



Gotion project pronounced dead

Big Rapids site will no longer host the battery plant



Photo courtesy of Gotion Inc.

Aerial view of where the plant was planned to be built.

Emma Walters
News Editor

According to the Michigan Economic Development Corp, the controversial Gotion battery plant project is dead and will no longer receive previously promised state funding.

Following years of controversy, lawsuits and delays, Michigan officials announced on Oct. 23 that the company was in default on its agreement with the state.

The state of Michigan had pledged \$175 million toward the project and granted the company 270 acres in Green Charter Township, adjacent to the Big Rapids area.

The project was estimated to create 2,350 jobs in the Mecosta County area, which in 2022 was reported to have one of the highest poverty rates across the state at 20%.

Gotion's history in Big Rapids has been riddled with contention from the beginning.

When the project was first

announced, protests took place in the area, particularly focused on the environmental impact the battery plant would have on the surrounding area and the company's ties to China.

In early 2023, Big Rapids witnessed protests against the factory being built in the area, with public outcry regarding the factory's potential negative consequences on the surrounding environment.

In early 2025, the Mecosta County Board of Commissioners rescinded support for the project, following a lawsuit from Gotion against the board in which the company claimed that the election put the company and the project at a disadvantage.

Ferris was dragged into the controversy of the plant when a rumor spread about Ferris possibly housing Chinese immigrant workers intended to run the factory.

In March of 2023, President Pink released a video

in which he stated that Ferris would not be housing Gotion workers and cautioned the community to be wary of rumors and falsehoods.

Following the incident, Pink signed a non-disclosure agreement, which potentially limited his ability to speak about the project to the public.

This is the second large project to meet a dead end in Michigan, with the \$63 billion semiconductor plant project set to happen in Genesee County falling through in July.

The state of Michigan sent an updated letter detailing the default to the company on Sept. 17.

On Oct. 15, Gotion replied to the state's letter and reported being "shocked" by the default and sought a 6-month extension through the state.

Ultimately, the company was denied the opportunity for another extension.

Gotion's attorney Mark Heusel expressed surprise

at the decision made by the state in a statement released shortly after the default was announced.

"It is even more surprising that the state of Michigan suggests that Gotion has 'abandoned' the project considering the immense challenges that Gotion has experienced in Michigan," Heusel said.

While meant to bring jobs to the area, the plant also had the appeal of potential opportunities for Ferris grads.

Now, with the plant no longer set to be built, those opportunities have fallen by the wayside as well.

With regard to the newest Gotion development, President Pink has stated that Ferris will continue preparing students for the future in whatever way it can.

"Our focus at Ferris State is, and has always been, on preparing students for the careers of today and tomorrow," Pink said. "That has been our unwavering mission for more

than 140 years. We now look forward to working with our community leaders on their plans to grow economic development in this region."

With the potential opportunity for post-grad jobs and on-hands learning opportunities, students are missing out on the ability to gain unique experience at college.

Marketing junior Karyme Barcenaf expressed disappointment over students in engineering losing out on potential community jobs.

"I think that is a lot of opportunities that have been lost and for Ferris to be somewhat associated with it and now students won't have a chance to possibly work there, that kind of sucks," Barcenaf said. "It is like someone took the rug out from under you. If there was that controversy of it being good or bad maybe it is a good thing that it isn't going to be there, but there is still all of those opportunities that are being missed."

Further update on what will happen with the plant is still forthcoming, but letters from the state have expressed that the deal is shut down for the time being.

Pre-pharmacy freshman Rachel Laws stated that while she is new to the area and does not know much about the factory, the loss of potential jobs in the area is saddening.

"I think that's terrible, especially if that is what people are interesting and that's what you're studying for, that's now being taken away," Laws said. "I wish there could have been a middle ground with it. I can definitely see both sides of the argument, but I wish it would not have been taken away."

Gotion has not yet made another statement besides the Oct. 15 response to the state's letter.

The future of the plant remains in the air at the time of this article.

News

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Michigan

Blase Gapinski
Editor in Chief

Two Michigan men are facing federal terrorism charges after investigators alleged that they were involved with plotting an attack on behalf of the Islamic State Group.

Federal authorities have charged Mohmed Ali, 20, and Majed Mahmoud in the Eastern District of Michigan, accusing them of conspiring to provide firearms and ammunition intended for use in a violent attack within the United States.

On Friday, Oct. 31, FBI Director Kash Patel made a statement on X regarding the allegations. “This morning the FBI thwarted a potential terrorist attack and arrested multiple subjects in Michigan who were allegedly plotting a violent attack over Halloween weekend. More details to come. Thanks to the men and women of FBI and law enforcement everywhere, standing guard 24/7 and crushing our mission to defend the homeland”.

Authorities say the arrests highlight ongoing concerns about domestic radicalization and the influence of foreign terrorist organizations operating online.

National

Blase Gapinski
Editor in Chief

On Nov. 3, the Trump administration announced that it will fund the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program but it will be at half the normal payment.

This decision comes after two federal judges ruled that freezing the payments of these anti-hunger programs are unlawful and inhumane.

The administration plans on using the \$5 billion contingency fund from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which does fall short of the \$8 billion that it costs to cover SNAP benefits each month.

With the use of the contingency fund just being approved, it could take several days or more for families to receive the benefits they rely on. As a result, millions of Americans who rely on SNAP benefits may see reduced assistance until additional funding is approved or alternative solutions are implemented.

Global

Blase Gapinski
Editor in Chief

On Nov. 3, a medieval tower in Rome partially collapsed trapping one worker and leaving another severely injured.

The building, known as the Torre dei Conti, gave way around 11:30 a.m. local time.

The 90 foot tower has been closed off to the public since 2006, and was undergoing conservation work when the section of the building collapsed.

To make matters worse while rescue efforts were underway, a second section of the building began to crumble away, raining down bricks and a huge cloud of dust on the street below.

Authorities evacuated the area and continued rescue operations, urging caution as the unstable structure posed ongoing risks. Officials stressed the importance of preserving Rome’s historic sites while ensuring the safety of workers and passersby during restoration efforts.

To attend or to not attend

Final push as semester draws to a close



Photo by: Delaney Stewart | Photographer

Students studying together outside of class in the David L. Eisler Center.

Davaria Pharr
News Reporter

With midterms wrapped up and the end of the semester quickly approaching, this time of year is characterized by students weighing their options for the last of the semester.

With the final withdrawal date passed, students needing a change are now locking in, with the final push towards finals coming in at full force.

One of the factors of success at Ferris is attendance, with several professors across departments enlisting an attendance policy to keep students active in class.

Feelings on campus are mixed about attendance policies, with some students and faculty finding that it holds people accountable, providing that extra push and motivation to go to class, yet others find that it discourages them from going to class.

Professors who have an attendance policy are concerned that students aren’t retaining the information or taking full advantage of their learning opportunities. In their eyes, students should attend class because they are paying to be there.

History and Justice professor Jana Pisani explained that making sure students

are with the material is a primary concern.

“I get worried if students don’t attend class because I don’t know if they’re even reading the material or how they’re learning,” Pisani said.

She further explained that she feels it’s important for students to be there in person in order to absorb the material, learn and participate.

Professors have also noticed a difference in performance in students who come to class versus those who don’t.

Early childhood education professor Nicole Erickson stated that she could attest to this sentiment.

“Students who don’t come to class will not understand the content or how to apply it,” Erickson said.

Erickson further expressed that when students miss important questions that are covered in class, they typically end up doing poorly in the class or failing, which can result in students having to retake the course.

On the other side of this debate, some professors don’t have an attendance policy and think students should have the freedom to choose.

Mathematics professor Mike Decker explained that college students are adults

and have the ability to make their own decisions.

“I’m not gonna play babysitter, we’re all adults here,” Decker said. “I’m not gonna try and make you come to class with some gimmicky sort of thing that gives you points for being here, not me”.

Decker also acknowledged that students have a life outside of class and that sometimes, things arise unexpectedly.

“If they do have a reason for not coming, it’s probably a good reason,” Decker said. “I wouldn’t use an attendance policy that just like terribly hurts somebody who just misses a few classes.”

Attendance policies have often been thought to motivate students to succeed and implement accountability in regards to their education and career skills.

Nursing junior Aubriana Foster explained that from her point of view, attendance points are the easiest to earn in a class while helping a student stay successful.

“They’re pretty helpful, especially because I think it’s easy points to just show up to class,” Foster said. “I feel like an attendance policy should count toward a final grade. I think attendance is pretty important in maintaining a good

grade.”

She further noted that an attendance policy has never kept her from taking a class.

Some students don’t agree that an attendance policy is helpful.

Music Business junior Cervonte’ Plair explained that if a medical emergency happens, students can be wrongfully punished for that.

“I can’t be there because I’m hospitalized. I’m trying not to lose those points because I’m not able to make it,” Plair said. “Thankfully, since I came to Ferris, I haven’t had a bad professor. I had bad people, but never a bad professor.”

According to professor and department chair of interdisciplinary studies Kristin Conley, Ferris has a good retention rate and does not commonly find students withdrawing from classes.

“I don’t have a huge attendance problem. Even right now I haven’t had one person that didn’t come this week.”

Conley emphasized that it all comes down to how you teach a course and leave an impact on your students.

Final exam season is approaching, with exam week beginning on Dec. 8 and final grades due on Dec. 15.

Movember

The importance of “No-Shave November”



Photo by: Clark Vance | Photographer

Men across the country are saying goodbye to razors for the month of November.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

For many, “No-Shave November” is a month to stash your razors and have an excuse to grow out their facial hair.

While this may be what people think, Movember is really a month where participants do not shave to raise awareness and funds for men’s health, specifically for prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention.

Movember is when men start the month clean-shaven, and often grow a mustache as “Movember” is a portmanteau for “Mo” (a mustache) and “November.” This month isn’t just for men or people who cannot grow mustaches; women, as well as men who can’t grow a mustache, can raise awareness by organizing events, participating in physical challenges, or simply donating.

While Ferris currently does not host a specific Movember event, raising awareness remains an important part of campus life for students and the PCC.

For many men, Movember is a yearly event; for senior construction management major Conner VanderHoff, it is incredibly important to him.

“Movember has been a tradition the last few years,” VanderHoff said. “This has been huge for me and my family, mainly because of the fact that I am able to do it for mental health. I love doing it every year.”

While here at Ferris, this is the time of year for client demand and scheduling for the Personal Counseling Center.

Many men are told throughout their lives to “man up” and push all their feelings down inside them, and not to express their feelings.

The director of counseling at the Personal Counseling Center, Andrew Slater, explained why men should express their feelings and do the opposite of what many have been told.

“Most men are taught from an early age that emotions define us in the negative and that we are less of a man if we are struggling with our emotions,” Slater said. “This leads to a ton of issues, including the fact that men die by suicide four times the rate of women. My biggest recommendation is to start talking about it; it does not have to be in therapy, but talk to a friend, mentor, coach, or family member. Talking is therapeutic in itself.”

The Personal Counseling Center offers services to all students and is a resource for those in need of someone to talk to.

According to the Movember Foundation, a growing number of men, around 10.8 million across the world, are facing life with a prostate cancer diagnosis. Globally,

testicular cancer is the most common cancer among young men. While across the world, one man dies by suicide every minute of every day, with males accounting for 69% of all suicides.

The foundation started in 1999, with a group of young men in Australia growing mustaches in the month of November to raise money for charity. The group started with 80 men, and soon became an Australian phenomenon.

Since the foundation’s inception in 2003, the Movember Foundation has raised over \$837 million while funding over 1,200 projects in more than 20 countries. The foundation uses the funding to impact men’s health both locally and globally.

For senior construction management major Dillon Dietze, he loves the tradition of Movember.

“I believe it is a really fun

tradition,” Dietze said. “Men’s mental health is an incredibly important topic, and I believe it should be discussed more often than it is.”

If you are struggling with your mental health, reach out to the Ferris Personal Counseling Center.

The 24/7 support hotline is also available for students if a crisis arises outside of PCC hours.

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SNAP Benefits

With the government shutdown still in effect, SNAP benefits have been paused beginning November 1st.

42 million people across the country have prepared to have their benefits cut.

According to data provided by the USDA, the largest bracket of individuals that rely on SNAP falls within 18 to 59 years old.

Ferris offers several resources to students who may be struggling or in need during this time.

On Campus Food Resources:

Students in need may fill out a care report or student insecurity request to be connected with a professional to assist them during the time of need.

Bulldog Pantry

Located in the David L. Eisler Center, open on Monday and Tuesday from 1–6 p.m. and Wednesday and Thursday from 2–7 p.m.

West Campus Pantry

Located in the West Campus Community Center and open Monday–Friday 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Saturday–Sunday 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The Stash

Located in the Student Services Office on the KCAD campus and open Monday–Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. or by appointment.

Local Food Pantries:

Big Rapids

- Manna Pantry of Big Rapids
- Project Starburst
- Big Rapids First Methodist Church
- Stanwood First Methodist Church—Twelve Baskets Food-Pantry

Grand Rapids

- Northwest Food Pantry
- The Other Way Ministries – Community Resources Center
- Baxter Community Center – Marketplace
- God’s Kitchen – Food Distribution Center
- Streams of Hope – Food Distribution Center

Students in need can reach out to Megan Somsel at Megansomsel@ferris.edu or Kavaris Sims Kavarissims@ferris.edu.

Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

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ON THE RECORD

Emma Walters
News Editor

Sexual Assault

Ferris State police received a report of a sexual assault involving a student in a residence hall on campus. The student reported non-consensual sexual contact by two individuals in a room during the early morning hours of Oct. 28. The student declined medical services and did not wish to pursue criminal charges at this time. The two individuals were identified and confirmed not to be Ferris students. Trespass notices for the two individuals are being issued. The case is open and pending a follow-up.

Hate Crime

Oct. 26 – A student reported being subjected to slurs and physically pushed while attending a party at an off-campus fraternity residence near campus. The student reported a minor injury and missing personal items following the incident. The Big Rapids Police Department is currently investigating the property because it is off campus.

No drink for you!

Oct. 25, 12:30 a.m. - A resident assistant observed a student carrying an alcoholic beverage in North Hall. When approached, the student denied drinking but then consumed the remaining contents after being instructed to dispose of it. The student also presented an altered virtual student ID showing a different person. The incident was documented and referred for a follow-up.

Culture

Grace Heethuis | Culture Editor | turnek29@ferris.edu

Ferris versus food insecurity

Resources for students facing hardship



Photo by: Jack Jamerino | Copy Editor

The Bulldog Pantry is a judgement free resource that is accessible to all students looking for food, no questions asked.

Grace Heethuis
Culture Editor

As a result of the federal government shutdown, SNAP benefits have officially been paused.

While the WIC program remains operational for now, it is at risk of being halted if the shutdown continues.

The pausing of federal programs, such as SNAP, poses a risk to many people who depend on it to access food for themselves and their families.

As of Friday, Oct. 31, a federal judge ordered the Trump Administration to continue paying for food stamps using emergency funds amid the shutdown. However, it is unclear whether recipients will receive full benefits and when the funds will be distributed, as the fund may not be able to cover the full cost.

This situation leaves over 41 million Americans at risk of not having access to food. There has already been an increase in the number of people utilizing food pantries, even on campus.

Josh Olszewski, the Student Organization and Greek Life Coordinator, is the over-

seer of the Bulldog Pantry, which assists students on campus facing food insecurity.

Olszewski discussed how the government shutdown may impact students on campus who are facing food insecurity and shared a little bit about how the pantry operates.

"I think we're going to see a lot more students utilize the pantry," Olszewski said. "We already have in the last couple of days. The pantry is open to all enrolled students, and we don't make students prove their need, so they just come in, fill out a form, and they can shop and get the items they need."

Megan Somsel, the Basic Needs Care Coordinator, helps students facing basic needs insecurities, including food insecurity, housing, medical technology and more. Somsel shared about her recent experiences with students amid the shutdown.

"I have actually been seeing some students reach out in the last couple of days, as well as saying that they're worried about their SNAP benefits ending," Somsel said. "I try to connect them

with additional community resources as well."

Somsel frequently directs students to resources such as the Bulldog Pantry, the West Campus Community Pantry, Mana Pantry, Project Starburst, mobile pantries and local churches that provide weekly meals.

These resources can be useful to students who are struggling with food insecurity, which has increased as a result of SNAP benefits being threatened.

Kavaris Sims, the Associate Dean of Students, oversees the Office of Community Standards and case management efforts related to basic needs and care support.

Sims discussed the impact he believes the shutdown will have on students, as well as his belief that Ferris is prepared to handle situations like this one.

"It'll have a significant effect. I think we have pretty much gone into overdrive to prepare ourselves," Sims said. "Our job is to make sure we've prepared for it."

While many students are currently fearful of how they are going to ensure they

have access to food and other basic needs, the faculty involved with Ferris' many support teams are working tirelessly to mitigate fear and provide for students' needs.

Sims offered some words of encouragement for students who are facing challenges relating to food and other basic needs insecurity.

"We try to normalize it. It's okay to struggle. We all have challenges; some people in academics, and some people have challenges with food insecurity, right? We want to normalize it and make sure that you feel comfortable reaching out to somebody for help," Sims said. "We're Bulldogs looking

out for Bulldogs, and that's all we try to do."

Many students on campus struggle with a variety of issues throughout their time on campus, and are encouraged by faculty to reach out for help when they need it.

Somsel talked about her experience working with students facing food and basic needs insecurity in hopes of decreasing the stigma surrounding such challenges.

"I always tell [students] that everybody, at some point in their life, experiences some sort of challenge like this. Everybody's been there," Somsel said.

Olszewski concluded by explaining how common it

is to face challenges when it comes to being in need, as well as providing comfort to students in this situation.

"You're not alone, and basic needs and security is a spectrum that a lot of folks are on somewhere," Olszewski said. "That's why we're here, and we have a whole team to support students."

The Bulldog Pantry is currently open Monday and Tuesday from 1 to 6 p.m. and Wednesday and Thursday from 2 to 7 p.m. It is located in the David L. Eisler Center near Starbucks and is open to all currently enrolled Ferris students.

Community through jazz

Ferris' jazz band provides opportunities for students



Photo by: Clark Vance | Photographer

The Ferris State Jazz Band during rehearsal for their first concert of the year.

Tate Zellman
Freelance Reporter

From performing concerts to playing jazz music in their free time, the Ferris State Jazz Band allows students to do what they love while connecting to their local community. Being a part of the jazz band allows students to perform groovy, classical and upbeat pieces while playing their favorite instruments. Membership is open to students and members of the Ferris community. Rehearsals take place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. in the Music Center room 108. The jazz band performed its first concert of the se-

mester on Tuesday, Oct. 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the Williams Auditorium. The first performance was their Fall Jazz Concert, and the music spanned from classical performers such as Benny Carter to Pat Metheny. Jazz band director and music professor Micah Laird has just recently taken over the director position after associate music professor Matt Moresi stepped down. Only being the director for about two months, Laird shared his feelings about taking on the role. "It's a huge honor and I'm very blessed to have it," Laird said. "What Matt has done these last 20 years is incredible. The way he cultivated the culture and the commu-

nity that is wanting to grow is amazing. Being able to step into that to make music with these people who want to be here because they love it is something I treasure." Laird enjoys conducting jazz music because of how unique it is compared to other music genres, and recognizes various aspects that make music great. "Jazz music is about personality," Laird said. "There's flexibility, there's room for error, there's room for personality and there's room for creativity. It feels like you can let your shoulders loose while you're playing the music and just be in it in the moment." Currently, the jazz band has 22 members. The band has various woodwind, trum-

pet and trombone players. The band also consists of two bass players, one pianist, one guitarist and one member on the drum set. Facilities management senior Tony Sgrazzutti, who plays the trumpet, has played jazz music for many years, shaping his love and passion for jazz music. "I started playing in sixth grade," Sgrazzutti said. "I ended up playing for many great jazz bands, and I played gigs. I got taught by great teachers in the Detroit area. Jazz is like a part of my soul. I just get jazz. I understand the language and I love it. Being a part of the jazz band is the perfect opportunity to play jazz and to spend time with friends."

During their first concert, the jazz band played a total of six pieces. All of the pieces were either traditional or were performed by famous jazz artists. Almost all of the pieces featured a solo or multiple soloists. Accounting junior Cece Bell, who plays the baritone saxophone, revealed which piece was her favorite to play. "My favorite piece that we played was 'Make Me Smile' by Chicago," Bell said. "That piece just had a nice little groove to it and was overall really fun to play. Many little parts in there are really fun to play, and as a group, I feel like we played this one pretty good." Bell also believes it is important that more students

join the jazz band because of the way music impacts people's lives. "I think it is important that people join jazz band because music is all around us and in our lives a lot," Bell said. "People learn so many life skills through playing music, and making music is fun, so people should join." The jazz band has a handful of concerts remaining for the fall 2025 semester. Fall concerts include a Veterans Day concert on Sunday, Nov. 9, a holiday jazz concert on Wednesday, Dec. 3 and more. For more information about the jazz band and their upcoming concerts, contact the faculty and staff at the Music Center.

Media Minute

“Taskmaster” and innovating comedy



Graphic by: Lucas Gill | Web Editor

Lucas Gill
Web Editor

“Taskmaster” is a British comedy panel show series that combines a game-show structure with unscripted humor and creative problem-solving. Each season features five comedians who compete across a range of bizarre and unexpected challenges or tasks, designed by series creator Alex Horne. These tasks require contestants to think on their feet, adapt to unusual rules and often interpret instructions in unconventional ways. Some are deceptively simple, and almost all of them have more than one way to be completed. The performances are then evaluated during the various in-studio segments by the show’s host and Taskmaster himself, Greg Davies, whose subjective scoring system,

usually giving the contestants a score of one through five, adds an unpredictable element to the competition. Horne serves as Davies’ assistant, overseeing tasks, clarifying their rules and presenting footage of each comedian’s attempt. Each season consists of 10 episodes, with contestants’ scores building throughout the series until a final winner is crowned. Their prize? A golden bust of Greg Davies. I’ve decided to analyze “Taskmaster,” as it has become somewhat of a comfort show to me in recent months. The series is set apart by several factors and continues to reinvent itself with each new season. Part of the charm lies in each season’s cast. With the style the series has adopted, it’s not about who you’re watching it for, but rather get-

ting to know the comedians better and rooting for them more as the show goes on. Speaking from experience, out of the more than one hundred comedians the show has featured so far, I only recognized three prior to appearing on “Taskmaster.” By the end of various seasons, I found myself a genuine fan of many more of these comedians and actors. The latest season, Season 20, features Ania Magliano, Maisie Adam, Phil Ellis, Reece Shearsmith and Sanjeev Bhaskar. Each cast member brings a unique form of comedy to the show. We don’t just see this in their banter with the host, but in their dynamics with their fellow contestants. Team tasks are sprinkled throughout each season, showing off their wits and collaborative efforts in teams of two or three.

One of my personal favorite team tasks comes from episode eight of Season 20, where the two teams had to participate in a mock heist to steal a statue. This also included Alex acting as the head security guard, trying to stop them. While “Taskmaster” is built on clever tasks and charismatic comedians, the show’s backbone lies in the editing. The series’ structure relies on hours of raw footage from each challenge, including multiple camera angles, off-the-cuff reactions, and long stretches of trial and error, and presents it into tight, rhythmically paced sequences. Another powerful tool “Taskmaster” has on its belt is its brilliant production design. Every season’s pre-recorded task (with a handful of exceptions) takes place at the Taskmaster House, a

small cottage with variously styled rooms, and the property surrounding it. Each season sees the house’s interior decorated to match a different theme. A few examples of past themes include the Wild West, 1920s Art Deco and Van Gogh. These creative set designs offer a visually distinct backdrop to the action. Other small visual touches, like on-screen captions and playful sound effects, further enhance the series’ humor without overwhelming it, while also delivering on making a cohesive brand. “Taskmaster” opts to use typewriter-style fonts that have become synonymous with its identity. It’s rare to find a show that feels this unpredictable and genuine at the same time. There are no trivia questions and no million-dollar stakes—just pure, unscripted prob-

lem-solving and the wonderfully human reactions that follow. Greg Davies may hold the power as the towering Taskmaster, and Alex Horne may quietly pull the strings, but the real magic lies in watching people think outside the box, fail in heartbreaking ways, surprise themselves and occasionally stumble into brilliance. If you’re a fan of more character-driven comedy or improv shows, such as “Whose Line is it Anyway?” I believe that “Taskmaster” will be right up your alley. Every season of the show can be watched for free on YouTube, with the latest episodes going live one hour after their premiere on Channel 4. At the time of writing, Season 20 has one episode remaining before its finale.

Opinions

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The Ferris State Torch is published on 27 Wednesdays throughout the academic year. This student-run newspaper is printed by The Pioneer Group.

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

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: The cost of freezing SNAP Restricting the livelihood of Americans



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Blase Gapinski
Editor in Chief

For many Americans, the first of the month originally delivered relief: groceries in the fridge, bills paid on time and the hope of a little breathing room.

Now, with shrinking access to programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and other vital assistance programs, that relief is disappearing. The very programs our government provides to ensure millions of Americans can get by are being stripped away right when families need them most.

On Nov. 1, the U.S. Department of Agriculture moved to freeze SNAP payments, claiming it could no longer fund the program without Congress's approval.

Hours before benefits were set to run out due to the prolonged government shutdown, two federal judges ruled the Trump administration must use emergency funding to keep these food assistance programs going. Yet the administration has ignored these orders, pointing fingers at Democrats and insisting that the situation could be solved if only Congress agreed to reopen

the government. President Trump even suggested that Democrats are to blame for hurting the very people who rely on these programs.

But let's be clear, it is not a political game. This is about people's lives.

According to Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel, "Emergency funding exists for exactly this kind of crisis. If the reality of 42 million Americans going hungry, including 1.4 million Michiganders, isn't an emergency, I don't know what is" (Michigan Department of Attorney General).

Around 14% of households in Michigan rely on SNAP, and when benefits are frozen, families are left scrambling, local governments are stretched thin and food pantries struggle to fill the gap.

It's infuriating to watch legal loopholes and partisan blame-shifting take priority over basic human needs.

The USDA now claims it cannot legally use the contingency fund to maintain SNAP benefits during the shutdown. But just weeks ago, the agency's own "Lapse of Funding Plan" explicitly stated that these contingency funds, which are estimated to be somewhere around \$5 bil-

lion, can and should be used to keep benefits flowing.

That document even cited Congressional intent to ensure the program continues in case of a funding lapse. The sudden change in position raises questions: if the fund was intended for exactly this purpose, why is the administration refusing to use it now?

It's hard not to feel like this has turned into a cruel game being played by the president.

The well-being of millions of Americans is being held over the heads of Democrats, used as leverage in a political fight over the government shutdown. What's particularly frustrating is that it's not a matter of lacking resources. Even without tapping into the contingency fund, there is enough money to keep these programs running. The choice to freeze benefits is exactly that, a choice.

If President Trump truly wanted to, he could grant the relief needed to allow SNAP and other vital assistance programs to continue without interruption. Doing so would not only prevent immediate harm to families who rely on these programs, but it could also show that he under-

stands and cares about the real struggles people face.

For me, the decision to withhold benefits feels like a missed opportunity to exercise empathy and leadership. Instead, politics is taking precedence over people's basic needs, leaving millions of Americans to bear the consequences.

Michigan isn't standing by quietly while families go hungry.

Along with 24 other states, Michigan has joined a lawsuit against the USDA to maintain SNAP benefits during the shutdown. This legal action could be a critical tool for ensuring that millions of Americans continue to receive food assistance despite the federal government's inaction. By challenging the USDA in court, these states are sending a clear message: the needs of families cannot be held hostage for political games.

I admire Governor Gretchen Whitmer for stepping up where she can. By directing \$4.5 million to the Food Bank Council of Michigan, she is doing everything within her power to ensure that families don't go hungry while SNAP benefits hang in the balance. Her actions show a level of

responsibility and empathy that is desperately needed right now.

I also admire our university for looking out for students early, who may have been affected by the temporary changes.

Lina Blair, our Dean of Student Life, sent out an email detailing the many resources on campus available to help students affected by these changes.

All of our campus pantries are welcoming and judgment-free, and it's reassuring to know the university is actively supporting students who might be struggling to make ends meet. This kind of care shows that even in the midst of a national crisis, local communities can step in to provide real, tangible support.

Even in the face of political gridlock and uncertainty, there is hope. Now is the time to show empathy, to support our neighbors and to lift those struggling. Communities, leaders and individuals alike can make a real difference, reminding us that compassion is always within reach.

A question of fate

Brief thoughts on “meta-narratives”



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Connor Fuller
Managing Copy Editor

Recently, I have developed skepticism towards certain outlooks taught to me as a child. Specifically, the concept of “Meta-Narratives,” which, as defined by Oxford Languages, concerns interpretations of events that “[...] provides a pattern or structure for people’s beliefs and gives meaning to their experiences [...]” Basically, inferring purpose and that events are, perhaps, “meant to be.” It’s not a frequently cited term, but it is noticeable in daily life, involving through-lines or finding a silver lining out of endurance, unveiling outlooks previously uncon-

sidered. This sentiment is shared by religions like Christianity, where verses like Romans 5:3-5 state that “[...] we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope [...]” Thus, we have the aim’s central view: finding hope and virtues in afflictions. Why am I so critical of this view? Its implications are negligible and bother no one. Firstly, there is little to actually investigate, at least for non-personal forces. Since we live only one life, anything can be “meant to be,” implying other alternatives that can never be understood. Thus, our unacknowl-

edged biases come through, for which we feel vindicated in our assumptions, and call it fate. Are there limits in citing fate? Elections? Meant to be. Meeting the love of your life? Meant to be. What is not meant to be? The idea becomes superfluous as it’s implied to be a choice against randomness, yet it also implies everything follows some plan. If you are molding clay, you don’t leave its shape up to chance, only forging around the edges. Neither would anything receive sole credit if they didn’t have a role in the process, except as a proof-reader of creation. If we look for omens, there

they are. We selflessly budge an inch, before sculpting heart-felt purpose from faith and thin air, and implications of omnipresent forces, living as an organ of the universe’s moral obligations. Allowing us, the craftsmen of the presuppositional crime, to wrap a bow, where at last the monument is finished, and by sheer bittersweet resolve, the charges are dropped. However, my greater criticism lies elsewhere, as meta-narratives involving a deity are more convoluted. Take “God put you into my life for a reason...” Some notes: this implies that everyone is constantly being arranged into your life, while, regarding the views of

others, you are also arranged into their lives at the same level of control, all for some moral, which becomes superficial at the level of the higher power, like chess pieces being mere ivory pawns and not, in themselves, soldiers of intellect. Another debacle is good and evil. If we are going by a deity’s purpose, then there is design and function to the deity’s creation of everything that exists. We must ask, does this extend to everything? Yes. If one says, “I am responsible for all that is good,” then the question of whether the entity is responsible for all that is bad is yes. This is because the control of all that is good requires that the bad be vitally arranged with as much care, to make way for the good. The terms lose power, being a means to an end. All interpretations lie in the entity at the helm, independent of our input, and should only be taken as actions at our expense for a “greater good.” Such actions disregard our needs, and applying subjective terms misses that such manipulations of events and the entirety of our lives are not a matter of love but of ulterior motives that place us like pawns in a game. When people state some resemblance to a divine plan, it seems its full implications have not been fully considered, for any world where the fight to rid the world of poverty, hunger and war would have happened if a deity had held similar aspirations. Instead, our efforts are outlined in vague promises

of resolutions, where every failure tallied, every death statistic and ecosystems rendered uninhabitable by pollution, all exist merely as “the darkness” contrasting “the light.” The light is simply the immeasurably small glimpse of hope, dangling like an underdog with aspirations of a better future. It seems such fortunate futures have evaded reality because 1. Free will, and 2. Life is a “journey,” and without conflicts, no one would grow or build character. The problem with 1. is that forces are already manipulating us, so if free will is violated, they may as well violate it for an actual greater good. For 2., the implication that we fight for justice because we like the outlook it gives us ignores that such progress is to eradicate the issue. Protesting war has not made us love the death and pain it inflicts. Curing diseases has not made us appreciate their debilitating effects, nor has combating prejudice made us appreciate discrimination in society. If we suddenly woke up without these “evils,” am I supposed to think there would be disappointment? The light doesn’t consider darkness an agile friend, but makes the case for its expulsion, and such contrasting mindsets shudder when met with real testimonies of those who saw blood and did not feel enlightened, starved but did not see heaven nor glimpse in their pain and thank God, for they could finally see him at last.

November first



Comic by: Blake Flanery | Cartoonist

Sports

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Bulldogs open with Tipoff Classic

Women’s basketball debuts with road tournament



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Senior guard Mia Riley working the post against an Ashland defender during the 2024-25 D2 playoffs.

Blase Gapinski
Editor in Chief

This weekend, the Ferris State Bulldogs Women’s basketball team returns to the court, where they will take on three teams for the D2CCA Tipoff Classic.

The three-day D2CCA Tipoff Classic will give the Bulldogs an early-season test as they travel to Erie, Pa to face a slate of non-conference opponents. This offers the team a chance to fine-tune their game before the regular GLIAC schedule begins. Ferris State looks to showcase its depth, integrate new players and build momentum for what promises to be a competitive season.

Head coach Kurt Westendorp emphasized the value of experience on this team’s roster, noting that the veteran group’s presence has raised expectations.

“They have championship-winning habits. That’s the good part about having players that not just have been here before, but have been here and had successes; they know what it takes,” Westendorp said. “We’re trying to get three freshmen into the mix with us, but having 11 returning players and so many of them being seniors, it’s nice having that maturity and leadership on the team. We have really kicked it up a notch as far as our expectations, the way that we have been pushing them, the way we put together our schedule for this year, all with that in mind that we have a veteran group.”

On Friday, Nov. 7 the Bulldogs will be taking on the University of North Georgia

for their opening game of the season. This is the first time the Bulldogs will be matching up against the Nighthawks.

The Bulldogs will need to come out hot if they want to take this game. North Georgia has a talented roster with experienced players. Ferris’ key to winning this matchup will be to stifle the Nighthawks’ leading scorer, senior guard Caroline Martin. She averaged 16.9 points per game in the 2024-25 season, where the team had a 31-1 overall record.

With defensive discipline and setting the tone early, the Bulldogs should be able to keep North Georgia’s shooters off the line.

On Saturday, Nov. 8 Ferris looks to take on the Union University Bulldogs for their first-ever matchup. This second game of the D2CCA

Tipoff Classic will serve as another challenging game for Ferris.

With a record of 33-4 during the 2024-25 season, they ended up ranking as the number one team in the Gulf South Conference. Although they were eliminated in the semifinals of the 2025 D2 NCAA tournament by Cal State Dominguez Hills, Union looks to make a triumphant return, with the same team.

Ferris needs to watch for Union’s fast-paced offense, veteran lineup and strong perimeter shooting. A few keys to Ferris taking this game will be maintaining their presence in the paint and controlling rebounds, slowing down the GSC powerhouse as much as they can.

For the final game of the D2CCA Tipoff Classic, the Bulldogs will be taking on

the California University of Pennsylvania Vulcans, another team Ferris has yet to match up against.

The Bulldogs have a chance to make a statement in this final game. Going up against a Vulcans roster full of new faces, the Bulldogs have the court when it comes to experience. With their veteran lineup and proven chemistry, the Bulldogs will look to close out the Tipoff Classic on a high note and carry that momentum into the rest of their nonconference schedule.

Senior guard Mia Riley talked about this year’s group and how the returning core sets them up for a successful year.

“We have a very experienced team this year with our six seniors,” Riley said. “We also have a couple of

girls back from being injured last year, so it should be a great year for us on the court.”

Ferris State Women’s basketball will take on the University of North Georgia, Union University and California University of Pennsylvania starting on Nov. 7 and ending on Nov. 9 in Erie, Pa.

Bulldogs take on the Cardinals

Ferris football travels to Saginaw to take on Saginaw Valley State



Photo by: Clark Vance | Photographer

Center Jarvis Windom prepares to snap the ball during the Bulldogs matchup against Northern Michigan.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

Following the Bulldogs' 23rd straight victory, Ferris State will travel to Harvey Randall Wickes Memorial Stadium to take on the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals. The No.1-ranked Bulldogs (9-0, 5-0 in GLIAC) take on the Cardinals (5-4, 4-1 in GLIAC) with the Cardinals coming off a 31-17 loss to Davenport. Ferris State is coming off a 70-35 victory over the Northern Michigan Wildcats in a game that saw junior quarterback Carson Gulker begin to come into his own in his new "swiss-army knife" role. Gulker had six rushes for 44

yards and one touchdown, while adding two catches for 57 yards and another touchdown. On the defensive side of the ball, freshman linebacker Brady Hamby had a day for the Bulldogs, having 15 total tackles in the game. Senior defensive back Justin Payoute had five total tackles of his own, including a tackle for loss, while also snatching his fourth interception of the year. Head coach Tony Annese touched on the win. "We scored on every possession until we threw a Hail Mary, and on the turnover," Annese said. "The Wildcats kept our defense off balance, they are the tenth-best rush-

ing offense in the nation so they run it well. Coach Richardson has done a really nice job of building that program; they are really challenging." The 70-35 win over the Wildcats marks the fourth time the Bulldogs have scored 60 or more points in a game this season. In the past five seasons alone, the Bulldogs have had six games where they have scored 60 or more points in a game. Gulker gave his thoughts on this feat. "Our offensive unit has a lot of trust and confidence in each other and in what we do," Gulker said. "I think it gives us a level of confidence that we can play at such a high level and put up

a lot of points week in and week out." The Bulldogs and Cardinals first faced off all the way back on Oct. 4, 1975, and the Bulldogs hold an all-time record over the Cardinals 29-19-1, while riding a 10-game winning streak, that spans back to 2014. Senior slot receiver Brady Rose knows the Cardinals are a tough team, but he is confident they can pull out the win. "Saginaw will be a tough team," Rose said. "We always have a good game against them every year. This would be one game closer to a conference championship and that's one of our main goals. We have to make sure

to come out and play tough this week." For the Cardinals, coming off a tough loss to Davenport, they look to attempt to right the ship against the Bulldogs. The Cardinals rely heavily on redshirt sophomore quarterback Mason McKenzie. This year alone, he has 1668 yards with 12 touchdowns and nine interceptions on the season, while adding 817 yards and another seven touchdowns on the ground. McKenzie's number one target for the year is junior wide receiver Terrence Brown Jr, who has 581 yards and six touchdowns, while adding another 181 yards rushing and three touchdowns.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Cardinals are led by senior linebacker Christian Boivin, who has 84 total tackles on the season, with three and a half sacks, eight tackles for loss and an interception. For the Bulldogs, one of their standouts on the defense is senior defensive lineman Kailib Davis, who thus far in the season has 19 total tackles, five sacks, which leads the Bulldogs and seven tackles for loss. The Ferris State Bulldogs will take on the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals in Saginaw on Saturday, Nov. 8, at 1 p.m.

Volleyball continues GLIAC slate

Ferris heads up north as season comes to close



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Volleyball loses their first game after going undefeated since Sept. 27.

Devin Wardrop
Sports Reporter

With four matches left in the regular season, the Ferris State volleyball team heads to the Upper Peninsula for a doubleheader against the Northern Michigan Wildcats and the Michigan Tech Huskies.

The No.15-ranked Ferris State (19-5, 10-2 in GLIAC) is coming off a split weekend with a 3-0 win at Wayne State before going to Grand Valley and losing 3-2 to the Lakers. In the loss to the Lakers, sophomore outside hitter Gabby Piazza led the team with 16 kills, with fellow sophomore outside hitter Emily May right behind her with 11 kills in the match.

Senior outside hitter

Emma Bleecher believes every match is an opportunity to get better.

"As we continue our GLIAC slate in November, our team is super fired up to face off against our next opponents," Bleecher said. "We say it a lot, but we view each game as a new opportunity to grow and learn as a team. Each game these next few weeks, and really for the rest of our season, will be a new challenge where we have to adapt in certain ways in order to win. We love to be competitors and get better every single day, whether that's practice or a game, and that will not change now that it's November. Now more than ever, we're going to come together as a team and face each game together

as a unit."

In the 24 matches this season, the Bulldogs are averaging 13.66 kills per set with a hitting percentage of .243%. The team is also averaging 11.86 assists per set and 2.12 blocks per set. Piazza leads the team with 310 kills, with 3.73 kills per set. May is second on the team with 265 kills and 3.19 kills per set. Sophomore setter Hayley Wegener is far and away the leader in assists with 818 assists, with 9.86 assists per set. Wegener also leads the team with 280 digs and 3.37 digs per set. Senior outside hitter Logyn Geren leads the Bulldogs in blocks with 53 total blocks.

Geren is really excited for the last four matches of the regular season.

"The team and I are really excited for the upcoming GLIAC games in the next few weeks as the regular season is ending," Geren said. "At this stage in the season, every match is important, and we know we'll be facing some very strong teams. Every team is playing their best volleyball at this point of the season. Our group has been working hard to stay consistent and continue getting 1 percent better each day. We're looking forward to the challenge and the opportunity to compete at a high level as we move into November."

Northern Michigan (11-13, 8-4 in GLIAC) is coming off a split weekend, with a 3-1 win at Roosevelt on Halloween and a 0-3 loss at Parkside. The Wildcats are averaging

12.0 kills per set and 11.2 assists per set. Defensively, the Wildcats average 15.5 digs per set and 1.7 blocks per set. In the 24 matches played, senior middle blocker McKenzie Gruner leads the team with 268 kills and 3.05 kills per set. Junior setter Allie Barlow leads the team with 847 assists and 9.63 assists per set. The Wildcats will play in Big Rapids against the Bulldogs before playing at Davenport.

Michigan Tech (9-14, 6-6 in GLIAC) is also coming off a split weekend, playing the two teams that the Wildcats played, just on different days. The Huskies lost 0-3 on Halloween to Parkside before winning 3-0 the next day against Roosevelt. Michigan Tech averages 12.8 kills per

set and 11.9 assists per set. Defensively, the Huskies average 14.9 digs per set and 2.0 blocks per set.

In the 23 matches played so far, junior right side hitter Rachel Zurek leads the team with 242 kills, and she's second on the team with 3.06 kills per set behind junior outside hitter Jacqueline Yancy's 3.07 kills per set. Freshman setter Madelynn Krieder leads the team with 438 sets, with junior setter Tess Hayes leading with 8.15 assists per set. Defensively, senior libero Julia Fledderjohn leads the Huskies with 342 digs and 4.17 digs per set.

Ferris State will play Northern Michigan on Friday, Nov. 7, in Marquette before playing Michigan Tech on Saturday, Nov. 8, in Houghton.