



Pickell and Hallisy hall scheduled for removal

Students notified of expected hall closures



Photo by: Clark Vance | Photographer

Hallisy hall, one of Ferris State University's oldest residence halls is one of two dorm halls set to close and be removed from the campus.

Davaria Pharr
News Reporter

Ferris State University's Pickell and Hallisy hall are closing and scheduled to be permanently removed from campus.

Students living in these residence halls received an email last week from Ferris housing stating that Hallisy and Pickell halls would close for the 2026-2027 academic year, with Henderson Hall designated as the new honors hall for the 2026-2027 academic year.

The reasoning stated in the email for the closure was to provide the opportunity to continue improvement on campus housing options, with the new student dorm on Top Taggart Field expect-

ed to open for the fall 2026 semester.

Further reassurance was offered to students in the email, outlining other living options available to students on campus.

The decision was communicated suddenly without warning, leaving many students confused on where to go or what to do.

Accounting senior Ethan Boswell expressed shock and disappointment at the university's lack of regard or consideration for student well-being.

"I was more than surprised. The school gave us no warning that this was coming," Boswell said. "All we were told is that the hall was closing for improvements. Many people that I know have already signed leases for next year. I

am not sure why they are so keen to close and renovate."

Boswell further explained that he is a student from out of state, which meant that this change will have little effect on him as a senior.

He further elaborated that the housing option of summer storage has allowed him to store his belongings while he goes home between semesters, but expressed that other out of state students may now not be so lucky.

"If I had another year to complete it would mean more expenses in moving items," Boswell said. "As college students, finding a way to pinch a penny is vital. With the school giving this notice late into the fall, it's difficult."

Boswell additionally noted that while Pickell is an older

building on campus, the condition is not terrible or necessarily unlivable.

Other students are concerned that they could be in the same situation.

Medical laboratory science senior Emily Heintzman expressed concern about how students will find new housing with such short notice and for the future of other living spaces on campus.

"If they're doing it to two of them, they could do it to any of them," Heintzman said.

Pickell and Hallisy are the latest buildings in line on campus to be closed and removed, following faculty in Johnson Hall receiving notification late last spring that they have to be out of the building and transitioned into new offices by December.

Many students over the years have expressed frustration with university communication, particularly in regard to housing.

Biotechnology junior Katie Armstrong explained that she has experienced communication issues with housing before, which is unfair and frustrating for students.

"I feel housing has problems communicating with students in general. I've had some issues with communication with housing before," Armstrong said. "Other parts of the university are good, just certain parts I find aren't right."

She further expressed that it felt unfair for students to be displaced without guaranteed housing.

With the removal of Pickell

and Hallisy, students have 13 housing options available, including East Campus Suites and West Campus Apartments.

The 13th option will be the new dorm currently under construction, which has been reported to be available for the fall 26 semester.

According to the MyHousing portal in Ferris360, return student contracting for campus living opened on Nov. 5, with the announcement of hall closures made shortly after contracting opened.

The university has yet to release any further details or updates on this situation.

News

Crime on campus happens on occasion, but what happens when you throw a big college holiday and alcohol into the mix? **PG. 4**

Culture

Former NFL player Jason Hanson recently visited campus to speak on his NFL career and other experiences. **PG. 5**

Opinions

Balancing college work and personal lives are never easy, but at what point do we give up our personal lives for the sake of deadlines? **PG. 9**

Sports

Bulldogs soccer heads to the GLIAC Tournament Quarterfinal with a match against Northern Michigan, see how they stack up against the Wildcats **PG. 12**



News

Emma Walters | News Editor | waltere8@ferris.edu

Michigan

Emma Walters
News Editor

Dearborn Heights, MI – According to Wayne County campaign finance records, Heights Mayor Mo Baydoun has been fined due to noncompliance in filing campaign finance reports.

According to the record, the report was due two months ago. The lack of a report means that the public does not know how much money Baydoun’s campaign received and spent, nor does it know where that money came from and exactly what it was spent on.

The last report filed by Baydoun was dated July 20, which noted that Baydoun had raised \$210,297 and spent around \$132,000 before July 20.

This is considered a significant amount, given that Baydoun was a mayoral candidate for a small suburb of around 60,600 residents.

National

Emma Walters
News Editor

Washington, D.C. - The U.S. Supreme Court declined to take up a case challenging the landmark decision to legalize gay marriage nationwide.

Former Kentucky clerk Kim Davis brought the challenge after she refused to issue same-sex licenses after the court’s Obergefell v. Hodges decision.

Following the refusal, Davis was jailed for acting in contempt of court and lost her opportunity for clerk re-election. The jury additionally ordered her to pay \$360,000 to a couple she refused to marry.

Davis tried to get out of paying the verdict by requesting that the court assert she has First Amendment religious protection from liability for her actions.

Global

Emma Walters
News Editor

Taiwan – Typhoon Fung-wong has passed over the South China Sea and is expected to hit Taiwan, leaving two people dead in the Philippines.

Around 1.4 million people in the Philippines were preemptively evacuated before Fung-wong made landfall on Sunday as a super typhoon, bringing with it winds of 115 mph and gusts of 143 mph.

Fung-wong has arrived just days after the earlier storm, Kalmaegi, which left around 200 people dead.

Philippine authorities are reporting less severe damage than initially expected, but a number of communities remain cut off by floods.

While buildings received a significant amount of damage, good preparation was reported to have prevented a repeat of casualties seen with Kalmaegi.

The Filipino government has declared a state of calamity across the country in preparation for Typhoon Fung-wong and in the wake of Kalmaegi.

From class to cardio

SGA introduces punch card reward system at the student recreation center



Photo by: Clark Vance | Photographer

Students stay active at the campus rec center, now being rewarded for their dedication to the gym.

Emma Walters
News Editor

The Student Government Association has introduced a punch card reward system at the student recreation center.

Students can now pick up a punch card and earn a hole punch each time they visit the recreation center.

At the end of each month, students will have the opportunity to pick out prizes and rewards based on the number of punches their card has.

The event has been organized by the Physical Health Committee of SGA.

Integrative studies senior Ryan Sheahan serves as the chair of the committee, which is focused on getting students who live on campus active and in the gym.

According to Sheahan, the idea behind the punch cards is to offer students a little extra motivation when it comes to taking advantage of that campus resource.

“A lot of people go maybe a few times a week or once a day,” Sheahan said. “But I figure, there are a lot of people on campus who have unlim-

ited swipes to the rec center. Why not give a little incentive so that people get that extra five, ten, fifteen minutes to go do cardio or mobility stuff?”

The Physical Health Committee has several other fitness events planned, including a bench press competition on Nov. 17.

This competition will have a men’s and women’s division, with the winners receiving a full-size barbell as the prize.

The committee has also planned a body weight fitness challenge that will take place in December.

This challenge will include pull-ups, push-ups and body weight squats.

Sheahan explained that the core of the committee is getting students motivated to work on their physical health.

“I believe that physical health is something that you have to work on to get proper mental health,” Sheahan said. “In order to be mentally healthy, you have to be physically healthy. In order to improve people’s overall lives, they should be staying active. It’s important to take that extra couple minutes each

day to do something that you otherwise wouldn’t and giving these extra little bonus rewards helps with that.”

Prizes that students can win at the end of each month include protein powders, supplements and other fitness-related items.

The physical health committee was previously conjoined with the mental health committee but was separated this year to provide greater emphasis and focus on both subjects.

Nursing freshman Rayna Peterson expressed uncertainty about the success of the punch card program, motivating students.

“It’s important for some people to go to the gym, but I don’t think that is a priority for everybody,” Peterson said. “I think that it could help get people to the gym, depending on who the person is.”

Peterson further explained that a larger variety of prize options could help the program see more success, especially if among the prizes offered was school-branded merchandise.

Funding for the prizes comes directly from the SGA

fund.

Prizes are purchased from the local business, Factory Gym, located in downtown Big Rapids.

The committee was able to secure a 25% discount with the local business due to the large number of items that were purchased to be used as prizes.

Criminal justice freshman Zach Bennett explained that as a personal patron of the rec center, he appreciates the punch card system.

“I think it’s really good and makes good motivation to go in and work out or do any sports, or even get together with friends,” Bennett said. “I think everything on the prize table looked good, but I do think that maybe a little more variety would be good for people who don’t really work out. Maybe more sports stuff, like basketballs.”

Students interested in participating in the punch card program can pick one up at the front desk of the rec center when they swipe their ID card.

Academic Senate digest

All the latest updates from Academic Senate



Photo courtesy of the Torch Archives

Faculty and administrators gather during a past Academic Senate session to discuss university policies and academic updates.

Blase Gapinski
Editor in Chief

Every month, the university holds an Academic Senate meeting to ensure that academics across campus run smoothly, and this month's session on Nov. 4 focused on key updates ranging from curriculum changes to faculty concerns about a potential classroom resource.

The academic senate serves as the primary forum for faculty and administrators to raise issues, review proposals and make recommendations that shape the university's academic policies. There are around 40 members who make up the senate and consist of faculty who vary across the different departments on campus.

The meeting consisted of updates relating to ongoing curriculum revisions and explored a resource option that has become available to students at the university through the Disability and Accessibility Resource Center (DARC), which aims to assist students with taking notes in the classroom through audio transcription.

The presentation of the new audio transcription tool raised questions among faculty about privacy and con-

trol in the classroom. Some expressed concern over how recorded lectures might be shared or used outside the intended academic setting, especially if uploaded to platforms without the professor's knowledge or consent.

Chair of Ferris' Interdisciplinary Studies department, Kristin Conley, has just started serving on the Academic Senate and has attended the last several meetings. As both a department chair and faculty representative, she expressed how important it is for the faculty of the school to have a voice, especially in instances where there may be changes to the classroom environment.

"We're a community. We need to be getting involved in taking care of each other, because this is our university," Conley said. "We have to do the work to make it a better place. Not only for our students, but we try to make it a better place for us as faculty, too."

Conley mentioned how with her department, University College, it is rather small so being able to have that voice on the Senate is crucial to making sure that they are represented across campus.

She described how since she has started serving in the

Senate, it has shown her how important shared governance is to keeping the community and university strong. For her, the work is about connection and collaboration, not just procedure.

"If I want change, then I am going to help make sure it gets done and work to make sure it gets better," Conley said. "In my mind, you can't complain if you aren't going to do the work and if you don't like something, then there's probably something you could do to help support making it a little bit better for yourself or the people that are around you, who maybe you don't feel like it's going well for."

Conley said she hopes to see continued collaboration among faculty and administrators as the Senate moves forward.

Associate Professor of Public Health and President Emmanuel Jadhav offers an in-depth exploration of the Senate's structure, responsibilities, and ongoing initiatives. One of the main things the Academic Senate does is examine the college landscape, observe how it has shifted and implement changes to ensure academics are meeting industry standards, preparing students for

graduation.

"We accept that the way students do college now is very different from 20 years ago, or even 30 years ago and even 10 years ago. Almost everybody has a job that they are working five days a week, or sometimes seven days a week," Jadhav said. "There might be family responsibilities, personal responsibilities and all of this comes together and conflates with each other. So I think we try to be very intentional, to kind of create that space where we can have that impact on the student experience and we can bring them into how we make changes and really help influence what they do."

As the Academic Senate looks ahead, some of its focus will turn toward shaping the future of academic

programs at Ferris. Among the initiatives under review is the development of reduced-credit degree options, a move that could make earning a degree more flexible and affordable for students without compromising academic quality.

Jadhav said the Senate is working to finalize clear guidelines in line with new Higher Learning Commission standards, ensuring that any proposed programs uphold the same rigor and learning outcomes as traditional degrees. With a process already being in place and it not needing to be redesigned,

"We want to make sure that no one who wishes to have a voice in this process is denied that opportunity. Our goal is to move forward thoughtfully, nothing will be

presented that's half-baked or lacking input from faculty, students and other stakeholders," Jadhav said. At the end of the day, it's the faculty who have to run these programs and it has to be students who like the programs or want those programs. If the students don't want it, the faculty don't like it, it's a recipe for failure."

The Academic Senate will continue to hold important discussions at its next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 10 a.m. in the DEC ballroom. During this session, the Senate will also take time to acknowledge and celebrate student success stories, highlighting the achievements that make Ferris a thriving academic community.

OCTOBER CRIME	
There was only one report on Halloween (an Alcohol Law Violation), but in the month of October, Ferris had:	
7 Alcohol Law Violations <i>(5 more than in September)</i>	Of all the reports made in October at Ferris:
3 Counts of Larceny <i>(1 less than in September)</i>	6 Were in North Hall
2 Drug Law Violations <i>(none in September)</i>	4 Were in the West Campus Apartments
3 Counts of Assault/Battery <i>(None in September)</i>	4 Were in Off-Campus Patrol Areas

Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

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ON THE RECORD

Emma Walters

News Editor

No entry allowed

Nov. 4, time unknown – Residence hall staff reported two non-students inside Travis Hall who had active no-trespass notices. Ferris State officers located an individual in the hallway and another hiding under bedding inside a room. The second individual was found to have several outstanding warrants and briefly resisted being handcuffed before being taken into custody without further incident. Both individuals were served no-trespass notices. The case has been closed and cleared by arrest.

No officer, that is not paraphernalia in my pocket!

Nov. 2, 2:40 a.m. - Ferris State Public Safety attempted to stop a speeding vehicle on Ives Ave. The driver pulled into a driveway, refused repeated commands and tried to walk away. The driver then physically resisted when the officer attempted to detain him and was taken into custody with assistance from the BRPD. Marijuana and paraphernalia were found during a search, in violation of the driver's bond conditions. The driver was jailed, and the case has been sent to the prosecution for review.

We just want to party, man

Oct. 31, 9:50 p.m. - Housing staff responded to a report of a party in a campus apartment. Music and alcohol were observed, and several residents were contacted regarding the violation. Staff instructed the group to dispose of all alcohol on-site and reminded them that underage possession and drinking violate housing policy. The residents complied, and the matter was referred to Student Conduct.

Culture

Grace Heethuis | Culture Editor | turnek29@ferris.edu

Kicking up inspiration

Detroit Lions player gives advice on how to succeed in life



Photo by: Tate Zellman | Freelance Reporter

Jason Hanson shared stories that he learned valuable lessons from throughout his career, highlighting how failure can ultimately lead to success.

Tate Zellman
Freelance Reporter

Former NFL placekicker and Detroit player Jason Hanson was invited by the Arts and Lectures Committee to speak about how his NFL career and retirement shaped him as a person.

He was invited to speak to the Ferris community about his experience, containing messages that were universal, regardless of whether anyone is an athlete or not.

Hanson lectured to 120 Ferris students, faculty and community members in the DEC ballrooms on Wednesday, Nov. 5, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. before exchanging photos and autographs with the community.

Hanson has achieved numerous NFL records, including 21 seasons played with the Detroit Lions (most seasons played with one team) and 327 games played (most games with one team). He has made 495 field goals throughout his career and

has scored a total of 2,150 points. In the 1992 NFL draft, he was drafted in the 2nd round and was the 56th overall pick from Washington State University.

One of the key points Hanson made during the lecture was the value of pursuing excellence instead of success, explaining that excellent people have flaws and times of failure.

"The idea of focusing on being the best, giving your best, whether or not you end up being the best, but your best chance of being successful," Hanson said. "It's not to worry about what it takes to be excellent as opposed to being consumed with the actual success itself. That can distract people from doing what needs to be done to get there. I learned as a kicker that you worry about your job executing the kick."

Hanson's advice to kickers was to lift their heads to look after they've kicked the ball rather than after kicking.

In his lecture, the concept

of remaining consistent was the main piece of advice he'd give to kickers of this generation, as well as future generations.

"I should be taking advice from them because they're so good today," Hanson said. "The kicking in the NFL has become so excellent that guys are doing things that when I came in the league were unthinkable or superhuman, and now they're doing them all the time. I would go back to the idea of consistency. That's one of the marks of being a kicker by doing it over and over again instead of just in the moment. The goal of NFL kickers is to be consistent each week and each season."

Some statistics were shared by Hanson, mentioning that the percentage of field goals made has increased every decade.

Many of the attendees were either Lions fans or fans of Hanson. Associate professor in hospitality management Amy Dorey holds

a special memory of seeing Hanson play during a big game.

"My first NFL game was at the Silver Dome," Dorey said. "And I wanted to make a banner. I took a bedsheet and made a big banner, and I hung it up. I remember it to this day. It was 1999, and it was Thanksgiving. It's a memory I've always held, and to meet the person I've always cheered for almost 30 years later is a big deal."

The banner created by Dorey was to represent Hanson, who was a longtime favorite

of hers.

The students who attended the lecture either came as fans of the Lions, current athletes or students hoping to receive extra credit for a class.

Television digital media production senior Cam Altonen commented on how Hanson's lecture impacted him as a senior and an upcoming graduate.

"It's nice to hear from successful people," Altonen said. "I learned a lot of things today, actually. I've been going through a lot, ob-

viously, because I'm a senior and I'm really busy. It was nice hearing him say focus on what's in front of you. Especially me, since I'm about to graduate and looking for internships in the future. That's hard sometimes because I miss what's in front of me, so that was a good life lesson I learned."

Regardless of career or passion, Hason's advice has helped so many people learn valuable life lessons and has given some meaningful tips for doing well in life.

The home buying crisis

Students react to the rising age of first-time homebuyers



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Grace Heethuis
Culture Editor

The median age of first-time homebuyers has risen significantly since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching 40 years old in 2025.

Many young people attend college hoping, in part, to have a decent career that allows them to be able to provide for themselves and their families. For many, this dream includes someday owning a home.

Students flock to Ferris with high hopes for their futures, hoping to graduate and start making enough money to live comfortably.

Most Ferris students would like to be homeowners someday, but do they still see this as an achievable goal?

Manufacturing engineering technology junior Isaac Anderson is one student who is concerned about the rising age of first-time homebuyers.

"I am very concerned that I won't be able to own a house," Anderson said. "It's always been a dream of mine to build my own house, but how on Earth could I manage that if I can't even afford to buy a house?"

With the average age of first-time homebuyers going

up year after year, many students are starting to feel uncertain about what the future holds for them.

Secondary math education freshman Chelsey Rasmussen explained her frustration as someone trying to earn a degree and someday afford a home.

"If you're exiting college, if you have your degree, if you're in a good job, you should be able to provide enough that you're able to buy a house," Rasmussen said.

Many students are surprised to learn that the age of first-time homebuyers has risen so much, and they believe that it should not take so many years of working before being able to afford a home.

English junior Natalie Timmerman spoke a little bit about her fears and frustration surrounding homebuying.

"I think it's crazy. You should be able to get out of college and be able to buy a house," Timmerman said. "But the fact that it's a record high is just really scary."

With such a huge problem that is worsening, many students are wondering who or what is to blame.

Anderson expressed what

he believes is to blame for the issue, partially blaming the US government for their spending habits.

"Inflation is to blame," Anderson said. "I can't say that there's any one person or group of people to blame other than the government sticking their noses in everything and sinking us deeper into debt."

Other students, like Rasmussen, have grown frustrated with the high cost of living, but not with any particular person or group.

"I just blame it on the minimum wage and the cost of living versus the average income," Rasmussen said.

However, some students believe that certain people are at least partially to blame because of their beliefs and actions.

"I think the older generations who don't understand how the market has evolved and how badly it's gotten [are to blame]," Timmerman said.

To many students, the continuing increase in the age of first-time homebuyers is

an important issue that demands immediate attention, and they have offered their opinions on how to move forward and address the issue.

"I think the biggest step forward is reducing inflation," Anderson said. "Other solutions would include reducing the amount of foreign citizens owning American land and American houses. Freeing up the housing market would allow for increased supply of houses and thus reducing the demand, lowering costs all around."

With housing costs being such a complex issue, some students don't even know where to start when it comes to addressing the problem.

"It's such a big problem to tackle, so I don't know where we would start," Timmerman said.

While the age of first-time homebuyers rising continuously is daunting for many Ferris students, they continue to push forward in pursuit of their degrees to hopefully someday own homes of their own.



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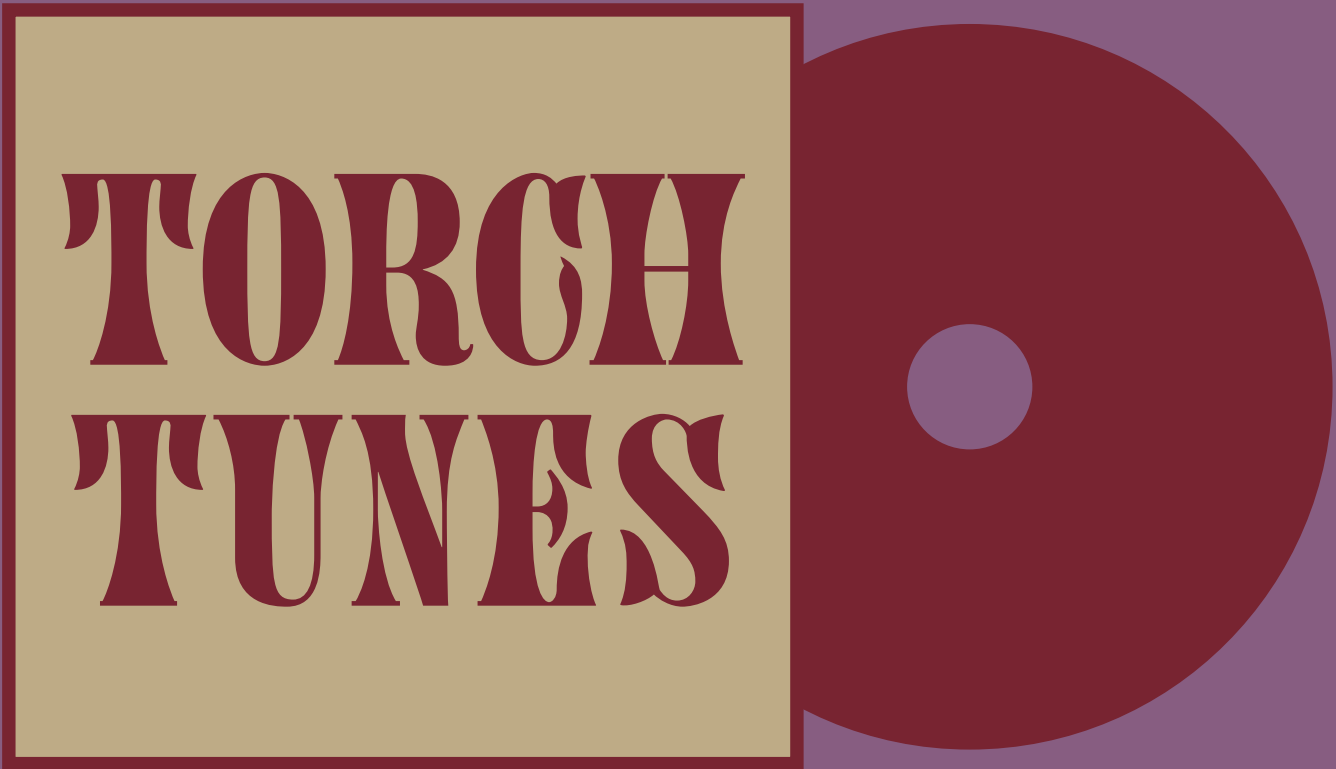
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Contact The Torch Editor-in-chief Blase Gapinski for questions and more.

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Torch tunes

Students share their favorite listens to spread happiness



Scan the code below to listen on spotify



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

Harmony Goodman
Production Manager

As the campus is covered with snow following last week’s time change, student mental health is important to keep an eye on.

According to the National Library of Medicine, the winter season has been shown to worsen mental health symptoms. This is because the production of serotonin is disrupted during the winter season, and students with existing mental health disorders are more likely than the average student to feel the weight of the time change.

In a recent study conducted by AARP in 2020, it was found that listening to music can help improve an individual’s mental health and life outlook. No matter how you enjoy and interact with music, casual or musician, music has been traced back

to lowering and maintaining stress levels, anxiety and depression.

For this edition of ‘Torch tunes’, the Torch has decided to focus on making a student-based listening playlist, including songs that make them happy to share with other students on campus who might be struggling.

“SOMETHING AIN’T RIGHT” – XG. This song, recommended by Design senior, Abby Keown, is a blend of high-energy ’90s garage rhythms translated into modern pop.

“Hole in the Earth” – Deftones. Straight from the mechanical engineering sophomore, Gabe Desantiago’s playlist. The Deftones album is one of his current favorites.

“Music is a good distraction; it gives you 15 minutes to relax and forget about everything,” Desantiago said. “All you have to do is put a few songs on.”

“Heavy” – The Marías. With a different musical direction than her brother, allied health senior Julissa Desantiago shared a calmer song.

“As the seasons are changing and it’s getting colder, more people start to feel low and heavy,” Desantiago said. “I think sometimes it’s nice to have a good song that you can relate to at times.”

“Workin’ at the Car Wash Blues” – Jim Croce. Pre-pharmacy sophomore Gabriel Cochrane believes that sometimes a funny song is key.

“This song tells a story about a guy who’s depressed and works at a car wash,” Cochrane said. “I enjoy the language and the beat in comparison to the lyrics, which share what he is going through.”

“Karma” – Taylor Swift. Integrative studies senior Alyson Neureither shared one

of her top five Swift tracks.

“I’ve loved Taylor my whole life,” Neureither said. “This song is very upbeat and shares the message that you don’t have to worry about what anyone else says, and you should just do you.”

“Shake It Off” – Taylor Swift. Forensic biology senior Jessica Lipp shared this 2010s classic.

“I think when you’re struggling, sometimes it feels like you’re alone,” Lipp said. “When you listen to music, maybe [the artist] is mimicking some of those thoughts you have, or maybe you need to listen to something completely different compared to what you’re feeling.”

“Take Me to Church” – Hozier. Social work freshman Izzy Pitts focused on her current favorite listen, focusing on how even something as simple as hearing a soothing voice can increase one’s

mood.

“Springsteen” – Eric Church. Sharing a song with a loved one is even more special. Modeling engineering freshman, Carter Sackett chose to share this song because it’s one he and his girlfriend enjoy listening to together.

“Taste” – Sabrina Carpenter. Jumping from country to pop, Digital animation and game design senior Jason Zawacki enjoys the witty, funny lyrics and good beats behind this track.

“Unwritten” – Natasha Bedingfield. Criminal justice senior Arabella Beckhorn highlighted this classic that, no matter how much time passes, still brings a smile to her face.

“Let Down” – Radiohead. Integrative studies senior Jorden Bos enjoys this song because of the line “one day I am going to grow wings”,

which she mentioned has a different meaning to lots of listeners and she enjoys how a song can have multiple meanings.

“Black Hole Fantasy” – The Crane Wives. Pre-nursing sophomore Asha Hatt highlights a song with important messaging. With strong storytelling themes, this song focuses on moving forward and finding the courage to do the thing you’ve been afraid to do.

“[The end message] is that everything turns out okay, and that’s super sweet,” Hatt said. “I think music can be incredibly grounding and can help a person focus on something other than their thoughts.”

If you or someone you know is struggling, please contact Ferris State’s Personal Counseling Center at (231) 591-5968 or ThePCC@Ferris.edu.

Opinions

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: Letter to the editor From the Student Government Association



Photo courtesy of the Torch Archives

Student Government encourages all students to participate within their General Assembly meetings to learn about SGA.

Jake McGaha
Guest Writer

Dear Editor-in-Chief Blase Gapinski
On behalf of the Student Government Association for Ferris State University, I would like to thank you for your invitation to share our side of the article from Oct. 22nd. The article in question, published two weeks ago, has engaged and sparked dialogue across campus, which is what SGA encourages and supports. Open, respectful dialogue is the most impactful way to turn criticism into forward progress.

How the Article Landed:

The article clearly stated real issues that need to be addressed; however, some of the criticisms seemed to lack context in the greater story and seemed unfair.

SGA is an organization that represents the student base and is not a "closed club" or "out of touch." Last semester alone, we:
Funded over six large-scale campus-wide events.
Organized and hosted The Big Event, which mobilized 300+ volunteers for community service to serve around 100 houses.
Created an initiative called Ferris Dine Together, where students across all of campus, regardless of whether they had a meal plan or not (SGA paid for meal swipes), could connect and socialize to combat loneliness and isolation; 150+ students attended in total.
These events and initiatives were implemented with input from the student base, with student surveys, open forums, and requests from

RSOs. It was never a top-down decision.
Addressing Student Points from the Article:
"I didn't even know we had an SGA." This is a fair statement and one we wish to address immediately. President McGaha has taken the issue as a key priority; he and his cabinet wish to address. We are looking into the options for reaching out and communicating with the student base at large with digital media. The hope is that every student on campus should know what SGA is, where they can find and contact us, and provide much-needed resources to the student base that SGA can help share. We already have Ferris Feedback, which is hung up in most of the resident halls as well, to encourage students who are not in the organization to give

feedback.
"Meetings are invitation only." This is just false. Every General Assembly Meeting is hosted in the Founder's Room at 6 p.m. and is public. We hope and encourage all students to join.
"No one knows what SGA does." This is also a valid point and one we would like to address. SGA is planning on adding new public interactive events with the cabinet, including an opening semester banquet open to all students. We love a good conversation!
Our Commitment Moving Forward:
Revamping our digital/social media footprint, providing old and new resources to the student body.
Collaborate with other RSOs to foster unity within the University.

Engage with the greater Mecosta County Community and other organizations outside of campus to further come to an understanding and unity in these trying times.
The Student Government Association believes that the Torch is vital in holding us accountable. We do not want a weekly column that affects the independence of the Torch; we do believe in a partnership where the student body understands both sides.
I, President Jake McGaha, and the rest of the Board of Directors would like to have a follow-up meeting with you and your team to come up with ways we can create appropriate formats for our hopefully continued relationship.

The weight of grief

The struggle of balancing my senior year and a dying loved one



Photo courtesy of Hailey Nye

Hailey Nye and her grandma together at her high school graduation.

Hailey Nye
Production Assistant

On August 31, out of nowhere, my 88-year-old grandma suffered a stroke. She was rushed to the hospital, and it was later revealed that the stroke was caused by two

cancerous tumors that had been growing on her brain. The largest of the tumors was removed, but the smaller one was in too vital of an area to take out. As some time passed, the smaller tumor rapidly grew to fill the empty cavity that the larger

one had left. The knowledge that a tumor is slowly killing and taking my grandma has affected me heavily. I am a design senior in the College of Business. As you may expect, my senior year has been very busy and ab-

horrently stressful. The main class that has been causing me so much trouble is my six-credit practicum course called The Design Project Center (DPC), where my classmates and I do real work for real clients.

Because of the nature of my DPC class, we work as a team with real deadlines that can not be moved so easily. If I do not do my work, then there will be real-world consequences besides just a low grade on an assignment.

I am having to choose between going home and spending time with grandma or completing my assignments. It is strenuous to put on a smile every day, trying to ignore the weight and knowledge that my grandma is dying, and I can't do anything about it. What little I can do is spend time with her, but time is the one thing I do not have an abundance of.

I am aware that courses accommodate some time for students to miss class before dropping a letter grade. But it is not that simple. If I miss a class, it does not mean that the assignments just disappear.

If I miss a few days of class to focus on my grandma, my classmates will have to cover for me. That may seem easy, but there are only four seniors in the design program.

There are so few of us that if one of us leaves, then it is a struggle to keep up with the workload before we drown.

Even when I do have the time to visit my home to see my grandma, I am not able to be completely mentally there. I will always have assignments pulling me back to my computer to complete them. I'll always have those dreaded deadlines looming over my head.

During all the late nights of homework and during class, I can't help but have this nagging feeling in the back of my mind that I'm spending my time wrong.

My grandma is dying, there's no doubt about that, and I am sitting in class moving pixels across a screen. Should I not be there with her? I should be beside her.

Isn't the life of another person more important than some degree?

I'm putting all these years of effort and tireless late nights into the one day that every college student dreams of: graduation. But I know that by the 2026 spring graduation, I fear my grandma will most likely no longer be with us.

I feel as though I have no time to breathe. All the stress of my senior year is suffocating me so that I have no time to properly digest my

emotions surrounding my grandma.

I can feel myself wither away and falter, trying to choose between two impossible things: spending time with someone I love who will die or completing my coursework so I can graduate and start a career.

I am a believer in therapy and counseling. I believe it would do me good to have an outlet like therapy to deal with all these emotions. But if I have no time to spend with my grandma, then why would I have enough time for therapy?

The university does not accommodate balancing grief and class. At least not completely. I should not have to choose. I should be able to spend time with my grandma every day, but the weight of my classes is too hard to balance.

I am striving toward the end of the first semester of my senior year. I will graduate because I have to. But my path is laid with tears and grief, where more are sure to come.

If you are dealing with something similar or need someone to reach out to, please contact Ferris State's Personal Counseling Center at (231) 591-5968 or TheP-CC@Ferris.edu.

What am I paying for?

Online classes disappoint once again

Emma Walters
News Editor

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, I would have told you that I love online classes.

I have so much more free time, I can work on my own schedule and all of the material is at my hands limitlessly.

However, my opinion on this kind of teaching has significantly changed since my time at Ferris.

To be clear, I don't mind online classes. They are convenient and depending on the material, studying independently has afforded me better results than the stress of going to class.

The problem comes in when the course is not taught by a human.

Well, that doesn't make sense. It has to be taught by a human. Someone needs to grade over the material, right?

Sure. While this is not a discussion surrounding AI grading tools (though I could definitely go on about that), let us assume that there is a

professor on the other side of the screen reading my discussion boards and grading my writing assignments.

That is all well and good, but it still isn't what I am paying for.

See, my issue lies with professors that allow their classes to be solely guided and taught by the textbook.

In my experience at Ferris, those professors are plentiful.

The convenience of an online class is entirely ruined for me when the McGraw-Hill is the one teaching me all of the material.

Even more insulting is when the work I do is then graded by a professor that does not even engage with the class, or with me as a student.

Here is the thing: I put myself through school. I rely on scholarships and sometimes out-of-pocket money to pay not only the credit price of the class, but also the \$30 online services fee.

I have no problem paying for that, except when my professors don't teach me

anything.

I am here to learn, to gain experience from those in the profession, to talk to real people about topics covered in class and how they apply in the real world.

And yet, I find that I am constantly finding myself wanting and wishing for more.

I try to put myself in their shoes. I know that a lot of professors that teach online classes also have other careers, or they teach online because they have to travel a lot.

I get it, I really do. But I also don't think that should be used as an excuse.

I say this because I have also had really wonderful experiences with online classes at Ferris.

Professors were engaged, they gave really valuable feedback on my work, they were available to answer questions, so on and so forth.

All of this is to say - I know that it is possible.

Sometimes being a student in an online classroom leaves me feeling like I am

not as important as the others.

You could argue that this is my fault. I dug myself this hole by choosing to take online classes.

In my eyes however, this is an important argument to make. Some students can't physically go to class.

Be it work, or family obligations, or disabilities that make it difficult to attend classes in person, students that pay for online classes deserve a well rounded and enjoyable experience just like any other student on campus.

I think that everyone, including some professors, fell into the idea that online classes can be easy without consequence.

Which sure, is fine, but that does not mean that I should be paying money for a class that is taught solely by a textbook.

Online students crave engagement too. We crave meaningful discussion too. And, if we are paying part of your salary, we have a right to it just as much as any student in a physical classroom.



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

Sports

Nolan Matthews | Sports Editor | matthen4@ferris.edu

Bulldogs basketball is back

Men's basketball hits the road for season opening matchups



Photo courtesy of the Torch Archives

In the 2024-25 season, Mykel Bingham averaged 7.1 points per game as a junior.

Blase Gapinski
Editor in Chief

The Ferris State men's basketball team will be making its first road trip of the season this weekend, where they will take on Northwood University on Friday, Nov. 14 and Lake Erie College on Saturday, Nov 15.

The Bulldogs have a solid roster this season, welcoming back eight squad members, including senior forward Mykel Bingham and senior guard Tyler Hamilton, while also bringing eight new players into the mix.

Two incoming freshmen, Elijah Langston and Keashaun Johnson, both from Muskegon, have also

been added to the mix, along with redshirt freshmen Quron Williams and Carter Meerman.

Over the offseason the Bulldogs also had some shifts in coaching, as newest head coach Bobby Pietrack, stepped down a little over a month before the start of the regular season. Pietrack is currently working through a serious personal health issue and has returned home to Colorado, to be closer with his family.

This sudden change in leadership will undoubtedly shake things up for the team, requiring players and staff to quickly adapt to new direction and maintain focus on the challenges ahead with

the season underway.

The Bulldogs' first game will be against Northwood University, with whom Ferris has maintained a dominant record over. In there most recent matcup during the 2024-25 season, Ferris won by 27 points, defeating the Timberwolves 85-58.

This road game will serve as a test of the Bulldogs' strength, as they are taking on a young squad with tons of new faces.

One of the Timberwolves' key returning players, sophomore guard Brayden Szamrej, will pose a threat to the Bulldogs if left unattended. During his freshman season, he averaged 9.5 points per game and will be taking

on more of a key role this season with the number of transfers and graduates over the offseason.

By taking care of the ball offensively and isolating the lane, the Bulldogs should be able to come out with a win. Taking advantage of mismatches will be crucial for both teams in this matchup.

This could be an opportunity for one of Ferris' newest players to join, junior center Hussein Elmaraghy, to show off his playmaking abilities.

The Bulldogs will also be playing their second game of the season the following day, against Lake Erie College. Ferris has won all nine of their matchups against the Storm between 2011

and 2024.

The Storm is looking to establish some of their role players still, so Ferris once again needs to use this as an opportunity to showcase the skills of their veteran players.

Interim head coach Alex Fodness has expressed how thrilled the team is to get back out on the court, and how the same can be said for the coaching staff. He spoke about how the team has been taking the transition and how they have adapted to his coaching style.

"It has been an adjustment for everybody. Obviously, this was not the circumstance or the situation that we were all preparing for when the season start-

ed, but as far as philosophy, I don't think a lot has really changed," Fodness said. "We still want to play very similarly to the same way. I think guys appreciate that I am a little tougher on them and hold guys accountable. The guys have bought into what we are doing and that's only continuing to get better as we get further along."

The Bulldogs will begin their season Friday taking on the Northwood University Timberwolves at Northwood, with tip off set for 7 p.m. and will take on the Lake Erie College Storm in Midland, on Saturday at 3 p.m.

Bulldogs to finish regular season

Ferris football looks to end the season against the Davenport Panthers



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Linebacker Nolan Ziegler goes in for the sack against Saginaw Valley.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

After securing the GLIAC championship in their second consecutive year, the Bulldogs look to finish the regular season against the Davenport Panthers.

The No.1-ranked Bulldogs (10-0, 6-0 in GLIAC) travel an hour south to Caledonia to take on the Panthers (5-4, 4-2 in GLIAC) in the second annual Calder-City Classic.

The Bulldogs are coming off a 51-45 double overtime victory against Saginaw Valley, in what was a hard-fought victory for the Bulldogs. This game saw the Bulldogs have six turnovers, with redshirt freshman Wyatt Bower struggling in this game, throwing three interceptions and fumbling twice.

Sophomore quarterback Chase Carter took over for the struggling Bower. Carter went 9-12 passing for 208 yards and four touchdowns, while rushing 19 times for

67 yards.

Thanks to a 12-yard touchdown run in double overtime from junior slot receiver Taa-riik Brett, the Bulldogs have secured the GLIAC championship in back-to-back seasons, and for the eighth time in program history.

Junior quarterback Carson Gulker gave his thoughts on the hard-fought win.

“Being able to overcome such serious adversity was awesome,” Gulker said. “Every team faces adversity at some point, so just to see how we responded and fought, and how we didn’t give up was very encouraging.”

For Davenport, they are coming off a tough-fought quadruple overtime 47-45 loss to Northern Michigan. The Panthers come into this game riding a nine-game losing streak against Ferris.

In the nine matchups between these two schools, Ferris has outscored Davenport 311 to 71, with the most

points scored in a game for Davenport being in a 41-17 loss in 2018. The closest game was last season, where Ferris won by a score of 24-9.

The Panthers are led by junior Cepheus Harris. Harris has rushed for 911 yards through 10 games this season. He is good for 101.2 yards per game, with 18 touchdowns, which sets him third in the nation, while also adding 141 yards through the air.

For the Bulldogs, they will look to stifle Davenport’s rushing game, as in three of Davenport’s four losses, Harris was held to 55 yards and under.

Davenport also has a good passing game, led by graduate D’Wan Mathis, who has 1,328 yards, nine touchdowns and five interceptions while adding 350 yards and two touchdowns on the ground. Mathis’s top target is redshirt junior receiver Keonta Nixon, who has 508

yards and four touchdowns this season.

On defense, Davenport also takes the ball away at a high rate, sitting sixth in the nation in turnovers with 20. With the Bulldogs coming off a six-turnover game against Saginaw, this will be something the Panthers will look to take advantage of.

The Bulldogs get turnovers at a high rate as well, sitting at second in the nation with 25 turnovers, most of which come from junior defensive back Justin Payoute. Payoute

has five interceptions on the season, which is second in the nation, one of which he has returned for a touchdown.

After securing the GLIAC championship, Carter is proud of what his team has been able to accomplish this season.

“Given what this program has accomplished, it’s easy to put the expectation of a national championship on this team,” Carter said. “In reality, this is a different team than past years and

every week is a new journey. Our first goal was the GLIAC championship, and we have now accomplished that, and that’s something we’re very proud of.”

The Ferris State Bulldogs travel to the Farmers Insurance Athletic Complex for the final game of the regular season to take on the Davenport Panthers for the Calder City Classic on Saturday, Nov. 15, at 12 p.m.

Ferris soccer begins GLIAC tournament

Bulldogs play Northern Michigan in first round



Photo by: Clark Vance | Photographer

Emerson Lukomski dribbles the ball against a Roosevelt defender.

Devin Wardrop
Sports Reporter

With the regular season closing on Saturday, the Ferris State women’s soccer team looks ahead to the GLIAC tournament on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

The Bulldogs (8-4-6, 8-3-3 in GLIAC) are coming into the tournament ranked 4th in the GLIAC behind Grand Valley State, Parkside and Saginaw Valley State. The Bulldogs won all three of their games in November

to end the season, beating Saginaw Valley, Parkside and Roosevelt.

Head coach Greg Henson liked how his team played at the end of the season, leading up to the GLIAC Tournament.

“It’s the goal for us all season to be playing the best soccer on Nov. 11 at the start of the conference tournament,” Henson said. “I think we’re well on our way to that. We’ve had a really good stretch, we’re 4-0-1 in our last five, and hopefully

be ready to go come tournament time.”

Junior forward Katherine Welch has started all 17 games she’s played in, while leading the team in 13 points with 47 shots, 24 of them being on goal. Welch has five goals and three assists on the year.

Right behind Welch is senior forward Haley Buckman, who’s started seven of the 17 games she’s played in. Buckman has five goals and one assist on the year on 14 shots, eight of them being

on goal. Buckman is the only player to have attempted and scored on a penalty kick which she did for her first of two goals in the 2-1 win over Parkside.

Buckman believes the end of the season is a good way to end before the tournament on Tuesday.

“I feel really strong about it [the GLIAC tournament],” Buckman said. “We’ve done what we can do in these last six games of our regular season to kind of clinch that fourth spot and get a home advantage. I think we’ve done all that we can in our regular season, and we’ll be ready to go.”

Defensively, sophomore goalkeeper Korinne Ihrke has started all 17 games for the Bulldogs, playing over 1,500 minutes in net with a 6-4-6 record and has five shutouts on the season. Ihrke has let in 15 goals for a .89 goals against average and has 72 saves for a save percentage of .828.

Ihrke believes in her team ahead of the GLIAC tournament.

“I feel really confident,” Ihrke said. “I feel really strong with this team, and I believe in us.”

The GLIAC tournament is finalized with the last games ending on Saturday, Nov. 8. As the No. 1 seed, Grand Valley will host No. 8 Roosevelt. No. 2 Parkside will host No. 7 Purdue Northwest. No. 3 Saginaw Valley will host No. 6 Davenport and the No. 4 Ferris State Bulldogs will host the No. 5 Northern Michigan Wildcats. That leaves Michigan Tech out of the conference tournament.

The Wildcats’ leader in points is senior forward/defender Hannah Kastamo with 14 points on 42 shots. Kastamo has started all 18 games she’s played in and recorded five goals and four assists, including two game-winning goals. Right behind her is senior midfield-

er Kenna Alexander, who has also started all 18 games that she’s appeared in. Alexander is second with 12 points on 17 shots, recording five goals and two assists with two game-winning goals.

Northern Michigan has played two goalkeepers this season, redshirt junior Jillian Thompson and redshirt freshman Carly Sides. Thompson has started all 12 games she’s played in for 1,080 minutes and has a 4-4-4 record. She has 45 saves on the year for a save percentage of .750, while also having four shutouts. Sides started all six games she’s played in for 540 minutes on the field with a 2-3-1 record. Sides has 35 saves for a .761 save percentage and one shutout.

The GLIAC Tournament starts on Tuesday, Nov. 11, with the higher seed in the matchups having a home-field advantage.