



The Ferris State Torch

95 YEARS OF ILLUMINATING THE TRUTH

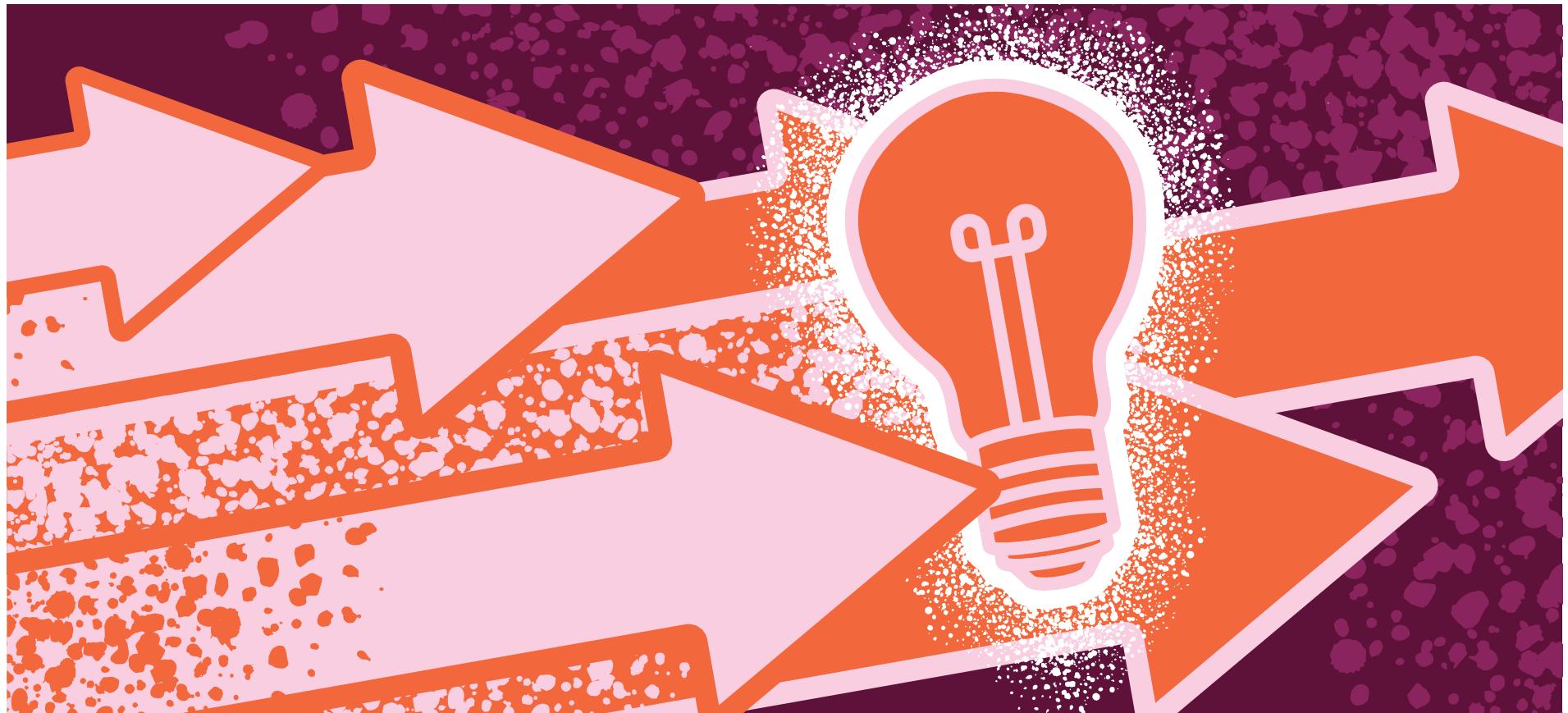
Big Rapids, Michigan

Week of Feb. 11, - Feb. 18, 2026

www.fsutorch.com

Turning ideas into business pitches

Entrepreneurial Accelerator comes to Ferris



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Gannon Thomas
Freelance Contributor

Ferris State has partnered with Middle Michigan Development Corporation to offer students a chance to turn their concepts into companies.

Middle Michigan Development Corporation and Ferris are partnering together to allow students and alumni alike to participate in the Idea to Pitch entrepreneurial accelerator, which is a workshop and competition for business idea pitches.

The idea to pitch accelerator is hosted by Premier Event Sponsor and the facilitator is Middle Michigan Development Corporation in partnership with Ferris State University's Career & Professional Success, Student Government Association and Bulldog Entrepreneurs RSO.

This competition will provide students with the skills they need to create business ideas and turn them into valid concepts. Participants will be able to build and showcase

their entrepreneurial ability and learn how to use those abilities in real world applications.

Those who participate in the competition will receive mentorship throughout the creative process, a certificate for completing and possibly even a cash prize.

Career Readiness Specialist Michele Albright and one of the programs coordinators, described how this event acts as a qualifying event for another competition with even more at stake.

"Top participants will be invited to participate in larger regional and state pitch competitions taking place in Grand Rapids and Mount Pleasant," Albright said.

The Idea to Pitch: Entrepreneurial Accelerator is open for students of all majors and ages to join including alumni, aiming to show entrepreneurship isn't limited to business degrees.

Students will be offered guidance through every step of their pitch creating pro-

cess and will be connected with community leaders and alumni mentors.

This event is an opportunity for any student to try out their big idea or just learn more about the pitching process in general.

"Even if students don't start a business, entrepreneurship programs still build valuable transferable skills like problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and adaptability," Albright said. "Students gain confidence, real-world experience, and an innovative mindset that helps them stand out to employers and succeed in any career path."

Participants will work with and learn from experts the skills needed to set themselves and their future business up for success. If you have a great idea or good side gig this competition offers a chance to refine your concept and receive professional feedback.

Director of Career and Professional Success Angela Ro-

man touched on what this opportunity will require students to bring to the table and what they will be able to take away from the experience.

"This experience will require students to go through the whole process of idea generation to creating a plan to take action," Roman said. "There will be education and support through this process which ensures everyone participating will learn and practice entrepreneurial skills."

Workshops throughout the competition focus on developing practical business skills like problem solving and effective communication with experienced mentors. Sessions are meant to teach students and give them a space to create professional level business concepts and pitches.

Programs that focus on innovation and self thinking are potentially useful to any student. Roman described how entrepreneurial thinking can help them stand out even if their post-college goal isn't

starting a business.

"My hope is that students participating in this program become resilient, innovative, and successful employees," Roman said. "If it produces new local business owners that hire future Bulldog graduates that is even better."

If you don't already have your big idea don't worry, the pitch accelerator will also offer help to those who need or want to create and workshop pitch worthy ideas.

Programs like the pitch to Idea Accelerator allow students to practice and experience professional expectations in a supportive environment. It also encourages students to gain knowledge in local economics by building relationships with local business leaders, relationships that could lead to future job opportunities.

Albright also commented on this program is likely to affect students when approaching the job market.

"Today's workforce requires adaptability, innova-

tion, and opportunity creation," Albright said. "While career services build essential job-search skills, entrepreneurship helps students think creatively, solve real-world problems, and develop long-term resilience. Integrating both prepares graduates for diverse career pathways, including leadership, innovation, and lifelong success."

The Idea to pitch: Entrepreneurial Accelerator begins Feb. 16, with the ideation and opportunity recognition workshop then continues on Feb. 23 and March 2, with two more workshops and then ends with the pitch competition on March 18.

Any student interested can enter this competition by going to Ferris 360 and searching the Idea to Pitch: Entrepreneurial Accelerator or emailing Michele Albright at MicheleAlbright@ferris.edu.

News

Ferris State astronomy research earns national recognition as undergraduate-led binary star models join the U.S. Naval Observatory's authoritative catalog worldwide **PG. 4**

Culture

Dogs have captured the hearts of many Ferris students, who have a lot to say about their beloved pets back at home. **PG. 5**

Opinions

Politics are something younger people claim they "don't do", but with the current political climate and federal involvement, that needs to change. **PG. 8**

Sports

Hockey looks to wrap up their final homestand with two weekend games against Northern Michigan, read about how they match up against the Wildcats **PG. 12**

News

Blase Gapinski | News Editor | gapinsb@ferris.edu

Michigan

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

Gas prices are down 7 cents per gallon this week, according to AAA-The Auto Club Group. Michigan drivers are now paying an average of \$2.83 a gallon for regular unleaded gas. This price is down 3 cents from this time last month and down 27 cents from this time last year. According to Adrienne Woodland of AAA-The Auto Club Group, "Gas prices across Michigan are easing up. Most drivers are seeing real drops at the pump, and even in places where prices are holding steady, that bit of consistency is still good news."

National

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

The operator of about 180 retail and outlet stores of the iconic outdoors brand, Eddie Bauer, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Eddie Bauer LLC said on Monday that it entered into a restructuring agreement with its secured lenders and filed for bankruptcy in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey. This marks the third bankruptcy tied to the brand in the last two decades. Most Eddie Bauer stores across Canada and the United States will stay open for now, though the company said it plans to wind down certain locations as part of the restructuring process.

Global

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

Tripoli, Lebanon - A building in Tripoli, a city in northern Lebanon has collapsed on Monday morning. At least 15 people have been killed in the collapse, according to the Lebanese Civil Defense, and at least eight people have been pulled alive from the rubble. The building consisted of two blocks, each of which contained six apartments. Residents of the neighbourhood also took part in rescue efforts, rushing to help remove debris and create openings in the collapsed building. Members of the Internal Security Forces and Tripoli municipal police have evacuated surrounding residential and commercial buildings in a preventative measure.

MLK March rescheduled

Annual March set to take place Feb. 18, after delays



Photo courtesy of Torch Archives

The Martin Luther King Jr. annual march is a campus tradition that dates back almost 40 years.

Davaria Pharr
News Reporter

The annual MLK March has been rescheduled for Feb. 18 and will be hosted by the Office of Multicultural Center.

The annual MLK March at Ferris State started in 1987 and has continued for almost four decades to raise awareness about Civil Rights history. The march creates a shared experience that brings a sense of community to campus. Students gain opportunities such as leadership and activism. It is organized and celebrated as part of MLK Week.

This year, the march was originally scheduled for January but was postponed due to a frost bite advisory. Participants will meet in the David L. Eisler Center near the fireplace on Wednesday from 3 to 5 p.m.

Human resource management sophomore Diana Woods talked about why hosting events like these are crucial for campus connections.

"Black Culture influences everything you see; it's everywhere, even when people don't always acknowledge where it comes from," Woods said.

She explains that the march has always opened the door for students to learn about Black history and bring community to campus.

She said we should all come together instead of tearing each other apart.

It's an important event to her because it's for a cause that needs to be put in the broad light.

"I would like to see more awareness spread on Black History Month alongside the MLK event," Woods said.

She explains how she hasn't noticed many posters up around campus highlighting the month. Woods mentioned how seeing more people get involved and more events held in regard to the celebration, is something she would love to witness on campus.

Criminal justice sophomore Tariyah Martin shared a similar sentiment to Woods. One thing she mentioned was how important it is to highlight this month, especially on a college campus and how we need to connect outside of these celebrations.

"I think it's especially important at a predominantly white institution," Martin said. "We should normalize coming together not just during Black History Month."

She explains that being a part of a minority group can sometimes feel isolating at such a large university, with approximately 10% of the population being African American. She adds that she likes to see community and support alongside her peers.

She wants everyone to

come together, not just one singular race.

"I hope the MLK March takes a stance and sheds a light on everything happening with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement," Martin said.

Martin holds the belief that all races should be seen and upheld to the same standard as the next. That equality is the key to a better society.

Woods and Martin both have hopes that the march leaves a positive impact and

broadens the perspective on matters concerning systemic racism and social justice issues.

For more information regarding the march, you can go to the Office of Multicultural Center website. The March takes place on Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 3 to 5 p.m. and will start at the David L. Eisler Center fireplace. Ferris hopes students will be there in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month.

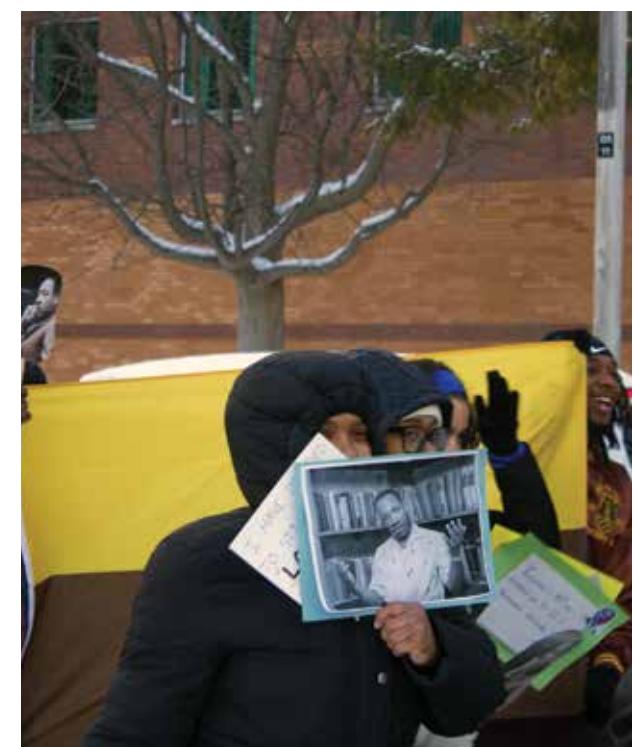


Photo courtesy of Torch Archives

Students march the campus in support of MLK.

being yourself seem wrong. Even as a child in elementary school, my peers treated me differently. Looking back, as a child, if the some made. That weird children have they're are thereing school or most tra weiging over. A lot with the the ch didn't c my tea pansexu year of he anti- in theolo forced to influences negative. One of t's experie realizi a fresh. Each y class nt calle st. Th marily meant to the practice of ce and the Chris... bright light in my Catholic school was that I managed to gather a few que... your struggle. Friends are made in the most unlikely of places.

their beliefs and saving this generation from sin. But I heard that I was wrong.

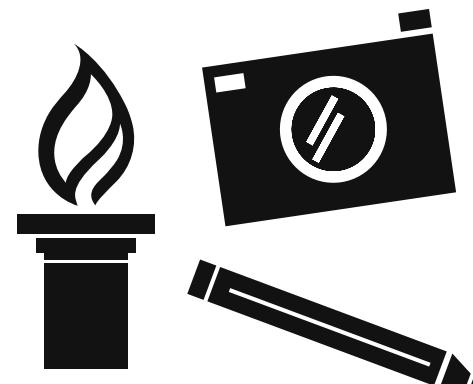
around me made me very insecure about my attraction to women over men. I struggled...

Why work for the Torch?

The Ferris State Torch is an entirely student-run publication created by students and for students. We publish 27 Wednesdays throughout the academic year and serve as a platform for student voices. From covering campus news to community stories, our mission is to inform, engage and represent the Ferris community while giving students hands-on experience in journalism and media. We pride ourselves on welcoming any student who is interested in working for the Torch, regardless of prior experience in writing or media. Whether you are an experienced writer or someone looking to try something new, the Torch provides an inclusive learning environment where students can grow their skills at their own pace. Our staff members gain real-world experience in reporting, interviewing, editing and photography while learning the core values of journalism, including accuracy and integrity. Reporters for the Torch have the freedom to choose what they want to cover, from campus news and Ferris athletics to student organizations, events and issues that matter to the community. Working for the Torch is an opportunity to build your portfolio, develop professional skills and actively contribute to campus life while being part of a collaborative, student-led team.

Positions we have open include:

- Copy Editors
- Photographers
- Reporters (Freelance and full-time)
- Section Editors (News and Managing Copy Editor)



For more information and inquiries, reach out to
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Ferris astronomy program earns national recognition

Binary star research adopted by U.S. Naval Observatory



Photo courtesy of Ferris State University

Undergraduate student at Ferris, Francisco Vasquez participated directly in the research and shared his experiences working with Dr. Dinesh Shetty.

Bella Brazeau
News Reporter

Ferris State university is gaining national attention beyond the football field, with its astronomy program earning recognition for research now included in one of the world's most authoritative scientific catalogs.

The recognition comes from a binary star research project that resulted in newly developed orbital models being adopted by the United States Naval Observatory, making a rare achievement for a primarily undergraduate institution. The project highlights Ferris State's growing role in national scientific research, demonstrating how undergraduate-focused institutions can contribute meaningful data to global astronomy efforts while giving students hands-on experience typically reserved for major research universities.

Physics and astronomy professor Dr. Dinesh Shetty shared more about the adoption by the U.S. Naval Observatory and how it underscores the significance of their work.

"What makes this work especially noteworthy is that four of the newly developed orbital models have been officially adopted by the United States Naval Observatory," Shetty said. "The USNO's visual binary star catalog is the world's authoritative reference for binary star orbits and is used by astronomers internationally. Once included, these results become part of the permanent scientific record, ensuring that observations made at Ferris State will continue to inform astronomical research for years to come. It is uncommon for work conducted at a primarily undergraduate institution to be incorporated into such a major global reference."

Shetty emphasized that the student involvement was a central part of the project.

"Just as significant, the project included direct student involvement," Shetty said. "Having a Ferris student's name associated with research that enters one of astronomy's most important catalogs is a rare achievement and highlights the authenticity and rigor of the

research experience."

He added that the project reflects a broader shift in how astronomical research is conducted.

"Beyond the scientific results, this work demonstrates the growing role of undergraduate-accessible observatories in modern astronomy," Shetty said. "By integrating student participation with contemporary observing techniques, smaller observatories can make meaningful contributions that complement large national and international survey projects. This approach broadens access to research, supports workforce development in STEM fields, and shows that impactful scientific discovery can happen well beyond traditional research powerhouses."

Ferris State undergraduate student Francisco Vasquez, who participated directly in the research, said the experience was transformative both academically and professionally.

"Being an undergraduate student played a fundamental role in this work. It allowed me to engage directly in real research, using authentic

observational data and scientific methods applied in professional astronomy," Vasquez said. "I also received guidance and mentorship from Professor Dinesh Shetty, from the Department of Physics and Astronomy, who supported and guided every step of the project. I would also like to thank the Ferris State Office of Research for providing resources, institutional support, and opportunities that made this research experience possible."

Vasquez gave insight as to why updating these research models are particularly important for the field of astronomy.

"Updating orbital models of binary stars is crucial because these systems allow us to directly measure stellar masses, which is one of the most important properties of stars," Vasquez said. "With more recent and precise data, the models become more reliable, improving our understanding of how stars evolve, how they interact gravitationally, and how they behave in different environments across the universe. Additionally, updated models

help correct errors accumulated from older observations."

He also described the opportunity to work with one of the world's most famous telescopes.

"Something that truly blew my mind and felt out of this world was having the opportunity to work with, observe, and operate the 100-inch telescope at Mount Wilson, an instrument of enormous scale that very few people get to use," Vasquez said. "Being able to see how data is collected directly from such a historic telescope, adjust its controls, and observe binary stars firsthand was an incredible experience."

Vasquez said the site's history made the experience even more meaningful.

"Additionally, Mount Wilson is a historic place where even Albert Einstein worked and conducted research, which makes the experience even more extraordinary," Vasquez said. "It not only allowed me to connect theory with practice, but also gave me a unique sense of contributing to professional astronomy, operating equipment that

has been fundamental to many historic discoveries in science."

Vasquez hopes the research inspires others to explore the field.

"A key message I would like to share is that astronomy allows us to explore and understand how the universe works," Vasquez said. "It helps us understand how galaxies are formed and structured, how our solar system is organized, how celestial bodies move in their orbits, and how stars and other objects behave in the vastness of the cosmos. Essentially, astronomy gives us the tools to appreciate the patterns, laws, and beauty that govern everything we see in the universe."

Ferris State's expanding role in national scientific research while giving undergraduate students hands-on experience that directly contributes to the global understanding of the universe. The work demonstrates that impactful astronomical discovery can take place far beyond traditional research powerhouses.

Culture

Grace Heethuis | Culture Editor | turnek29@ferris.edu

Bulldogs best friends

Students share about their beloved dogs



Photo courtesy of Hayley Riggi

Gracie seen posing in her new collar.

Grace Heethuis
Culture Editor

Everyone has heard that dogs are a man's best friend, but they are also many students' best friends.

In fact, many students on campus have a dog of their own, whether at college with them or back at home. Students are very excited to

share about their beloved companions.

Senior criminal justice major Taylor Huntoon shared a little about her adored German Shepherd, Hans, noting a particularly odd trait for a breed known for being strong and protective.

"He will be two in June, and he's like 95 lbs," Huntoon said. "I think he's



Photo courtesy of Hayley Riggi

Addie enjoys cuddles and playing outside often.

pretty much scared of everything, which is kind of funny for his breed."

Huntoon also shared a bit about her dog's personality and what she loves about him, sharing about his love for everyone around him.

"He loves to be around people, and he's very protective of our family," Huntoon said. "I think I just love how

loyal he is to you and how much he truly loves you."

In addition to sharing what she loves about Hans, Huntoon discussed why it is meaningful for people to have a pet.

"I think it's helpful if people feel lonely sometimes or like they just need something there for them, especially during hard times," Huntoon

said.

It is not uncommon for students to have several dogs and many of them especially enjoy larger breeds.

Senior criminal justice major Hayley Riggi revealed that she has three Rottweilers named Gracie, Addie and Lincoln. Riggi shared a little bit about her three beloved companions back at home.

"They're actually all biological siblings from the same mom and dad, just three different litters," Riggi said.

Additionally, she described her favorite thing about each of them, highlighting their different and unique personalities.

"My favorite thing about Gracie is how loving she is. Addie, my favorite thing is probably that she's a cuddler. Lincoln, my favorite thing about him is probably how protective he is," Riggi said.

Many people enjoy owning dogs for their emotional support during tough times and their unconditional love. Riggi shared a little bit about how owning a dog can be beneficial.

"I think it's meaningful just because a lot of people, you know, come home from

a stressful day, whether it's school, work, anything, and I think dogs really help with that emotional aspect," Riggi said. "I think they're really there to kind of comfort you, and they bring a smile to everybody's face."

Other students enjoy dogs for their companionship and high-energy personalities that provide entertainment.

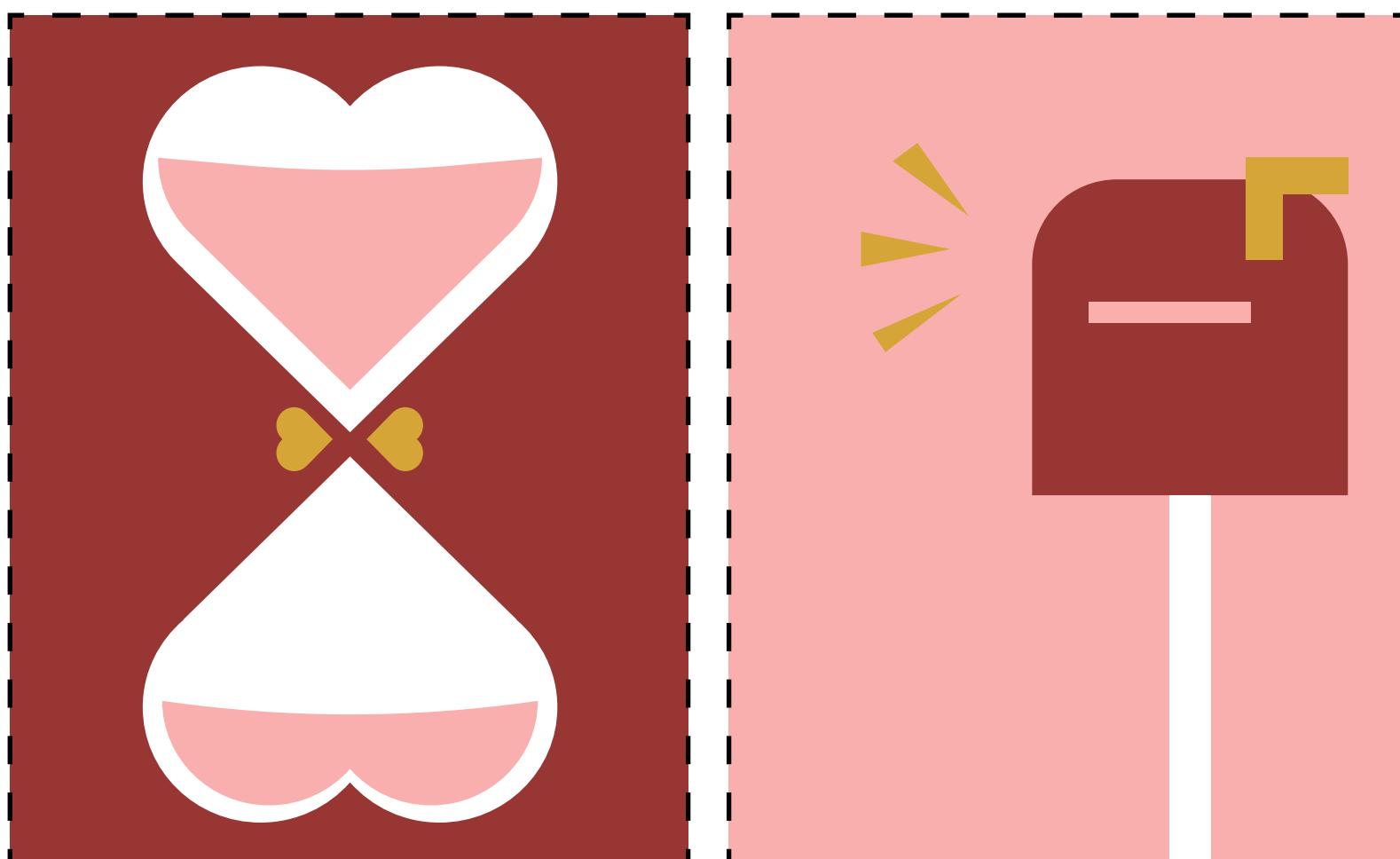
Senior in the Ready for Life program, Emily Blake, talked about her two dogs, Gary and Phil, describing what she enjoys about them.

"They make great companions," Blake said. "They're both crazy and playful."

Blake also shared what she believes is essential about owning a pet, emphasizing the need for proper training.

"I just think they make great companions if they're well-trained, and they just are very comforting," Blake said.

Many students on campus have dogs back home that are excited to greet them the minute they walk back through the door and the students love their dogs just as much.



A familiar taste of home

Students share their favorite comfort foods and experiences

Tate Zellman
Culture Reporter

Every student comes from a different background, which affects the foods they like but food can resonate so strongly with an individual that it becomes comfort food for them.

Many comfort foods begin as something students ate when they were children or a common family recipe. Whether it's homemade dishes or recipes from a cookbook, students enjoy various types of comfort food for the taste or the memories associated with it. Comfort food can be as simple as snacky foods filled with sugar and calories but also nutrient-dense foods that are a bit on the healthier side.

Comfort food doesn't always have to be food bought at a restaurant or kept in the pantry as snacks. Anyone can enjoy delicious meals at home if they know how to cook for themselves.

Business administration junior Korbyn Kahl has had a positive experience with food because of memories from the kitchen with his family when he was younger.

"My experience with food is good," Kahl said. "Cooking is something that my mom and I bonded over, and same goes for my grandma. Some of my childhood lessons and memories came in the kitchen, and it has shaped how I eat now because we

ate fairly healthy as a family, so that habit has been in me, so I haven't really been able to break it. Hopefully that doesn't change any time soon."

Kahl mentioned homemade white chicken chili as a dish he'd make back home. Given the opportunity to help make food at a younger age, Kahl has described himself more as a foodie than a connoisseur.

"I would say I'm more of a foodie," Kahl said. "I like food a lot, and I'm always interested in trying new things but also keep going back to my tried and true food items."

Not all comfort foods are typical recipes. Some unique types of food combinations can be turned into favorite dishes.

Business administration freshman Jacob Zimmer has a unique favorite dish created by his family.

"My personal favorite is my grandma makes these zucchini turkey burgers," Zimmer said. "A lot of people think they're weird but I love them because they taste amazing. My grandma always makes the zucchini burgers for my birthday or for any special occasion, and so I just associate the burgers with any type of celebration."

Apart from zucchini turkey burgers, Zimmer mentioned a food he eats simply for comfort.

"Spaghetti would be the



Photo by: Grace Heethuis | Culture Editor

Food is a common way for friends and family to bond together by sharing the enjoyment of a meal.

top comfort food I'd eat if I had to pick one," Zimmer said. "It's got this warm feeling, and you feel full afterwards, and every time I eat it, I just want to go to sleep. It just makes me very calm."

Some comfort food can come from parents' cooking,

as the feeling of tasting food from a parent is pleasurable.

English education senior Elizabeth Montgomery shared her favorite type of comfort food.

"My favorite comfort food has to be pasta," Montgomery said. "Mac and cheese,

ravioli, fettuccine, lasagna. I love any type of pasta."

Montgomery credits her dad for her love of pasta.

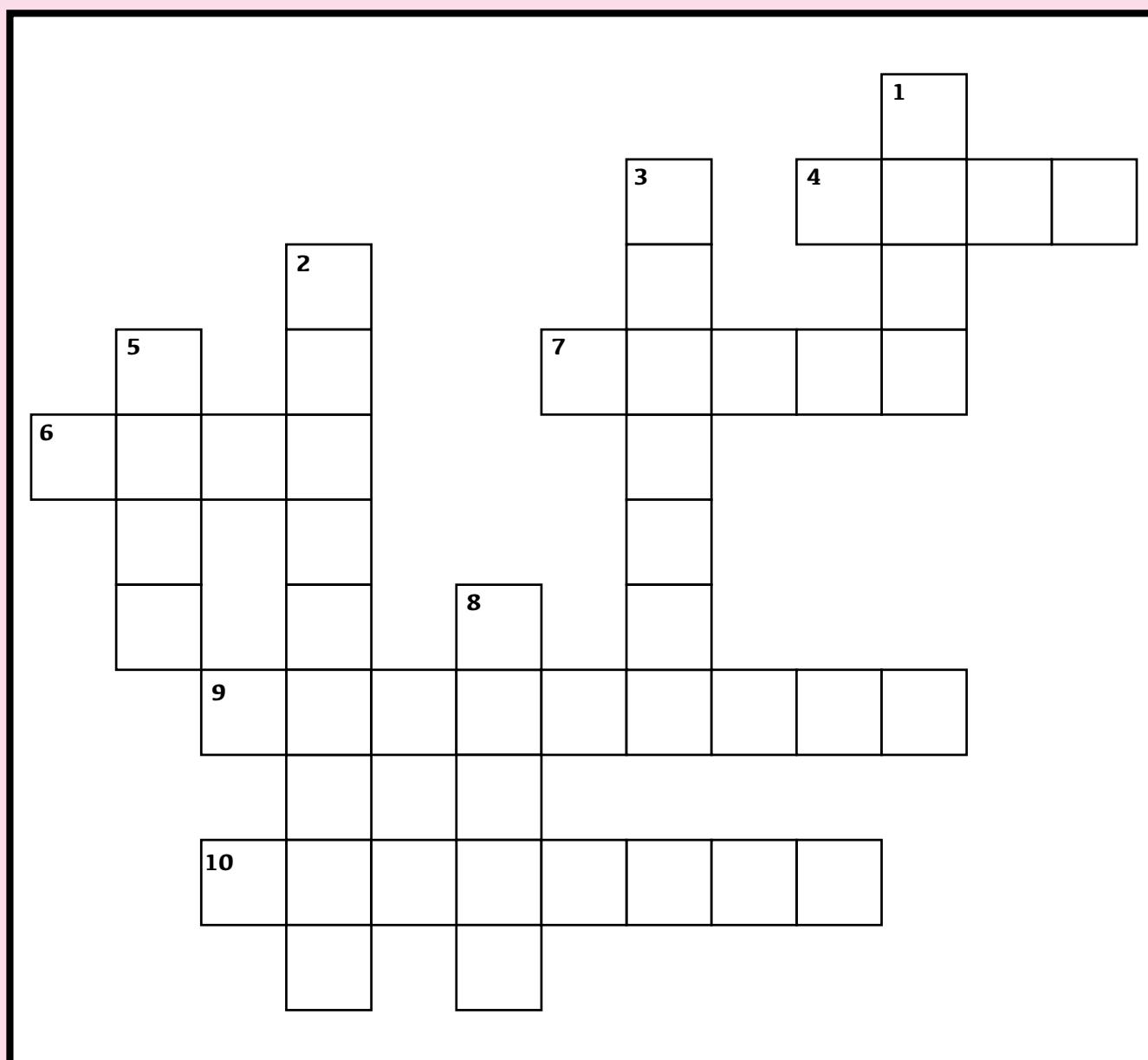
"My dad is a good chef," Montgomery said. "He makes the most yummy pasta ever, so whenever I eat pasta, I think of him."

Food has value beyond filling people's stomachs. Certain foods bring people happiness and memories around the world. Whether it's for comfort or special occasions, having food that brings satisfaction can be rewarding.

Times running out so
I have to ask, will
you be my valentine?

Happy
Valentines!

Valentines Crossword



Clue Bank

Across

- 4. A common valentines day activity
- 6. A closing message meaning hugs and kisses
- 7. The "mascot" of love
- 9. Will you be my...
- 10. The month of love

Down

- 1. A handwritten gift to express love
- 2. A common Valentines day treat
- 3. A blooming arrangement
- 5. ... is in bloom
- 8. Symbol associated with Valentine's day

Opinions

Jackie Moglia | Opinions Editor | mogliaj@ferris.edu

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To advertise with the Torch, contact Danette Doyle at the Pioneer Group at (231) 592-8359 or Danette.Doyle@hearst.com.

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: No opting out of politics

"I don't do politics" is a privilege we can't afford



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

Blase Gapinski Editor in Chief

One thing that I can't seem to get away from when talking to people my age about current events is the phrase "I don't do politics."

This was something I once felt too. Talking about politics can feel like such a drag, especially when there really isn't that much good to talk about.

When it comes to certain political issues, like mass deportations being executed by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, we can't sit back and have the mindset that "This isn't affecting me, so I don't care." The violent and deadly tactics being used by ICE simply can't and shouldn't be ignored.

It took me a long time to realize that having this mindset is ignorant because it means we are just going to accept whatever is happening and not give it any thought or pushback. We are essentially complying with whatever is put in front of us and doing so willingly.

Our daily lives are shaped

by political ongoing that influence everything around us and simply not caring strips away your voice. Even the daily news cycles we see are often shaped by what is happening around us politically. ICE practices and whether they are ethical or not have been a topic that has been pretty relevant for a few months now.

The discourse I often hear around this topic makes me start to understand why some people aren't invested in politics at all. It can oftentimes be overwhelming hearing these conversations surrounding politics because of the little empathy and lack of care for human life that seems to surround some of these conversations.

What is happening throughout our country with ICE right now isn't just political and it should make all citizens of the United States angry and unsettled. We are witnessing federal sanctioned harm carried out against vulnerable communities who are already being told they don't belong and should just disappear.

The normalization of routine deportations or violence being executed in our streets by a government agency fueled by hate should alarm everyone in the country.

While talking with a more well-versed friend about these issues, they said something that really stuck with me. A society that grows comfortable with cruelty directed at one group is a society that has lowered its standards for everyone.

I wrote this down because of how true the sentiment is. It really resonates with me because when the same government agency that is allegedly meant to protect U.S. citizens is targeting people based on perceptions made from racial profiling.

Isn't this just going to make more U.S. citizens live in fear? And if we sit around as bystanders and act like these acts are defensible, aren't we going against everything America stands for?

The Statue of Liberty, one of the most iconic landmarks in the U.S., has been a symbol of hope to many generations of immigrants who

traveled here to seek a new life. This statue is an icon of U.S. immigration and has been standing for well over 100 years.

Is it really fitting for an iconic statue referred to as the "Mother of Exiles" to be standing in a place where we don't see liberty and justice for all of our citizens?

Sure, you can argue that there is a process and a correct way to enter this country but isn't there a better way to go about enforcing policies rather than instantly resorting to violence in our communities?

The longer we go without recognizing or acknowledging the problems within our society, the worse things are going to get. They say ignorance is bliss but at times like this, everyone should be worried about the people within our communities.

**Jackie Moglia
Opinions Editor**

To echo our Editor in Chief, I'm sick of hearing the phrase "I don't do politics". I frequently think back to a meme about people who say they don't do politics, saying "well, baby, politics is going to do you regardless."

I've frequently heard people in class talk about politics and the news as something they only pay attention to as it pertains to them, something that I think is inherently dangerous.

Throughout the past few weeks, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity has garnered more attention, especially in Minneapolis, specifically the killing of Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti. These killings have followed the killing of Keith Porter Jr in late December, 2025.

Since the killing of two white American citizens, I've seen a resurgence of a quote by Lutheran pastor Martin Niemöller following World War 2.

"First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me."

I've seen discussions about how people never thought that they would be impacted by ICE, that as law abiding citizens expressing their constitutional right to protest they would not be the target. I've seen people say they didn't think it would get this bad.

After the election, numerous people expressed their concerns over what would happen to their friends or family. When I spoke of the same fears, I was frequently told that they would only go after the "bad" ones. I wonder how those people have justified what has happened to Liam Ramos, the five year old boy detained by ICE. Was he a "bad" one?

In Michigan, ICE activity is ramping up. Parents have been detained after dropping off their children at schools and bus stops. Child care centers are running through worst-case scenarios to protect children in the event of ICE raids. The North Lake Processing Center in Baldwin, Mich., is an ICE detention facility with the capability to hold up to 1,800 detainees.

In a few of my classes, we've talked about our Constitutional rights more and more frequently, specifically how the Constitution applies to everyone while they are in the United States.

Even non-citizens. The issues going on are not just moral, they fundamentally endanger our democracy by denying Constitutional rights. Look at House Speaker Mike Johnson, for example, who argued for warrants to be signed by immigration officials rather than judges: "Imagine if we had to go through the process of getting a judicial warrant."

The Fourth Amendment, as interpreted by the Court, calls for warrants to be issued by a judicial officer or magistrate, specifically calling for one that is "neutral and detached" and that cannot happen when the issuing party is engaged in law enforcement activities.

Politics affects us all, whether we think it does or not and whether we want it to or not, which is why it is more important now than ever to get involved and to speak out about what is happening.

Super Bowl unites all

My take on the big game



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Devin Wardrop
Sports Reporter

Every year, on one Sunday, almost everyone is watching the same thing at the same time.

The Super Bowl isn't just a football game. It's a national event that brings together die-hard sports fans and people who could not name a single starting quarterback. Whether you live for football

or only tune in once a year, the Super Bowl can unite people across interests, backgrounds and generations.

For massive sports fans, the Super Bowl is the peak of a long journey. These are the people who follow training camps, debate rankings, track stats and build their schedules around game days. For them, the Super Bowl is the reward for months

of emotional investment. Every play matters, every decision is analyzed and the result feels personal.

Watching the game with other fans makes it so much better. The Super Bowl gives devoted fans a shared stage where their passion finally makes sense to everyone else.

At the same time, the Super Bowl welcomes people who do not care about foot-

ball at all. Some tune in for the commercials, which have become a cultural event of their own. Others wait all year for the halftime show, where some of the biggest artists in the world perform in front of millions. For many families and friend groups, the game is just background noise to food, conversation and togetherness. Even people who claim they "never watch sports" still know when

the Super Bowl is happening, and many choose to be part of it anyway.

As a massive sports fan and someone who is planning on working in that industry, the Super Bowl is a big deal for me. It's the pinnacle of the sport, with the two best teams playing in between fun commercials and a good performance from a popular artist. I always watch this game, whether at a party with family or friends.

This year, no party, but a trip to Buffalo Wild Wings to spend three hours looking at dozens of TVs is where I'll be, chatting it up with friends.

What makes the Super Bowl special is that you don't need to be an expert. You don't need to understand formations or rules to enjoy the atmosphere. You can watch for five minutes or the entire game and still feel included. Someone might explain what just happened, or everyone might cheer simply because the room is cheering. The event lowers the barrier to entry, allowing casual viewers to share the experience without pressure or judgment.

The Super Bowl also creates moments that become part of collective memory. Iconic plays, unexpected comebacks, controversial calls, hilarious commercials

and unforgettable halftime performances are talked about the next day at school, work and online.

Even if people watched for different reasons, they still experienced the same moments. Those shared references spark conversations between people who might otherwise have nothing in common.

In a time when entertainment is usually personalized, the Super Bowl stands out. Most people stream different shows, follow different creators, and live in separate digital bubbles. The Super Bowl cuts through that. For a few hours, millions of people are reacting together in real time. Social media is filled with the same clips, jokes, and debates. That sense of togetherness is rare, and it feels meaningful.

The Super Bowl's greatest achievement is not crowning a champion, but creating a connection. It turns living rooms into gathering places and gives people a reason to show up, whether for football, food, music or just company.

In a world where everyone watches something different, the Super Bowl proves that something as simple as a game can still bring everyone to the same table, even if it's only for one night.

Navigating friendship as an adult

Why is it so hard to make friends when you get older?

Davaria Pharr
News Reporter

As a young adult myself and part of Generation Z, I find it extremely difficult to maintain friendships as an adult.

Amongst other young adults who have similar experiences, this is a real issue that needs attention. Though this issue can apply to all adults, this age group specifically is a majority of the new and upcoming adults.

I think people nowadays don't know the true meaning of friendship or how to be a good friend; they look at friendship as a chore or something to only gain benefits from.

What I noticed amongst my age group is that most people only want to be your friend when it is convenient for them or when they gain something from the friendship, for example, a ride, a free trip somewhere or a free dinner.

My point is people don't see the value in having a friendship anymore. Someone to count on and be there

in your darkest time of need.

When I think of friendship, I think of the song "Count on Me," by Bruno Mars. When I was in elementary school, maybe 1st grade, our teacher would have us stand next to someone we didn't know and sing this song with them and we would all hold hands and smile as we stood in a circle.

Those are the times I miss, when people had nothing to gain from being your friend except for just enjoying your company.

When did we as a society say friendship is dead?

I find it very sad that there is such a lack of kindness and empathy when it comes to friendships.

Typically, you have two different types of friends: friend A, who is always there for you no matter what. Always devoted and willing to hang out, initiates conversation and hangouts. Simply the friend that shows up in every way possible, mentally, emotionally and physically.

If you relate to friend B, I advise you to reflect on your expectations and ideas on friendship and ask yourself: Are you a good friend?

My next point would be accountability. Before social media, people were held accountable and called out publicly for inappropriate behavior. It feels like in today's society, people can say whatever they want and do whatever they want and still be accepted.

I think we as a society need to bring back shame and the idea of accountability.

Peer pressure is one of the most powerful tools, especially during adolescence and

early adulthood. If you hold your friends accountable as a group, behavior will change. What I am not saying is bully the individual or cut them loose but just simply saying "that wasn't cool" is enough, believe it or not.

Our brains are wired to want social connection and approval from people who matter in our lives.

This is why social media is so popular because it is based on likes or views and people associate attention and popularity with self-worth.

A question I pose to everyone who uses social media is how many people who like your posts know you personally? What are you willing to do for validation to gain attention from people you don't know?

To put it plainly and simply, social media ruined relationships. Overall, it has been putting false expectations in our heads, causing us to seek other people's opinions on matters without knowing their background or qualifications. Social media is educating our youth that the only

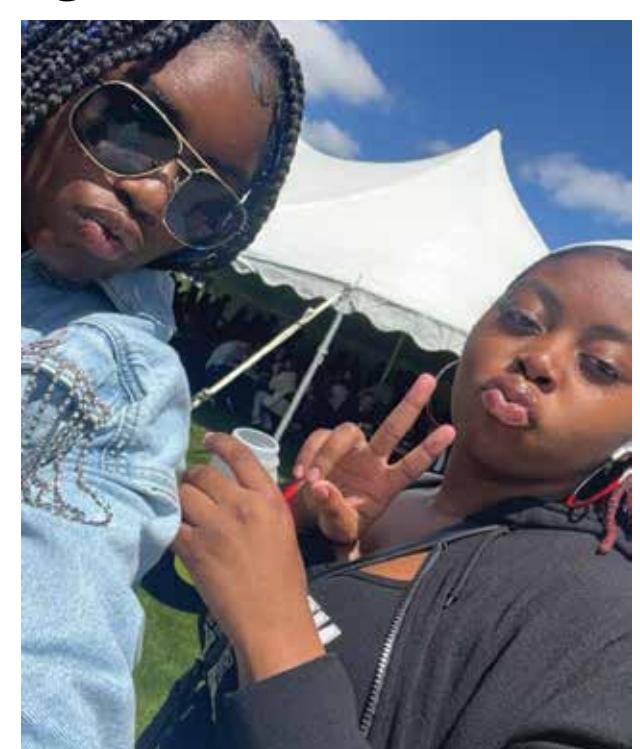


Photo by: Davaria Pharr | News Reporter
Pharr and her friend Jordyn Watkins at a Ferris Bulldog day picnic.

things valuable in life are materialistic.

It has erased the power of unity and positivity. If we all stopped giving attention to social media, it wouldn't be

a thing. If we all started being kinder to one another, we would see change and community again.

Sports

Nolan Matthews | Sports Editor | matthen4@ferris.edu

Rival slate continues

Ferris women's basketball hits the road



Photo by: Clark Vance | Photographer

Ally Schultz drives in for a layup against a Wayne State defender.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

After starting the month off on two big wins, with a 100-52 win over Purdue Northwest and an 82-69 win over Wisconsin-Parkside. The Ferris State women's basketball team hit the road to take on the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals and the Lake Superior State Lakers.

The No.18-ranked Bulldogs (18-4, 11-2 in GLIAC) will first take on the Cardinals (5-17, 3-11 in GLIAC) in what will be the two teams' second matchup in the last two weeks.

In their last matchup, the Bulldogs handily won by a

score of 89-67, with senior guard Emma Schierbeek scoring a career-high 29 points on 7-14 from beyond the three-point line.

Schierbeek believes that they can repeat a victory against the Cardinals, but understands the difficulty with road matchups.

"I think our game plan will be similar to what we did our last game," Schierbeek said. "Since they saw what we did last time, they will be making adjustments so we will have to adjust as well. We have struggled in the past to get a win at Saginaw, so we will have to bring lots of energy and make sure to stay sharp on the road."

Saginaw Valley comes into the matchup 1-9 in their last 10 games. In those nine losses, they have allowed an average of 73.3 points per game and scored only 60 points per game. While the Bulldogs ride into the matchup on the complete opposite side, as they are 9-1 in their last 10 games.

Senior forward Mya Hiram believes this momentum they have will continue into the final month of the season. "We are constantly learning and improving with each game and practice," Hiram said. "I think having that confidence, but still staying hungry for more wins, is what is going to propel us far for this

second half of conference play. I am extremely pleased with the way our team has been playing, with veteran players and younger players stepping up big."

The Cardinals are led by a duo of junior forward Megan McCalla and senior guard Lydia Meredith. McCalla is averaging 13.9 points per game on 42.2% shooting, while Meredith is averaging 12 points per game on 37.4% shooting while averaging 6.7 rebounds per game.

One of Ferris State's standout players would be senior guard Mia Riley, who is averaging 15.8 points per game on 43.5% shooting, while also averaging 5.1 re-

bounds per game and 2.1 steals per game. Another standout player would be Hiram, who is averaging 11.7 points per game on 51.5% shooting with 6.7 rebounds per game.

The second matchup of the week comes against the Lake Superior State Lakers (5-17, 2-12 in GLIAC). The Bulldogs currently have a 17 game winning streak against the Lakers, spanning back to the 2017-18 season and hold a 30-7 all time record against the Lakers.

Lake Superior is led by one of the better scorers in the GLIAC, that being senior forward Grace Bradford. Bradford is averaging 15.1 points

per game on 44% shooting, 9.9 rebounds per game and 1.3 steals per game. While redshirt junior guard Dara Capaldi is just as good a scorer, averaging 12.1 points per game on 47% shooting and averaging 5.4 rebounds per game.

The Ferris State Bulldogs women's basketball team will travel to take on the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals on Saturday, Feb. 14 at 1 p.m. and then they head north to Sault Ste. Marie to take on the Lake Superior State Lakers on Monday, Feb. 16 at 5:30 p.m..

Swamp fox sizzler

Ferris softball kicks off second tournament of the new season



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Pitcher Cecelia Bell celebrates after a strikeout.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

After playing four games at the Embry-Riddle Invitational in Daytona Beach, Florida, and going 2-2 to start the season.

Ferris State softball heads south again, this time to Florence, South Carolina for the Swamp Fox Sizzler hosted by Francis Marion University.

The 2025 season did not finish up the way the Bulldogs would have liked it, losing all three games in the GLIAC tournament. Then losing in the first two games of the Midwest Regional against GLIAC rival Saginaw Valley and the Findlay Oilers.

The Bulldogs did start the 2026 season on a high note, winning the first two games of the Embry-Riddle Invitational against Mount Olive and Embry-Riddle, before losing the next two games against Columbus State and Pittsburg State.

Ferris State has a tough first day of the Swamp Fox Sizzler, taking on the No.10-ranked Francis Marion, who went 53-6 last season and went to the Super Regionals in the 2025 playoffs.

Francis Marion has a high-powered offense, led by redshirt senior outfielder Paige Strickland. In the 2025 season, Strickland hit for a .423 average, a 1.230 ops, 24 extra base hits, 14 home runs and drove in a team-leading 84 rbis.

On the mound, the Patri-

ots' pitching is bolstered by senior left-handed pitcher Alyssa Poston. Poston had a 28-2 record in 2025, pitching 198 innings to a tune of a 1.45 era, a .91 whip, a .206 batting average against while striking out 187 batters and only walking 29.

While not being in the same conference, the Bulldogs have faced the Patriots twice before, spanning all the way back to 1981, where the Bulldogs lost 1-0. Then the two matched up again 27 years later in 2008, where the Bulldogs won 2-0.

Head coach Jake Schumann knows that his team can compete with anyone and is ready for the tough matchup.

"The game plan against Francis Marion is the same as it is against every opponent we play," Schumann said. "We have to worry about what we can do to be our best. The focus is on improving from last weekend, and continuing to make adjustments and attacking on offense, improving our strike throwing, and tightening up our defense."

The Bulldogs are led on offense by junior first baseman Alexis Kozlowski, who in the 2025 season hit for a .368 average, a .431 obp, a .559 slugging percentage, while hitting 12 extra base hits, four home runs, and knocking in 43 runs.

A standout pitcher for the Bulldogs is junior right handed pitcher Cecelia Bell, who

last season pitched 137 innings to the tune of a 2.45 era, a 1.27 whip, while striking out 59 batters and walking 36.

The second day of the invitational, Ferris State will face off against the Tusculum Pioneers, who in 2025 went 38-19 and made the Southeast Regional but lost to North Georgia.

The Pioneers offense ran through senior catcher Sammy Jimenez, who last season hit for a .331 average, a .539 slugging percentage, while smacking six home runs and knocking in 54 rbis.

Tusculum struggles on the mound, as last season the team had a 5.42 era, but in the off-season the Pioneers brought in a familiar face. That being former Bulldog right-handed pitcher Catherine O'Donahue, who last season for the Bulldogs pitched 94 innings, to a 3.28 era, a 1.43 whip, while striking out 66 and walking 42.

Looking ahead to the rest of the season, freshman infielder Emma Herremans is confident in her team this season.

"I am quite confident in our team, and I believe we can dominate throughout the rest of the season."

The Ferris State Bulldogs softball team takes on the Francis Marion Patriots on Friday, Feb. 13, for two games before taking on the Tusculum Pioneers the following day for another two games.



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Catcher Emily Killion hits a line drive against Saginaw Valley.

Closing time

Bulldogs look forward to final regular-season home slate



Defenseman Christopher Lie skates down the ice against Minnesota State.

Devin Wardrop
Sports Reporter

After splitting the series at Bemidji State, the Ferris State Bulldogs will host the Northern Michigan Wildcats in the final homestand of the season on Feb. 13 and 14.

Ferris State (5-25, 4-18 in CCHA) comes into the series against Northern Michigan (3-25, 3-17 in CCHA) off a series split at Bemidji State, winning the first game 6-3 before losing the second 4-3.

After Friday night's 6-3 victory over Bemidji, the Bulldogs broke their 12-game losing streak, which stretched back to the Dec. 6 victory over Minnesota State.

Leading the Bulldogs in points is senior forward Gavin Best (12-9-21), who had two goals in the win against Bemidji. Best is one of five players with over ten points. Also on that list is senior forwards Josh Zary (10-7-17) and Max Itagaki (6-10-16), who both scored goals in the Bemidji series. Sophomore defender Christopher Lie leads the Bulldogs in assists with 11, with Itagaki right behind him at 10.

The Bulldogs have split goaltender reps this season between sophomore Martin Lundberg and junior Hobie Hedquist.

Lundberg has started 13 of the 16 games he's

played, and logged over 800 minutes in net. Lundberg has 307 saves and allowed 41 goals for a save percentage of .882 and a goals against average of 3.06.

Hedquist has started 12 of the 13 games he's appeared in, and has 655 minutes between the pipes this season. Hedquist has 328 saves and allowed 45 goals for a .879 save percentage and a 4.12 goals against average.

Northern Michigan last played in the final weekend of January, splitting their home series against Bemidji State. The Wildcats won 2-0 on Jan. 30 but lost 7-1 on Jan. 31. Senior forward Caiden Gault (13-0-13), who played for Ferris State last season, leads the Wildcats as the only player over ten points this season with 13 goals.

There are three players tied with nine points, with freshman forward Tobias Pika (5-4-9) second in goals behind Gault. Both players scored one goal each in the previous series. Senior forward Kyle Bettens and junior defenseman Tynan Ewart lead the Wildcats with 8 assists on the year. Ewart leads the CCHA in blocked shots with 58, with Ferris State senior defenseman Valtteri Piironen right behind him with 55.

The Wildcats have had

appeared in, logging 815 minutes in the net. Gramme has 487 saves and allowed 54 goals for a .900 save percentage and a 3.97 goals against average.

This is the only series between Ferris State and Northern Michigan this season. These two teams played four times last season, with Ferris State winning the season series 3-0-1. This season, Ferris State is eighth in the CCAA and Northern Michigan is ninth in the conference.

First-year head coach Brett Riley is very excited for the last home series to celebrate the seniors.

"We are very excited to build off of last weekend and prepare for a critical series at home against Northern Michigan," Riley said. "This weekend is especially meaningful as we also celebrate our seniors and everything they've poured into this program. I am extremely grateful for the fan support we've received all year, and we ask everyone to show up once more for a major weekend. The crowd and atmosphere have been awesome, and that's a true testament to our community."

Ferris State will host Northern Michigan on Friday, Feb. 13, at 7:07 pm for Educators Night and Saturday, Feb. 14, at 6:07 pm for Senior Night for the final two home games of the 2025-26 season.

Photo by: Clark Vance | Photographer