.

The Bulldogs are no slouches themselves in the run game, sitting in the top three in the nation in rushing yards. The Bulldogs' leading

rusher on the season is red-shirt freshman quarterback Wyatt Bower, who had 598 yards on the ground with 10 touchdowns. Junior running back Zak Ahern has 314 rushing yards and five touchdowns on the season.

Junior slot receiver Taariik Brett loves how the rushing attack has been thus far in the season.

"It is the offensive line's pure dominance, physical play, discipline, and team execution," Brett said. "Everyone from lineman to receivers is doing their part, and our explosive plays help keep the offense rolling and keep opposing defenses off balance."

On the defensive side of the ball, the Wildcats allow 35 points per game, while also allowing an average of 377 yards per game. This defense is led by junior linebacker Jax Hertel, who sits in the top 25 in the nation in total tackles with 72. While also had 13.5 tackles for loss, two sacks, five pass breakups, and one interception on the season.

For the Bulldogs, a standout player this season on the defense has been senior

defensive back Justin Payoute. Payoute has had 27 total tackles on the season with one tackle for loss, one forced fumble and three interceptions. The biggest in-

terception came in the red zone during the third quarter against Grand Valley.

Ferris State will face off against the Northern Michigan Wildcats for the final

regular-season home game at Top Taggart Field on Saturday, Nov 1, at 1 p.m.

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# Bulldog hockey returns home

Ferris hockey looks to face off against the Lindenwood Lions



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Foward Carter Rapalje skates down the ice against Western Michigan.

**Nolan Matthews**  
*Sports Editor*

After losing last weekend's series against Michigan Tech, Ferris returns home to Ewingleben Arena to take on the Lindenwood Lions.

Ferris (1-5, 0-2 in CCHA) faces off against Lindenwood (3-5) with both teams riding three-game losing streaks, with both teams looking to break their streaks.

This season has been a slow start to the Brett Riley era, as this has been the lowest amount of wins in the first six games of the season for the Bulldogs in the past five seasons. In 2024-25, the team started 3-3, in 2023-24 the team started

3-3 and in 2022-23 the team started 2-3-1.

The Bulldogs are coming off back-to-back losses at Michigan Tech, losing on Friday, Oct. 24, by a score of 5-1 and then losing the following day by a score of 4-2. Ferris got on the board first during the first game courtesy of junior defenseman Jack Mesic, but failed to score again. During the second game, the Bulldogs allowed the first four goals, and then attempted to mount a comeback, with goals coming from senior forward Riley Wallace and senior forward Josh Zary.

Head coach Brett Riley gave his thoughts on the slow start to the season.

"We took some positive steps in Plymouth, leaving with two wins," Riley said. "There's a lot we can build on from those two games, but the grit and tenacity the team showed were certainly inspiring. Our group is learning and growing every day, and we're excited to take that momentum into CCHA play. With six of our next eight at home after this weekend, it's a great opportunity to keep building our foundation."

For the Bulldogs, they are bolstered by Zary (4-1-5), who leads the team in goals and points, and senior defenseman Xavier Jean-Louis (1-3-4), who is second on the team in points.

In the crease, Ferris sports

the junior goalie from North Dakota, Hobie Hedquist, who so far this season has played four games for 202 minutes with an .887 save percentage, allowing 3.86 goals per game, but did have a 48 save game against the reigning national champion Western Michigan.

So far this season, the Bulldogs have struggled on the power play, only having four goals on 26 power play chances, which is good for 15% on the season.

Junior forward Emerson Goode believes the team can right the ship after the start of the season.

"As a team, I think we can focus on playing three full periods and sticking to our

game plan," Goode said. "I think our bright spot on this team though is our chemistry. This is the closest team I have ever been a part of, and I believe it will help us go far this season."

For Lindenwood, their last win came against No. 5-ranked University of Denver, where they beat them by a score of 4-3, but since then, they lost to Denver, and then back-to-back 5-4 overtime losses to Miami of Ohio.

In the first game, Lindenwood was led by sophomore forward Giovanni Morneau, who had a two-goal game, with the other two goals coming from junior forward Jake Southgate and freshman forward Jacob Fletcher.

The Lions are led on the ice by Morneau (6-4-10), and just behind Morneau is sophomore forward Charles Savoie (2-7-9), who had two assists in his last game against Miami of Ohio.

In the crease for Lindenwood, they are led by sophomore forward Klayton Knapp, who has tallied 390 minutes in seven games, sporting a .878 save percentage while allowing 4.46 goals per game for the Lions.

The Bulldogs return home to Ewingleben Arena to face off against the Lindenwood Lions on Friday, Oct 31, at 7:07 p.m. and then again the next day at 7:07 p.m.