



The Ferris State Torch

95 YEARS OF ILLUMINATING THE TRUTH

Big Rapids, Michigan

Week of April 8, - 15, 2026

www.fsutorch.com

Student Government Association wrapping up the year

Plans for the end of the semester and new president



Photo by: Blase Gapinski | Editor in Chief

The Student Government Association meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the Founder's Room. Meetings are open to anyone.

Blase Gapinski
Editor in Chief

The Student Government Association is getting ready to wrap up its election for the 2026-27 academic year and is seeking a new president to fill the role.

SGA at Ferris State represents the student body by advocating for their interests and acting as a liaison between students and university administrators. Through its initiatives and policies, SGA works to enhance campus life and ensure that student voices are heard in institutional decision-making.

The spring semester is when SGA plans and coordinates its final events of the year and searches for a new student to serve as the group's president. With their annual community service day, 'The Big Event,' fast approaching, the association has been making final decisions to ensure the event is

successful.

Former Vice President and current acting President Molina Dewald has discussed her plans for the final stretch of the academic year and what SGA has to offer for students and the broader community.

"We are here for the students," Dewald said. "We are here to better them, to better their opportunities and to better the campus environment and our community as well."

Dewald stepped up to the plate as SGA's President after President Jake McGaha recently stepped down from the role.

McGaha was unavailable for comment as to why he stepped down from the position.

One of the many ways SGA gets involved with the community is with 'The Big Event,' where students help locals with tasks, like yard work or other chores that may be strenuous on their

own. Another event the SGA hosts to get students involved with campus administrators is 'Pancakes with the President,' where students can enjoy a meal served by the President of Ferris, Bill Pink.

SGA has also been hosting coffee with the cabinet on the first Monday of every month, where students can meet with the cabinet members who represent them through the student government and share their perspective. This allows SGA to actively engage with students and talk with them about their plans for future events.

"It's hard because a lot of students don't really know what we're doing, and we've been working very hard at getting our name out there more," Dewald said. "We are happy to have anybody who's concerned about what we're doing sit in on our meetings on Tuesday at 6 p.m. We're always very welcoming and inviting."

Dewald mentioned that students interested in SGA can refer to Ferris 360, as all of their events have been posted on there.

Director of Internal Assessment Maddy Nunn talked about what the end of the semester looks like for the SGA body.

"A lot of people are graduating this semester, so we're looking at losing about half of the members that we have right now, so that's like a really significant drop," Nunn said. "We've really been trying to recruit. I know either way the election goes, both [presidential] candidates are really looking to do that rebuilding and recruiting."

Nunn highlighted how the recent stepping down of McGaha as the president has affected the organization. One of the things she highlighted was how well core members like Dewald have been handling the recent transition.

"It was really hard at first,

just because, you know, it's not like we had much of a warning. You know, it kind of just came out of nowhere," Nunn said. "We didn't know what happened or why it was happening. I know it's really hard for Molina [Dewald], as she's president now and she has twice as many responsibilities as she did before."

Dean of Student Life Lina Blair serves as a co-advisor for the SGA. Blair emphasized that transitions like these are a natural part of student leadership, noting that continuity often depends on students who are willing to step up and take initiative, also adding that having experienced members like Dewald helps create stability during periods of change.

"Every year is a rebuilding year, and so I think what feels really situational or like a one-time thing for the new crew coming in is pretty standard in terms of how student organizations go, because

people graduate or find other things to get involved with," Blair said. "Molina [Dewald] has been a consistent force. She was the vice president and has really done a nice job picking the ball up and keeping things moving forward."

As the academic year comes to a close, SGA is turning its focus to signature events like 'The Big Event,' bringing students together to give back to the community on Saturday, April 18. The semester will wrap up on a lighter note with 'Pancakes with the President,' offering students a chance to connect, unwind and enjoy a meal before heading into finals.

Details for each of these events are listed on Ferris 360, and the registration deadline for 'The Big Event' is Friday, April 17.



News

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Michigan

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

Ann Arbor- For the first time in 37 years, the University of Michigan men's basketball team are national champions, defeating Dan Hurlley's University of Connecticut Huskies 69-63. This is the first time since 1989 that the Wolverines have hoisted the trophy. Guard Elliot Cadeau led the way, shooting 5-11 with 19 points, while forward Morez Johnson Jr shot 5-7 for 12 points and 10 rebounds. It was a defensive back-and-forth game, with the Huskies shooting 21-68 from the field, and the Wolverines shooting 25-55 but going 2-15 from beyond the arc. The difference came from the Huskies having 22 total fouls, allowing the Wolverines to shoot 25-28 from the free-throw line. After the game, Cadeau was named the most outstanding player of the final four, being impaired and was arrested.

National

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

President Donald Trump threatened Iran Tuesday morning ahead of the 8 p.m. deadline for the Reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. Trump wrote on Truth Social "A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again," he wrote. "I don't want that to happen, but it probably will. However, now that we have Complete and Total Regime Change, where different, smarter, and less radicalized minds prevail, maybe something revolutionary wonderful can happen, WHO KNOWS?" The President's increasingly dire warnings come after he suggested strikes would hit bridges, desalination plants, and energy targets, which could include civilian infrastructure, which, if done deliberately, could constitute a war crime.

Global

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

Istanbul, Turkey- Three assailants opened fire at police outside a building that housed the Israeli Consulate in Istanbul on Tuesday. This ended up in a gunfight that left an attacker dead, with the other two assailants wounded and captured, said Turkish officials. The two wounded assailants are brothers and were identified as Onur C. and Enes C. Video from the attack shows one attacker carrying what appears to be an assault rifle, wearing a brown backpack and hiding behind a bus while exchanging fire with police. One officer falls to the ground, appearing to be shot, then rolls behind a tree for cover.

Eggs, eats and Easter cheer

Paris Park Easter party brings families together to celebrate



Photo courtesy of Marjorie Steele

The Big Rapids community comes together to hunt for eggs and celebrate the holiday.

Gannon Thomas
News Reporter

Families across Mecosta County gathered on April 4 at Paris Park for the annual Paris Easter party.

The event, which was organized by the Economic Development Responsibility Alliance of Michigan, featured an egg hunt, food vendors, a petting zoo and even photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny.

The event drew families from across the region, with children of all ages participating in the Easter egg hunt throughout the park. Event organizers separated age groups to ensure the event ran smoothly and younger children could safely participate in the activities.

Founder and Director of EDRA, Marjorie Steele, explained some of the fun activities at the Paris Easter Party.

"We've got Far Out Food Truck, which is serving their breakfast menu," Steele said. "And Sunshine on a Shelf; she is a local. She does baked goods and treats and Rice Krispies and cookies, and she's done a whole Easter-themed arrangement for us."

The egg hunt served as the

main event of the celebration, with families gathering early to secure a good spot and a clear view of the hunt.

"We have two separate areas, one for the younger group and one for the older group," Steele said

Food was another major part of the celebration. The Far Out Food Truck was on site, serving meals throughout the day, and providing families with a place to grab food without ever having to leave the park.

Chef and owner of The Far Out Food Truck, Brian Block, talked about his food truck and their role in the event.

"Far Out Food Truck is a chef-owned and operated food truck based in Weidman, Michigan. We are a mobile kitchen serving creative, from-scratch, cosmic American eats," Block said.

The event had a variety of food for families to enjoy and fun activities, bringing the community together for a happy holiday celebration.

"We are a community-centered business," Block said. "Getting involved in these events helps get our food out to more people in the community."

Photo opportunities with the Easter bunny were also a

central feature of the event. Families lined up throughout the event to take pictures with the Easter bunny and his assistant, creating lasting memories and adding to the Easter fun.

As the event went on, Paris Park was full of families enjoying fun, food and entertainment. The combination of local vendors, volunteers and community organizers helped ensure everyone had a fun and festive Easter celebration.

The most popular activity this year was by far this year's new addition to the party, The Whispering Pines Mobile Zoo. Families and children gathered to enjoy a hands-on learning experience with a wide variety of animals from the zoo.

Owner and operator of The Whispering Pines Mobile Zoo, Kirk Elya, discussed which animals they brought to the event.

"I have a camel and about 30 or so goats and sheep, and different varieties of miniature zebu cows, and people get to feed the animals while I'm there," Elya said.

The petting zoo added an educational element to the event, giving children the opportunity to learn about the

animals and get up close in a supervised environment.

"I think if people can touch an animal, I think they can carry that experience through their life and care more about the animal," Elya said.

The Paris Easter party offered a blend of fun and educational activities, bringing families together not just to celebrate the holiday but also to come together as a community to learn and have fun. With the help of local volunteers and vendors, the event provided a wide range of activities for attendees of all ages.

As the event came to a close, organizers emphasized the importance of events like these in bringing communities together to have fun and celebrate holidays.

"It's so important for the fabric of the community to have events that bring us together, not to do anything in particular but to just have a good time and celebrate," Steele said.

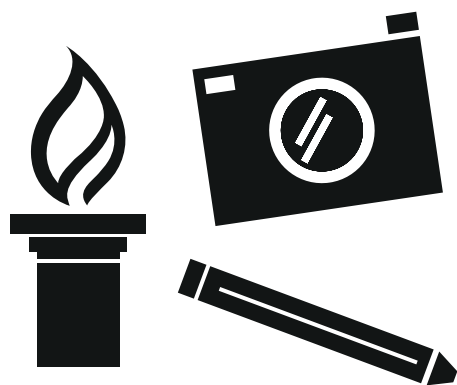
For many in Mecosta County, the Paris Easter Party is more than just a celebration. It's a reminder of the community that has been established.

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:

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- Photographers
- Reporters (Freelance and full-time)
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Students learn public speaking skills on campus

New Toastmasters chapter helps build confidence and communication



Photo courtesy of Andrew Tingley

Scott Dell introduces the objectives of Toastmasters at their first meeting on March 24.

Davaria Pharr
News Reporter

On March 24, in the Business Building, the Toastmasters chapter, a public speaking group, hosted its first meeting.

The chapter teaches students how to build public speaking, leadership and professional communication skills through guided activities and exercises.

Preparing speeches and table topics, members practice speaking on the spot while answering unexpected questions, receiving feedback and evaluations, and being timed to see how long speeches last.

Whether it's giving presentations at work, interviewing for a job or taking on leadership roles, here are some

tips, according to Toastmasters, that could help with public speaking.

Organizing ideas, arranging what you want to say in a clear and chronological order, makes it easier for the audience to follow. Emphasizing key points when speaking makes the most important ideas stand out and fluctuating your voice from a higher to a lower tone can help maintain the audience's attention. Using gestures like raising a finger and saying one or two. Giving examples and using specific, relatable stories or comparisons helps with audience comprehension.

Toastmasters allows members to take on leadership positions like secretary and treasurer, helping to build confidence and improve

public speaking and allowing members to guide meetings and activities. To become a leader or volunteer, students must be elected, giving them a first look at hands-on experience and professional skills.

These skills can make students more confident in the classroom and with communication.

Scott Dell, professor of Business and creator of the Toastmasters Chapter talked about how the idea came to life.

"I was engaged with Toastmasters at another institution that I started, and what it did for our students and community was amazing. I had students thanking me years later," Dell said.

He explains that seeing this change in his students is what inspired him to bring

Toastmasters to Ferris.

Dell says seeing the younger generation struggle with leadership, public speaking and communication is why he really felt the need for this chapter. He explains that the skills taught in Toastmasters are not only good personally, but also for professionalism in the workplace and lifelong growth.

Students are excited for the new chapter and share a few goals they hope to achieve by being part of the chapter.

Cybersecurity senior, Jeffrey Auguste, expanded on his interest in Toastmasters.

"I hope to gain more skills in public speaking and have a community. To be a part of something bigger than yourself is great." Auguste said.

He explains that with this

being his last year, making friends and sharing memories are very important to him. To have support and a group to lean on during life's trials and tribulations is detrimental in our youth.

Others are hoping to build confidence and character.

Data Analytics senior, Natalie Escot, spoke on why she decided to attend the first meeting.

"The main reason I attended this meeting was that I'm a really shy person. I'm hoping to gain confidence in myself and speaking skills." Escot said.

She described that while walking into the meeting, she was nervous and didn't really know what to expect, not knowing much about the chapter. Coming out of the meeting, she felt a bit more

relaxed and confident within herself. She says it also felt like it was a judgment-free zone.

"For students who are uncertain about joining the organization," Escot said, "I would definitely say people should attend this, it was one big step for someone like me who is very shy and struggles socially."

She explains that if you're nervous about putting yourself out there, do it. You never know until you try something how it could change you. But you have to be willing to take those first steps.

For information about Toastmasters, contact Scott Dell ScottDell@ferris.edu or look on Ferris 360.

Culture

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What the duck?

For the first time ever, Michigan has a state duck



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

The wood duck has been named the first official Michigan state duck for their environmental role in the wetlands of Michigan.

Gannon Thomas
News Reporter

Many people are familiar with the state bird or animal, but what about the state duck?

As of March 28, Michigan has a new state symbol. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has named the wood duck the official state duck of Michigan. This designation adds a new symbol to the state's identity, one that reflects Michigan's natural beauty and deep connection to wetlands.

Wood ducks are colorful waterfowl known for their distinctive green crests and chestnut colored feathers. They typically live in wooded wetlands, marshes, rivers and swamps where trees overhang the water.

Wood ducks are incredibly important to the environment

and play a significant role in wetland ecosystems.

Professor Joseph Lipar, in the biology department at Ferris State, explained the importance of wood ducks and their role in the ecosystem.

"Wood ducks can help to maintain biodiversity within their ecosystems through the transport of seeds to new areas after consumption," Lipar said. "They will also eat insects and other small aquatic invertebrates and because of this, they can play a role in the control of insect populations."

However, unlike many other duck species, the wood duck nests in tree cavities, meaning it relies on forested wetlands to breed. This reliance on specific nesting conditions, as well as over-hunting, led to the species'

near extinction in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Lipar also explained the changes wood duck populations have undergone in the last century.

"In the early 1900s, the overall number of wood ducks was very low nationwide, to the point that they were in some danger of going extinct," Lipar said. "Since that time, the number of wood ducks has increased, mostly due to the use of artificial nesting boxes and the preservation of natural nesting sites in large trees."

Wood ducks are considered a conservation success story. Their populations rebounded in the 20th century, thanks to restoration efforts and the introduction of nesting boxes, demonstrating the positive impacts of environmental conservation.

The wood duck is a symbol of Michigan's wetlands, forests and wildlife. This designation gives Michigan residents a new way to recognize and take pride in the state's natural beauty.

One Ferris student who is particularly excited about the wood duck's new status as a state symbol, construction management sophomore and Ducks Unlimited member William Somsel, shared his feelings.

"To me, the wood duck represents the Michigan duck hunter. It's a very unique duck, and it matches this state," Somsel said.

The wood duck not only symbolizes Michigan hunters, but also the land's natural beauty.

"The wood duck is my favorite duck," Somsel Said. "The wood duck is one of the

most beautiful and satisfying birds to hunt."

For others, the designation may be less about hunting and more about recognizing Michigan's natural beauty. By officially naming a state duck, Michigan is creating an opportunity for people to be more aware of the wildlife around them and the ecosystems that support it.

"I think the wood duck stands out amongst other states for creating its own normal and having a special kind of beauty," Somsel said. The new status will hopefully spread awareness of the history of the wood duck and hopefully will inspire new generations of waterfowl lovers."

The addition of a state duck may seem like a small, nonessential change, but it

carries a much larger message. It reflects a growing awareness of environmental issues and the value of maintaining the state's natural resources.

Where viewed as a cultural symbol, a conservation success story or simply a visually striking bird, the wood duck now has an official place in Michigan's identity. The designation serves as a reminder of the state's rich natural landscape and the roles of both people and policy in protecting it.

So the next time you see a duck with a shiny green head and brown chest, remember that that little feathered guy is a symbol of Michigan.

Media minute

Thoughts on “The Super Mario Galaxy Movie”



Photo courtesy of Tate Zellman

Zellman posed next to “The Super Mario Galaxy Movie” poster while wearing Mario merchandise.

Tate Zellman
Culture Reporter

After the success of the first Mario movie in 2023, Nintendo and Illumination have now released “The Super Mario Galaxy Movie,” continuing the film series in the Mario universe.

“The Super Mario Galaxy Movie” is an animated adventure-comedy film based on the 2007 game “Super Mario Galaxy” and its 2010 sequel. The movie was released in theaters on April 1, 2026.

This second film follows the storyline of the first. It picks up from the first one’s ending in terms of what characters have stayed in the

Mushroom Kingdom.

After seeing the first movie, I had a feeling a sequel would be released, but I was uncertain what to expect. I think going from Super Mario Bros to Super Mario Galaxy was a big jump, but that didn’t stop me from being excited to see the movie.

The main cast who reprise their roles from the first movie include Chris Pratt as Mario, Anya Taylor-Joy as Princess Peach, Charlie Day as Luigi and Jack Black as Bowser.

One of the things I was most excited about was seeing characters who weren’t present in the first movie. I was very satisfied with the

characters in the first movie, but I knew there were plenty missing and some had potential to appear in this second installment. When I saw three specific characters make their appearance on the big screen, I was filled with joy.

I was also very excited to see the galaxy elements and how much of the games they would be implemented into the movie. Even though the movie didn’t feel completely centered on the galaxy games, there were many great aspects that were true to the games.

There were a few galaxies that were from the games. The ability to hop into a warp star and travel across galax-

ies was demonstrated, and many characters from the galaxy games were showcased as the story progressed.

Apart from the galaxy elements, a different element that shocked me the most was the backstories. There were multiple characters with backstory scenes and arcs showcased in the movie. Some of those moments brought tears to my eyes. I thought those parts were very well done.

As someone who enjoyed the first movie quite a lot, I can say I enjoyed this second movie as well. It’s hard to say which I liked better because they were so different. They were, however, quite similar

in some regards.

The second movie had a ton of Easter eggs, as the first movie did. It also moved at a fast pace, similar to the first installment, and made sure to include moments of action and emotion to enhance the storytelling.

The Mario universe and characters have become part of my life. I got my first Mario game over 15 years ago, so hearing about the first Mario movie made my childhood feel complete, knowing I would get the opportunity to see the game series I grew up with on the big screen.

I thought that “The Super Mario Galaxy Movie” was very good and enjoyable, but

I wouldn’t say it was perfect by any means. The storytelling, pacing and galaxy lore could’ve all been better, but whether you’re a fan of Mario or not, I believe it is still worth the watch.

Considering the scenes shown during the post-credits, it appears that Nintendo and Illumination will make a third Mario movie, which could be released in 2032. The specifics of this third installment are still unknown, but as a fan, I would love a third movie.

SPRING COLORING PAGE



Opinions

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: When is enough, enough?

Making sense of Trump's continued Gulf drilling



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Blase Gapinski
Editor in Chief

One thing I think the country we live in has struggled with for quite some time now is realizing when enough is enough.

We live in a world where it seems like greed is so normalized, and in the United States, this idea is very common and relevant. This long-standing struggle with greed is perhaps most visible in how economic ambition routinely overrides environmental caution. Nowhere is this clearer than in the continued push for offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, rebranded by some as the Gulf of America.

This region has already been marked by ecological vulnerability and past disasters. Despite decades of evidence showing the risks to marine life, coastal communities and the climate, the pursuit of profit and energy dominance keeps the drills turning.

This tension reveals a

deeper national pattern, like the willingness to endure and prioritize short-term gain over long-term stewardship, even when the costs are both predictable and profound.

This is all too clear with President Donald Trump's administration being adamant on oil operations continuing and expanding in the Gulf region, regardless of how it will affect the population of Rice's whales, which predominantly live in that area.

On Tuesday, March 24, the administration stated that the Gulf of Mexico won't have to follow endangered species protections anymore. Our Defense Secretary, Pete Hegseth, stated that environmental lawsuits risk undermining our domestic energy supply as the U.S. remains engaged in conflict with Iran.

Rice's whales are already a very endangered species. There are believed to be fewer than 100 remaining within the Gulf, with experts also claiming that there are already possibly fewer than 50. It is said that they inhabit

these waters year-round, so having these offshore oil operations continuing and expanding inevitably means they will likely become extinct.

This decision reflects more than just an energy policy shift—it highlights a deeper pattern of prioritizing profit and power over responsibility. By weakening environmental protections in the name of energy security, the administration reveals how easily long-term ecological consequences are sacrificed for short-term gain. The justification tied to the U.S. conflict with Iran only reinforces this point, suggesting that the war itself is being used as a reason to expand harmful practices rather than reconsider them.

Beyond the threat to endangered species, the Gulf of Mexico has already endured significant damage from past oil spills, making further expansion of drilling especially concerning. These incidents have left lasting scars on coastal communities and

marine ecosystems, providing clear evidence of the risks associated with offshore oil operations.

While researching this topic, I came across an article from the National Resources Defense Council, which highlighted the ecological impacts I have mentioned already, in more depth. One thing I never realized was how unethical some of these oil rig operators are.

Once an oil well is shut down, it is typically required to help restore the area that has been affected, along with removing all of the equipment that inhabited the area. This article highlights how that doesn't always happen.

"Many abandoned wells (idle wells with a known owner) and orphaned wells (wells with no responsible owner to be found) remain uncapped and leak oil, methane and other pollutants into our oceans and atmosphere every day."

The article also suggests that properly plugging or removing the 28,000-plus per-

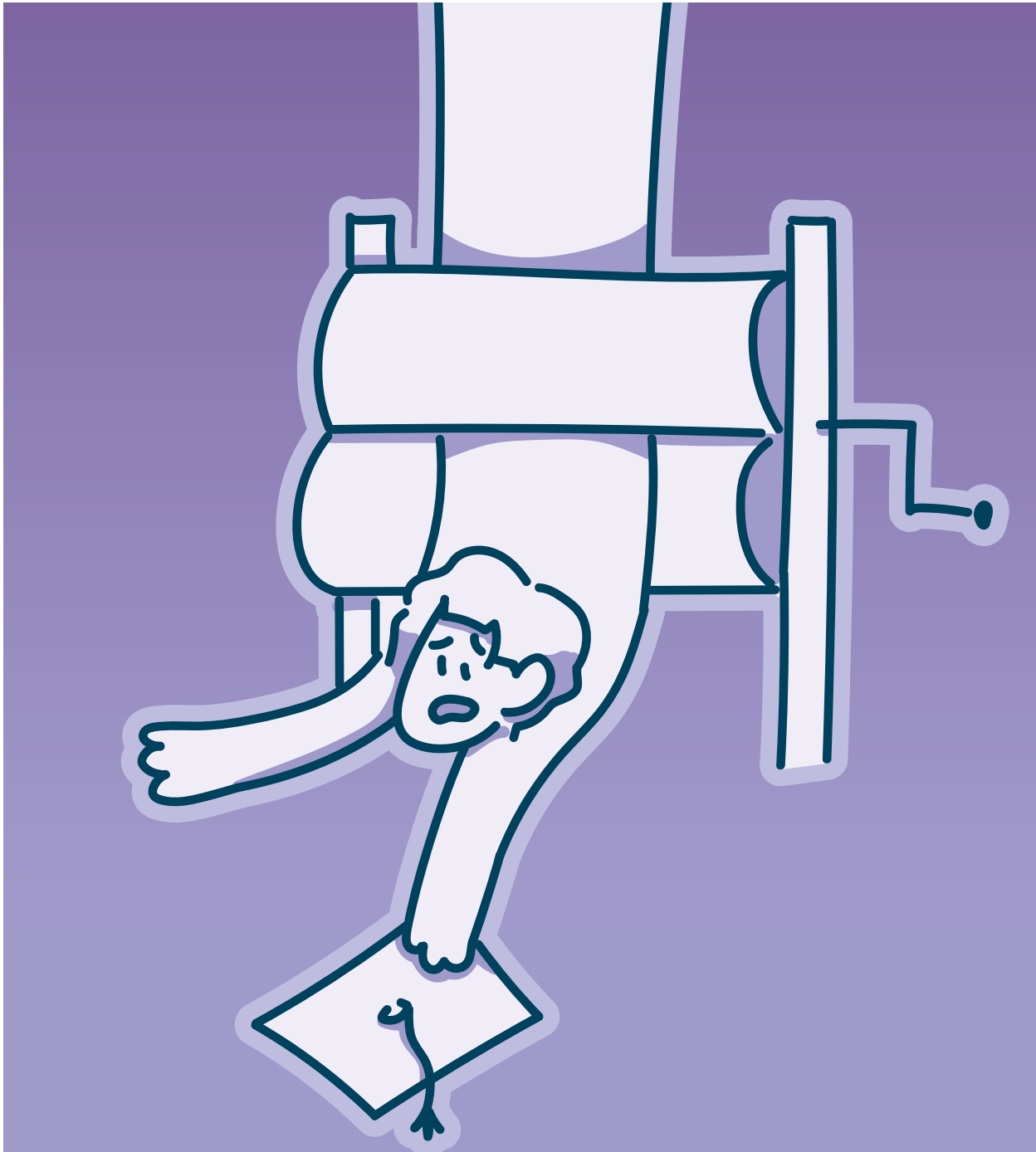
manently abandoned wells in our federal waters, along with the ones currently in use, would cost around \$47 billion, which doesn't even take into account any wells that may be located in state waters.

The fate of Rice's whales and the fragile Gulf ecosystem forces us to confront a difficult question. How much are we willing to sacrifice in the name of progress? There is no doubt in my mind that profit continues to outweigh responsibility in this country, and far too many of us won't acknowledge this until the consequences are visible and irreversible.

If we fail to recognize when enough is enough, we risk losing not only endangered species but the integrity of the environments that sustain us. At some point, the cost of greed becomes too great to ignore, and that point may be closer than we think.

Death for a degree

Is the sacrifice of mental and physical health worth it to graduate?



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Hailey Nye
Production Assistant

I wrote an opinion piece on February 2025, titled 'Struggling with stress,' relaying

my sentiments on whether college is worth all the stress and hardship.

In short, I said that all the stress was worth it because in return, you would receive

great potential for a successful career afterwards. Now in my senior year, after the death of my grandma, my experience has become much more complicated. My

opinion has changed and I want to expand upon this topic now, having a weight so heavy that I've never felt before.

To preface, despite the

manner of this opinion piece, I'm not declaring that everyone should drop out of college right now or that college is never worth it. College does have its merit and worth for everyone, but after the year I have had, it's made me reconsider the choices I've made and why I've made them.

In November 2025, I had also written another opinion piece titled 'The weight of grief,' where I discuss how my grandma's cancer has affected me and my education. How unfortunate it was that my grandma would die just a month after this had been written.

My grandma died just a few days before Christmas, and before that, my family and I were dealing with the grief and stress of learning she had cancer. This journey persisted throughout my 2025 fall semester and still haunts me every day.

My grandma's passing has flipped my world upside down more than I ever thought it would. Her dying has prompted me to reconsider why I'm putting myself through all the stress and pain of my senior year if she won't even be there to watch me graduate.

My senior year has been hard enough with countless late nights, early mornings, skipped meals and emotional breakdowns, but my grandma was the final tipping point.

I often ask myself if there is another option out there or a better way for me to learn and become a better professional in the career I'm pursuing without feeling like I have to destroy and rebuild myself, all while never getting a moment to fully manage my grief. And if I'm being honest, I don't know if there is a better option.

University and classes are not built for the real moments of losing loved ones and processing grief. You might be given a day to cry about it if you're lucky, but deadlines and projects still exist and you must suck it up and put on a smile even when it hurts.

That's the reality I've come to learn, and it's not right. If we did give everyone their rightful time to grieve and mourn then objectives would not be met and surely wrongful people would take advantage of that system.

I know there's no good way to approach this subject when classes and projects still move on without you, but it still hurts.

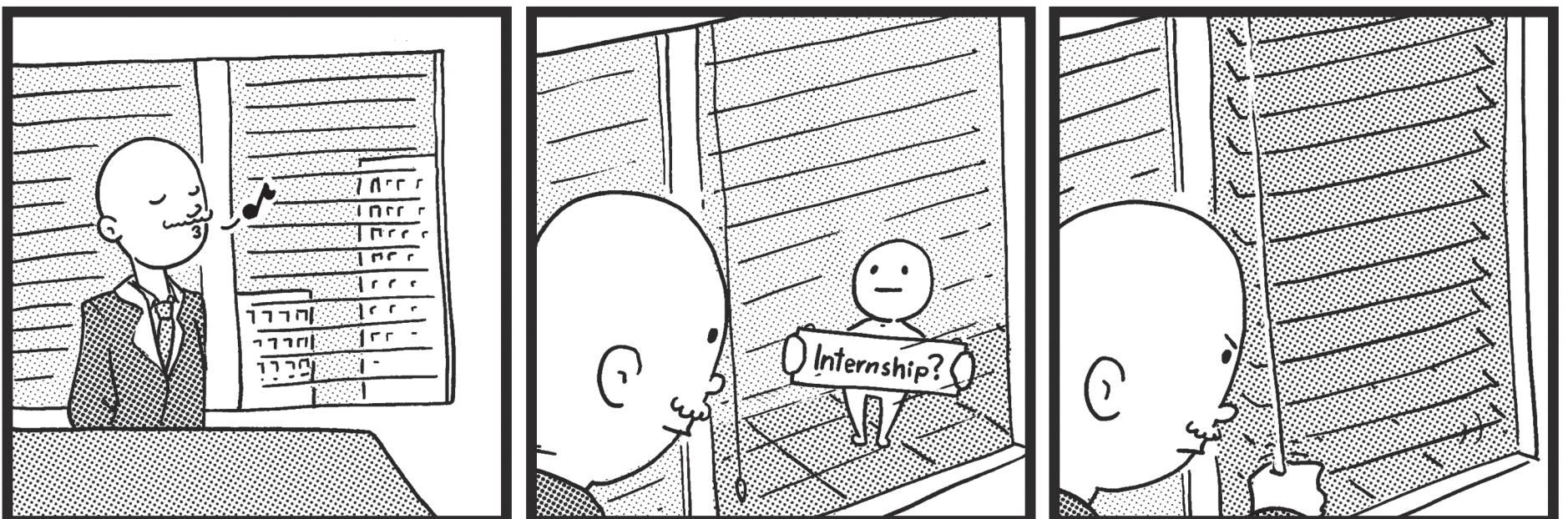
A person's senior year is expected to be stressful and difficult to manage, but mine is beyond anything that I would have imagined and with my grandma's death being the cherry on top is more than I can bear.

My senior work has put me through the wringer and my grandma's death has broken me, but I have come out stronger on the other end, but at what cost?

Even with everything I've experienced this past year, I don't regret getting a higher education, but I no longer believe that the sacrifice of my mental and physical health is a worthy price for that education. I look upon my senior year with distaste, eager to finally escape and try my hand at getting a job.

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

The ongoing search



Comic by: Blake Flanery | Cartoonist

Sports

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Putting in the work

An inside look at offseason training for Ferris State athletes

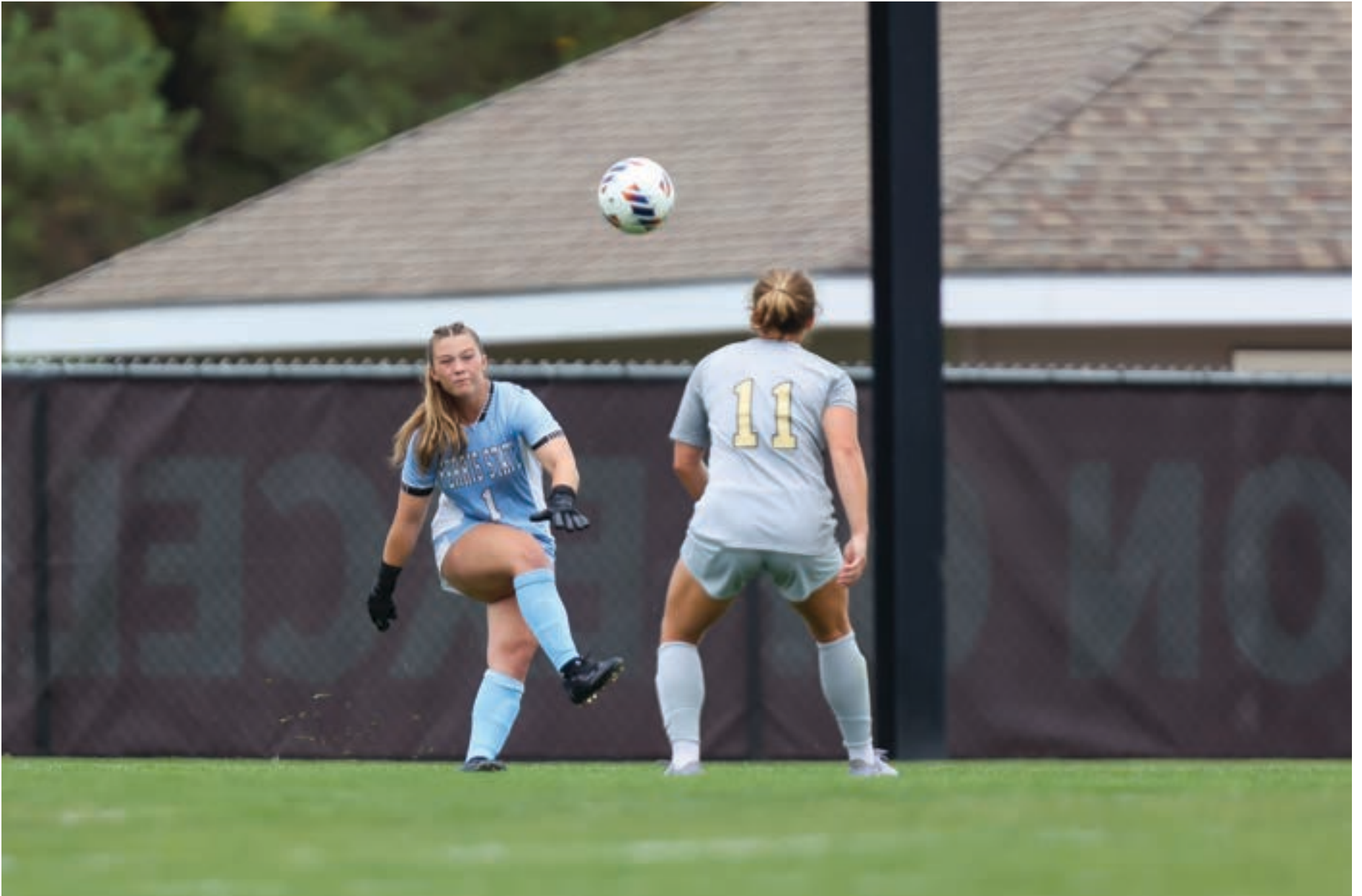


Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Sophomore goalkeeper Korinne Ihrke kicks the ball out to a Ferris teammate in the 2025 season.

Tate Zellman
Culture Reporter

With many sports still in the midst of their seasons, many fall sports are in their offseason, preparing for their upcoming season.

To get ready for the upcoming season, many athletes start their offseason training and routines. Athletes get into their physical training, mental exercises and training camps that take place over the summer. Even though some athletes are not currently in season, being in the offseason allows them to prepare, get healthy and become motivated to make a bigger impact on their team next year.

Redshirt sophomore quarterback Chase Carter

The Ferris State football team finished its 2025 season 16-0 and capped it off by beating Harding 42-21 in the 2025 National Championship Game.

Carter got into what he and the football team do for

offseason training.

"We usually lift four days a week," Carter said. "We spend a lot of time focusing on building our bodies and getting stronger. Even in the spring, we're still going very hard in the weight room, but we're toning back just a bit so we're healthy and going out to practice full speed. After spring, we'll go into summer workouts where we're able to do more conditioning, more speed workouts on the field, and run more routes."

Like any sport, offseason training requires mental training as much as physical training.

Carter expressed the importance of not having mental errors during offseason training.

"One thing we did really good this past year was that we ran a lot of our plays right and there weren't a lot of mistakes," Carter said. "There wasn't a lot of missed assignments and not a lot of setbacks due to missed assignments. So it's a big thing

in the offseason to watch a lot of film and make sure guys really know what they're doing."

Last season, Carter became a bigger contributor to the offense compared to his first season. He had 35 total touchdowns last season, while only having three total in his first year. He also increased his completion percentage from 56.3% to 61.2%, as well as going from 146 passing yards two seasons ago to 972 passing yards last season.

Despite the improving numbers, Carter believes he can achieve more.

"Being able to do what I did on the field, it showed me, not in an arrogant way, how much better I can be," Carter said. "Last season will only make me better and more confident going into next season and that inspires me to work even harder. I think for guys who really want to be successful, it goes beyond the sport and asking yourself how much further

can I take it."

Sophomore goalkeeper Korinne Ihrke

The Ferris State women's soccer team finished their 2025 season with a 8-5-6 overall record and 8-3-3 GLI-AC conference record.

Ihrke got into what the soccer team is doing for offseason training, considering that last year's team was packed with a lot of seniors.

"Right now we're doing a lot of rebuilding because last year we were a very senior team, and this year we have basically hacked the team as freshmen becoming sophomores," Ihrke said. "There is a lot to figure out with our defense, as well as how our transitioning looks, so we just have to make sure we are coordinated and make sure our team is on the same page." We're doing a lot of running and we do competitive obstacles involving cones and ladders, which you have to work with a few teammates to put a puzzle together. We're starting that

build-up right now instead of starting that build-up in pre-season, like in August."

While the soccer team is currently in the offseason, they have spring games that allow them to play against other competition. So far, the team has played spring games against Cleary University and Midwest United FC GA. They have three spring games remaining against Toledo, Detroit Mercy and Northwood.

Ihrke expressed how the spring games have been essential to the entire team's offseason.

"Playing against yourself, there's only so much that you can improve on," Ihrke said. "Having these spring games has helped us see different competition other than just ourselves. I think we're working really, really hard right now and we should be ready by the time we play opponents."

Ihrke is coming off a career-defining season where she started all 19 games

and averaged 88.17 minutes per game. She had a total of 75 saves, having a save rate of 81.5% and averaged 3.95 saves per game.

Ihrke talked about how coming off a great season has motivated her to do better next season.

"It only makes me want to keep doing better and keep my position on the field," Ihrke said. Coach Hansen usually says it's like starring in the role that you have and playing for the role you want and like, so I can continue to compete with the other goalkeepers that are training beside me, and they can only continue to try to raise the standard. That only makes me more excited to keep playing."

The football team will kick off their 2026 season on Aug. 27, at Pittsburg State and the soccer team will start their preseason on August. 10.

Bulldog softball looks to snap Grand Valley's streak

Ferris softball seeks rematch against Lakers and the Pride



Photo by: Nolan Matthews | Sports Editor

Freshman Katie Shuboy prepares to pitch against Saginaw Valley on March 24.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

After a week that saw the Bulldogs score 41 runs in just four games, the Ferris State softball team returns

home to take on the Grand Valley State Lakers and the Purdue Northwest Pride.

The Bulldogs' offense took off against Roosevelt, winning both games against the Lakers by scores of 13-0

and 10-2. Junior first baseman Alexis Kozlowski was the standout player against the Lakers, going 5-7 in her at-bats with two doubles and six RBIs.

While in the 13-0 win,

junior pitcher Cecelia Bell threw a five-inning no-hitter, striking out four while walking three batters before the game was called due to the mercy rule.

Against the Wisconsin

Parkside Rangers, the Bulldogs fell in the first game by a score of 5-3, before the offense took off in the second game, winning by a score of 15-5. This is the most runs Ferris has scored in a game since 2021, when the Bulldogs also took down Wisconsin Parkside, this time by a score of 16-2.

The Bulldogs (21-16, 7-5 in GLIAC) return home to Big Rapids to take on the Grand Valley State Lakers (17-13, 7-1 in GLIAC).

Grand Valley took down the Bulldogs a week ago in their two matchups, with the Bulldogs losing 7-4 and 6-0.

The Lakers are currently on a six-game winning streak and in those games, they average 5.6 runs per game, while only allowing 1.8 runs per game during the streak.

Grand Valley's offense is led by freshman infielder Camryn Hall, who this season has a .474 average, a 1.035 OPS, 46 hits, five doubles, 13 RBIs, while walking six times and only striking out four times.

The Bulldogs' pitching staff will look to limit the high-powered Lakers offense, and one pitcher who will look to limit runs is Bell. Bell has pitched a team-leading 94 innings, having a 3.28 ERA, a 1.43 WHIP, while striking out 59 batters and only walking 25.

Ferris will then take on

the Purdue Northwest Pride (19-15, 5-5 in GLIAC) for the second matchup of the weekend. A week ago, the Bulldogs took down the Pride in their two games, winning 7-1 and then 6-5.

The Bulldogs look to take down the Pride yet again, as the offense will look to take advantage of a struggling Pride pitching staff. The Pride's staff this season has an ERA of 4.04, with three pitchers having an ERA over 4.60.

A Bulldog who will look to take advantage of this is freshman outfielder Ava Gardner. Gardner has a team-leading .374 average, nine doubles, two triples, while adding six home runs and 24 RBIs.

Freshman pitcher Katie Shuboy spoke about the team's season so far.

"I feel good about our team as a whole," Shuboy said. "We have shown great team effort in both our wins and losses. We do a great job of picking each other up, and everyone has stepped up to do their part."

The Ferris State Bulldogs softball team will return home to take on the Grand Valley State Lakers on Saturday, April 11, at 1 p.m. and then at 3 p.m. Then the Bulldogs will take on the Purdue Northwest Pride the following day, with first pitch being at 1 p.m. and then again at 3 p.m.

Tennis continues GLIAC slate

Bulldog tennis nears the end of the regular season



Photo courtesy of Ferris State Athletics

Senior Felipe Iser yells after a set against Spring Arbor.

Devin Wardrop
Sports Reporter

As the calendar turns to April, the Ferris State men's and women's tennis teams look to keep their momentum as they near the end of their seasons.

The men and women will host Roosevelt and Purdue Northwest as two of the three matches.

Head coach Mark Doren previewed the matchups against the two schools.

"All GLIAC matches are important," Doren said. "When you only play each team once, unlike sports like basketball and Softball, there isn't much room for off days. Purdue Northwest continues to get better over the past three years, so they will defi-

nately bring it on senior day for our seniors. Roosevelt is new to the conference and is still building a Division II program, but they play really hard, so we will have to stay focused. We are hoping to get some of our team depth in some matches over the next couple of weeks, so it will be great to see them on court as we get closer to the GLIAC Tournament and hopefully then NCAA regionals."

Women

Ferris State (8-6, 2-1 in GLIAC) ended March with a 2-4 record, including wins over Saginaw Valley and Davenport, both by a score of 5-2. Against the Cardinals, the Bulldogs won the doubles and four out of six singles points.

In the Davenport match,

Ferris won all three doubles contests before winning one, two, four, and six singles. Freshman Madeline Peisley and sophomore Yara Madi won the first and second flights, respectively.

Senior Maria Fernanda Hernandez Ferrer is confident in the team ahead of the matches.

"I think our team is in a great place right now," Hernandez Ferrer said. "We've built strong chemistry, and our practices have been very intense and purposeful. We feel ready and are excited for the upcoming matches against Roosevelt and Purdue Northwest. As a senior, it's a little bittersweet knowing my college career is coming to an end, especially with senior day coming up

this Saturday against Purdue Northwest. But it's been a great journey, and I'm excited to finish strong with this team."

Roosevelt (7-9, 0-3 in GLIAC) only won two matches during March, with those two wins being at Quincy 4-1 and against Illinois Tech 7-0. The Lakers ended the month on a four-match losing streak, with three of the losses coming against GLIAC teams.

Purdue Northwest (5-11, 0-3 in GLIAC) ended March on a two-match losing streak, falling 7-0 against Grand Valley and 4-3 against Michigan Tech. The Pride also lost 5-2 at Davenport earlier in the month.

Men

The Bulldogs (12-3, 2-0 in GLIAC) ended the month

of March with a 3-2 record, including a 7-0 win at Davenport and a 5-2 win at Grand Valley. Against the Panthers, the men went 3-0 in doubles and then swept all six singles positions. The Lakers won three doubles before Ferris State won four out of six singles to take the win.

Sophomore Milo Leuenberger isn't looking past the next two matches.

"Those two matches are all about taking care of business," Leuenberger said. "The journey can go very, very far this season. No goal is too big for us now. But everything starts with those regular-season matches."

Roosevelt (6-10, 1-2 in GLIAC) ended March with three straight conference matches. The Lakers lost 0-7

against Davenport and 1-6 against Grand Valley before beating Michigan Tech 4-3.

Purdue Northwest (8-7, 2-1 in GLIAC) ended March with a 3-4 record, including a 5-2 win at Davenport and a 7-0 win at home against Michigan Tech. The Pride fell to Grand Valley 3-4 as their only conference loss.

Ferris State will host Roosevelt on Friday, April 10, at 10 a.m. for the women and 2 p.m. for the men. The next day, on Saturday, April 11, Ferris will host Purdue Northwest at 10 a.m. for the women and 2 p.m. for the men. All four matches will be played at The Racquet and Fitness Center in Big Rapids.