



Free campus streaming service

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Resiliency in action: Student journalists must rise to the current moment

Editorial

This year, Student Press Freedom Day, Feb. 26, comes at a critical inflection point for journalism and democracy in the United States. Executive overreaches of power continue to erode the spirit, if not the letter, of our Constitution. Recent actions of federal law enforcement agents have gone unchecked without accountability. Tensions spiral, and political divisions deepen. On the ground, it is the job of the journalist, including student journalists, to rise to the current moment.

This year, celebrations of Student Press Freedom are muddled by the reality we see around us as journalists. Too often in our reporting, we encounter news subjects and sources who are afraid to speak freely to the press about their opinions. Nationally, we are seeing journalists raided and subpoenaed. Locally, self-censorship



The theme for the 2026 Student Press Freedom Day is Resiliency in Action. (Courtesy of the Student Press Law Center)

restricts free press access. However, we know attacks on press freedom only make the fight for it more important. This year's theme for Student Press Freedom Day is Resiliency in Action, which reminds us that strong journalism demands bravery and commitment.

At *The Eastern Echo*, we invite the open exchange of ideas, and we live and work by the values of democracy and the First Amendment. It is our hope to create a space in *The Echo* for a public forum that encourages a diverse mix of voices, a healthy sense of debate and public discussion of the issues that touch people's lives, all while guided by the principles and practices of responsible, fact-based journalism.

At *The Echo*, we are working hard to fill the gaps left by a news desert in Ypsilanti, meaning the community lacks a dedicated professional newspaper covering local news. We are committed to covering the issues our community cares about, including how federal action impacts local residents. We strive to hold local officials accountable, responding to concerns from the community about use of force by local law enforcement, the University of Michigan and Los Alamos National Laboratory data center project, City Hall news, local

business and development, leadership changes at Eastern Michigan University and more.

We are student journalists, but we take our responsibility to this community seriously. In an age marked by distrust and misinformation, we strive to be a news source you can rely on for truth, accuracy and independent reporting. We do our best, but we know we can't be everywhere all the time, so we count on you — our readers, our community — to let us know what we are missing and how we can be better. If there is something you would like to see us cover, we want to hear from you.

This Student Press Freedom Day, we invite you to join the conversation. If you have something on your mind, write us a letter to editor@easternecho.com. *The Echo* accepts letters to the editor from our community, which includes Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, and Ypsilanti and Superior Townships. Letters should be 300 words or less in length, address an issue

of interest to *The Echo's* audience, and include the writer's name, hometown, email and telephone number (email and telephone numbers will be used to verify content and will not be published). *The Echo* reserves the right to reject any letter. Letters containing personal attacks against individuals or inappropriate or illegal material will be automatically rejected.

If there is something missing in our reporting, we want to know. If you have a news tip or think there is something lacking in our coverage, let us know by emailing news@easternecho.com.

Lastly, we encourage you to support our mission as student journalists by reading *The Echo* and sharing it with your community. Happy Student Press Freedom Day! We are honored to be here, working to provide our readers with the timely, accurate information they need to make informed decisions and to encourage a culture that embraces dialogue — rather than suppresses it.

'We need it now': Ypsilanti Council limits use of city resources for immigration enforcement

Lilly Kujawski
Managing Editor - News

As reports of Immigration and Customs Enforcement presence in Ypsilanti spur fear in some community members, Ypsilanti joins Ann Arbor in passing a resolution to mitigate and limit civil immigration enforcement action in the area.

At their Feb. 17, 2026, meeting, Ypsilanti City Council members unanimously approved a resolution establishing a policy that prohibits the use of city resources, funds or personnel to assist in civil immigration enforcement, or entering into an agreement with civil immigration authorities under federal law.

"We need it now," said Mayor Nicole Brown of the resolution, after debate between Ypsilanti City Council members on the specific language used in it.

The resolution, which was introduced by Councilors Patrick McLean, Ward 2, and Desirae Simmons, Ward 3, reaffirms Ypsilanti's existing ordinance that prohibits city officials from requesting immigration status unless required by law.

In the United States, immigration enforcement is primarily a function of the federal government. Federal immigration enforcement agencies, including ICE and Customs and Border Protection, fall under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The Ypsilanti area has seen an increase in reports of immigration enforcement agents, Laura Sanders told *The Eastern Echo* in a previous interview. Sanders is an advocate with the group Movement for Immigrant Rights Action and said the group receives weekly and sometimes daily reports of immigration enforcement activity in Washtenaw County.

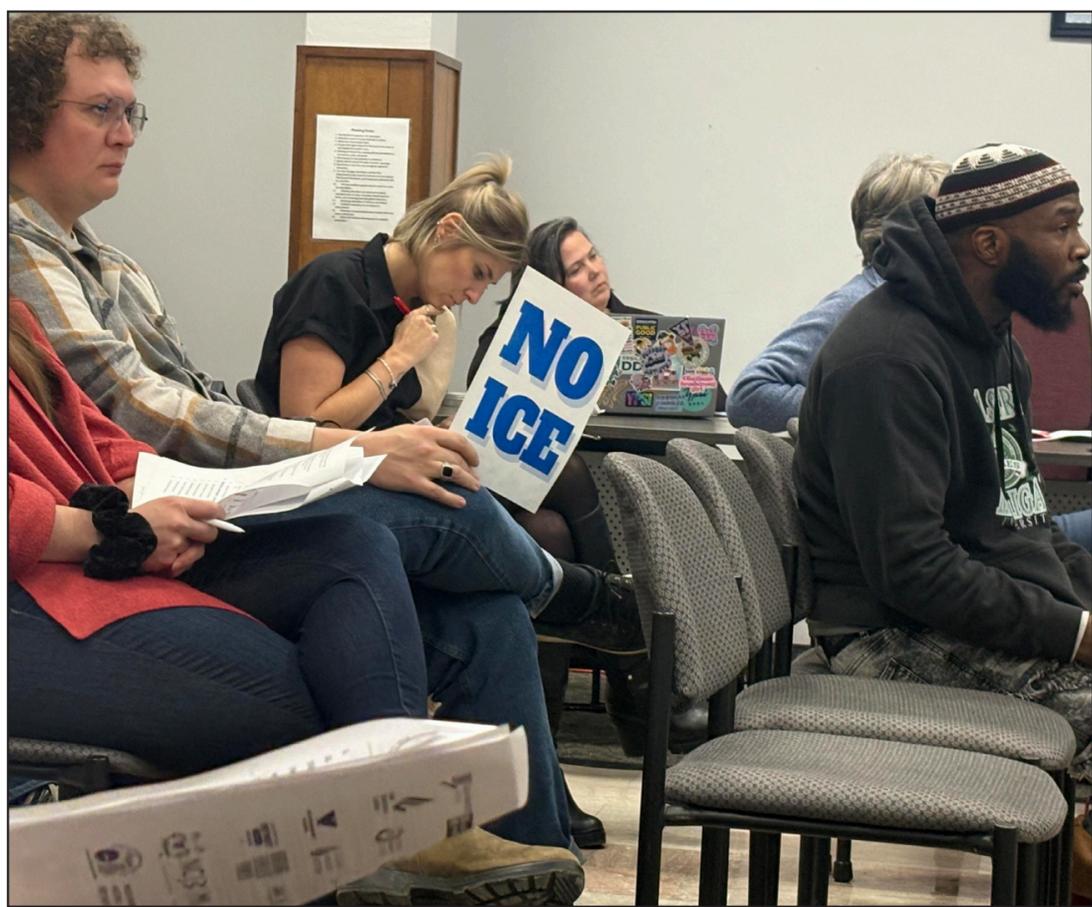
"What we are saying is the city

property, city resources, city funds can't be used for warrantless ICE or CBP activities. Now, for the last year, we have been hearing the supposed purpose of ICE and CBP actions under the Trump regime was to find, detain and deport violent and dangerous criminals who did not have the right to be in the United States," McLean said. "Instead, what we have seen is ICE and CBP have devolved into a goon squad. It does not protect our communities, but rather terrorizes our communities, including murdering our own citizens. There is no good reason why we should enable our participation in these kinds of actions. This resolution is designed to protect Ypsilanti city residents from what has become Trump's extralegal, extraconstitutional secret police, by saying we will not allow our resources to be used for this kind of activity."

The resolution also bars federal immigration authorities from entering or using private areas in city facilities for civil immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant. It also prohibits the use of city parking lots as operational bases for civil immigration enforcement. With guidance from legal counsel and the city manager, councilors debated the specifics of the resolution, such as whether or not immigration enforcement could be limited in public spaces. The City Council passed the resolution with minimal changes, choosing to move forward and adjust later if needed.

Ann Arbor City Council passed a similar resolution at its Feb. 2, 2026, meeting.

Like Ann Arbor's resolution, Ypsilanti's approved order serves as a formal opposition to the use of face coverings by law enforcement, including immigration officers, used to conceal their identity when conducting official duties in Ypsilanti, except in cases of verified public health



Ypsilanti resident Greg Woodring holds a "No ICE" sign at the Feb. 17 Ypsilanti City Council meeting in support of an approved resolution to limit immigration enforcement in the city. Lilly Kujawski / *The Eastern Echo*

or safety reasons. There has been some legal debate on the jurisdiction of municipalities in passing and enforcing bans on face coverings used by federal immigration officials. Language used in the resolution was expanded to extend the ban to all law enforcement officers, per advice from City Attorney Randolph Barker.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, multiple Ypsilanti residents voiced support for the

resolution, and pushed for councilors to do more to address the current climate.

"We have a very aggressive party that is intent on destroying our institutions, and an ineffectual party that is unwilling to stand up and prevent that decline," said Ypsilanti Resident Greg Woodring. "When we see this type of decline at the national level, we look to local leadership."

Ypsilanti resident KJ Pedri also

shared support for the resolution, and encouraged further action.

"The ICE issue is obviously pressing. I support the resolution in front of us, but it clearly does not go far enough," Pedri said. "I think we should be pushing the envelope further. We shouldn't just be following up with what other places are doing, but figuring out our own cutting edge moves on how to manage this."

The Eastern Echo

The Eastern Echo serves the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti communities as an independent student-operated newspaper. Founded in 1881 as *The Normal News*, *The Eastern Echo* distributes weekly print editions on campus and throughout the surrounding Ypsilanti community during the fall and winter academic semesters. *The Eastern Echo* also publishes online year-round. Published content is subject to copyright and may not be reproduced without prior written consent of the newspaper.

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THE ECHO MISSION

The Eastern Echo informs the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti communities by highlighting newsworthy content in a fair, accurate and timely manner.

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Winter 2026
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CORRECTIONS

On page 3 of the Feb. 17, 2026 issue of *The Eastern Echo*, the name of the event Multimodal Zine Workshop was misspelled.

In the Feb. 17, 2026, issue of *The Eastern Echo*, the article "Teed it up perfectly": EMU prepares for presidential transition," contained information about current Eastern Michigan University President James Smith's contract terms, which is now dated. Newly available information about his contract can be found in the article at easternecho.com.

Where to find Cellar Roots:



CALENDAR

FEB 24 Co-Ed Volleyball League Games
6-10 p.m.
Rec/IM Building — Third floor courts

FEB 25 Mural of Voices
5:30-7 p.m.
Honors College — Reception Hall

FEB 26 Orchestra Festival
All day
Pease Auditorium

FEB 27 Butts and Guts
9:15-9:45 a.m.
Rec/IM Building — Room 127

FEB 28 Women's Basketball vs. Buffalo
2 p.m.
George Gervin GameAbove Center

MAR 1 Ypsi Alehouse Live Music and Trivia
Starts at 2 p.m.
Ypsi Alehouse — 124 Pearl St., Ypsilanti

MAR 2 Esports MAC Regular Season vs. Akron (League of Legends)
8-11 p.m.
Student Center — Room 270

WEATHER FORECAST

Tuesday, Feb. 24
High: 34 | Low: 27
Mostly cloudy* / Mostly cloudy*



Wednesday, Feb. 25
High: 38 | Low: 22
Mostly cloudy / Mostly cloudy*



Thursday, Feb. 26
High: 34 | Low: 18
Mostly cloudy* / Partly cloudy



Friday, Feb. 27
High: 42 | Low: 32
Sunny / Partly cloudy



Saturday, Feb. 28
High: 48 | Low: N/A
Partly sunny* / N/A



*Chance of precipitation



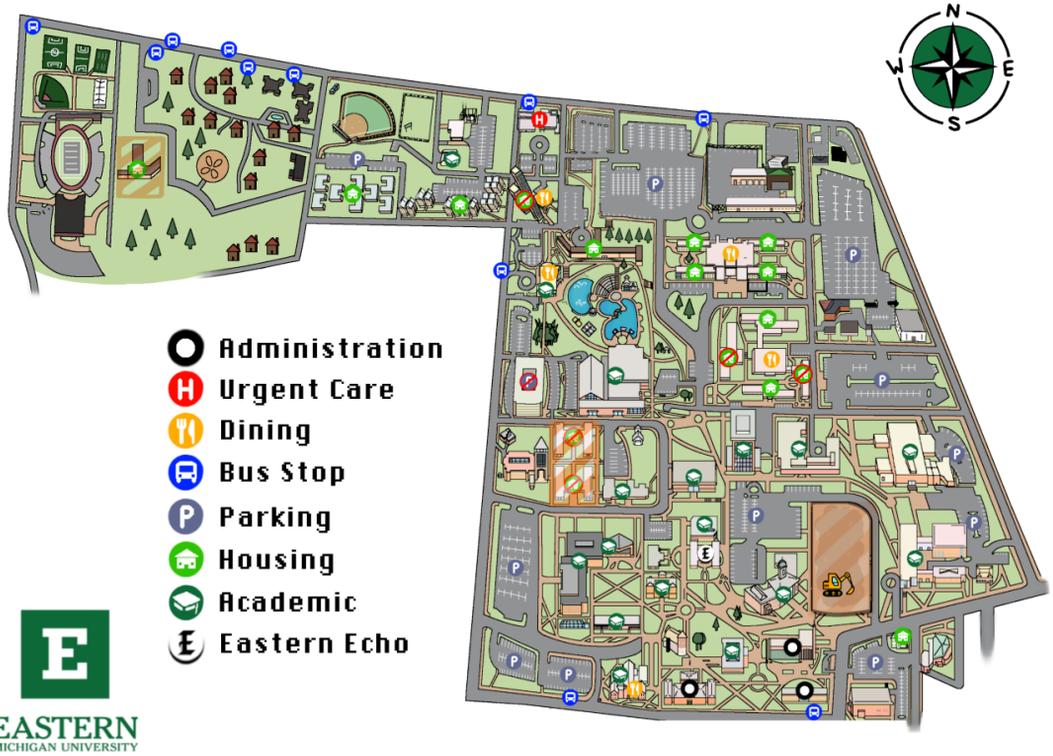
Source: The National Weather Service

Where to find The Echo:

- On Campus:**
- Sidetrack Bar and Grill, 56 E. Cross St.
 - Subway, 1094 N. Huron River Drive
 - Thompson & Co., 400 N. River St.

- Off Campus:**
- Strong Hall
 - Judy Sturgis-Hill Building
 - Welch Hall

Where to find our links:



EMU alumni accounts are going Gmail-only: Here's what you need to know

Laura Meriweather
News Reporter

On June 30, 2026, all alumni accounts at Eastern Michigan University will lose access to Google Drive, Photos, Docs and all other Google apps, except for Gmail. The university alumni Facebook page announced Jan. 28 that this deadline had been extended from Jan. 30.

After the deadline, all documents across these apps will be permanently deleted. Future graduates will have 30 days to transfer their documents to another storage source. EMU has recommended that alumni who wish to keep these documents should export their data using Google Takeout, which allows users to download data files that can be imported to a different account. EMU currently estimates the number of living alumni at more than 188,000, but it is not clear how many of them have active Google accounts. According to an FAQ page on the alumni website, only students from 2014 and onward may have access to EMU Google

accounts if they are used regularly. On the university website, EMU stated that the changes were being made due to Google's 2024 shift from unlimited access to a per-user pricing model for Google Workspace for Education. A spokesperson for Google did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

For alumni like Brittney Barros, these changes may be significant.

"I'm a first-generation college student. I grew up homeless and in foster care," Barros told *The Echo*. "I didn't know much about email literacy or email etiquette ... I just learned like literally two years ago or a year ago, that you should make a separate email account for all your personal stuff."

Barros, who graduated in 2020, said that nearly 12 gigabytes of her personal files, including essays and legal and financial documents, were saved on her EMU Google account. She said she planned to export her documents using Takeout but that she hadn't been able to get to it yet.

Barros said she found out about the changes by accident while checking the EMU website for loan forgiveness information. After searching her inbox, she said she had not been sent any email notice that her files would be deleted. In recent weeks, she said that she has tried to spread awareness of the deadline herself and that some alumni have been finding out about the changes for the first time from her.

As of Jan. 19, the upcoming changes were not announced by EMU on Instagram or X, formerly known as Twitter. The EMU Alumni Association and IT department were not immediately available for comment.

In Jan. 2023, the University of Michigan began enforcing their own data restrictions on alumni and retiree accounts. Affected U-M account holders have a grace period of 90 days to reduce their storage below 15 GB. If the deadline is not met, their account is deleted entirely. Barros, who is also a graduate of and student at U-M, said she thought that U-M had done a better job at informing alumni about the

change than EMU.

"They would spam you with emails like, 'Hey, this change is coming. You guys better prepare for it. Sorry, not sorry, but this is what's happening.' But EMU, they're just silent," Barros said.

While EMU alumni may continue to use their Gmail accounts after other services are blocked off, this service has a file sharing limit of 25 megabytes per email, roughly the size of a 15-second iPhone video. Google recommends using Drive to send larger files, but alumni accounts will no longer have access to this service after June 30.

Barros said that, due to the upcoming restrictions, she doesn't plan to continue using her EMU email at all, and she has put her new email address in her EMU email signature. She is also transferring her third-party accounts to be under the new address.

Alumni who wish to transfer their data to a different account can start the process by using Google Takeout and referring to Google's instructional guide.

What's the Move?

Feb. 24 - March 2

Allie Beecher
Copy Desk Chief

Looking for something to do in Ypsilanti this week? Check out *The Eastern Echo's* list of upcoming local events.

In Our Own Words, In Our Way — Feb. 25

The Superior branch of the Ypsilanti District Library invites community members to celebrate Black History through poetry, music and art in the Superior Meeting Room Wednesday, Feb. 25. From 6-8 p.m., attendees can listen to the poems and songs of others, share some of their own and view the library's February art display.

This event is free, and no registration is required. It is recommended for ages 8 and up. For more information, visit the YDL website.

The Superior Branch of the YDL is at 1900 Harris Road.

YpsiWrites Writers Room and Drop-in Consulting — Feb. 28

Those looking to get some feedback on their writing or just connect with other writers may be interested in attending this YpsiWrites Writers Room event at the Michigan Avenue branch of the YDL Saturday, Feb. 28. From 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., writers are encouraged to bring in their work in progress or start composing something new.

Trained volunteers will be available to work with writers one-on-one and discuss all kinds of writing. Writers can bring in anything from resumes and cover letters to fiction stories and poems. Attendees are welcome to stay for the whole time or just drop by to get some feedback on their work.

This event is free. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/YpsiWritesWritersRoom>. More information is available on the YDL website.

The Michigan Avenue branch of the YDL is at 229 W. Michigan Ave.

Medic Training: Free Wound and Trauma Training — Feb. 28

On Saturday, Feb. 28, the Bloodroot Herb Shop in Ypsilanti will offer a medic training focused on how to provide life-saving care in a trauma situation. James Wiley, a veteran who was trained in the army at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare and Combat School and now focuses on training civilians, will teach attendees the order of treatment in a trauma situation and how they can provide essential care to themselves or others.

This free event will take place at noon at the Bloodroot Herb Shop located at 208 W. Michigan Ave. in Ypsilanti. For more information, visit the Bloodroot Herb Shop's website or Facebook page.

Auditions for "The Patio Prom" by A.M. Dean — March 1-2

Those interested in theater may want to audition for a role in the Neighborhood Theatre Group's upcoming production of "The Patio Prom" by A.M. Dean. This play follows several furniture salespeople at the Chicago Merchandise Mart. When the market is locked down and they are left trapped inside, they must make it through the night.

Auditions will take place March 1-2 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Back Office Studio, located at 13 N. Washington St. in Ypsilanti. If needed, callbacks will take place March 4 at 7 p.m. NTG's website states that auditions will involve cold readings from the script. Auditionees should also bring a headshot and resume if they have one.

Those interested in auditioning should sign up for a slot at www.ntgypsi.org/auditions/. Walk-in auditionees will also be seen, but those who have signed up will take precedence.

For more information, visit NTG's website or Facebook page. Email info@ntgypsi.org with any questions.

New campus streaming service, Swoop Cinema



Swoop Cinema, a new streaming service free to students, offers hundreds of titles of movies and TV shows. AnnaBelle Favre / *The Eastern Echo*

AnnaBelle Favre
News Reporter

Between rising subscription costs and seemingly endless ad breaks, streaming can feel exhausting. Now, Eastern Michigan University students connected to campus Wi-Fi have a free alternative.

EMU's Housing and Residence Life recently announced Swoop Cinema, a free streaming service available to anyone connected to campus Wi-Fi. Residents can watch hundreds of movies and TV shows in their dorms, and all students can access this service

in academic buildings, dining halls, the Halle Library and even the Rec/IM.

Jeff Fabus, the complex director for academic and leadership initiatives at HRL, is in charge of running programming for residents and was the one to spearhead this initiative.

"The past few years, I've gone to housing conferences, and it's something I have been really interested in, because it can supplement what our RAs do," he told *The Echo*. Fabus said that HRL has been exploring options and deciding what will be the best decision for campus residents.

"Part of what drew us in is that it

doesn't have any advertisements, but we can add these 'buffers' to give students information," Fabus said. Right now, students will see a fifteen-second clip reminding them to apply for housing before their movie begins.

Swoop Cinema is currently running as a free trial on campus, which will continue through the month of July 2026. Based on how it performs in terms of student interest and activity, HRL will decide whether to continue using the service and paying the full price in future semesters.

Swoop Cinema is a result of HRL partnering with Swank Motion Pictures, a company that licenses and distributes movies and TV shows outside of theaters and homes. Swank Motion Pictures services K-12 schools, college campuses, hospitals, cruise ships, correctional facilities and libraries. Swank also partners with many major studios, including Disney, Discovery, Paramount, Universal, HBO, Warner Brothers, MGM, Sony, Lionsgate and others. HRL has previously partnered with Swank for movie night events.

Fabus and his team at HRL have hand-picked a collection of over 400 titles for Swoop Cinema, with more coming each month. 17 new titles will be joining the collection March 3, 2026. Students can find titles on Swoop Cinema that were recently released in theaters as well as silver-screen classics, and everything in between.

"It's really nice, because there's lots of recent stuff, not just movies from 20 years ago," Fabus said.

Students can access all of these titles and more on the Swoop Cinema

web browser. Although there is no app for this service, students can use an HDMI cord or cast from their device to their TVs for a movie night experience.

TaMeka Lawrence, a resident adviser in Downing Hall, said, "I am a big movie person, and I'm really excited about it. I've already watched 'Insidious,' which is one of my favorites, on there."

Trinity Perkins, a resident adviser in Westview Apartments, said, "It's actually really good that they did this because students pay for so many streaming services already. You have to get a different one for every movie you want to watch."

Perkins said that she and her friends are looking forward to watching "Divergent," "Jurassic World," "Clue" and some of their favorite kids' movies.

Fabus hopes to use Swoop Cinema as a way to connect residents to one another and their RAs. HRL has surveyed resident advisers on their favorite movies and used their answers in their selection of content. In the coming weeks, Fabus hopes to record short clips of RAs recommending their favorite movies to play before each film. This "staff picks" category will help residents build connections with their advisers.

Swoop Cinema is on a trial period, so those interested should be sure to catch their favorites and boost engagement to keep these services.

Students can access Swoop Cinema while connected to any EMU campus Wi-Fi network by visiting the website streaming.swankmp.net/emich.

Please join us for our annual *Student Media Gala* Hall of Fame Banquet 6:30 p.m. April 2 McKenny Ballroom 878 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Debbie Dingell secures federal funding, over \$1M for Ypsilanti projects

AnnaBelle Favre
News Reporter

U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell secured more than \$1 million in federal funding for Ypsilanti projects on Feb. 11, 2026.

Dingell, a Democrat representing Michigan's 6th District, requested federal funding for 15 projects in the district, which all received funds. The House passed these FY2026 government appropriations packages for a total of \$14,533,000 in Michigan's 6th District for community projects.

Dingell's funded community projects funding requests for fiscal year 2026 include the following:

- \$2,700,000 to rehabilitate the City of Saline's community center
- \$2,000,000 for improvements to Pittsfield Township's public safety facilities
- \$1,031,000 for the Downriver Community Conference to improve its public safety technology
- \$1,015,000 to replace the City of Milan's second street transmission main
- \$1,092,000 to replace the east and west basin liners of the City of Trenton's retention basin system
- \$1,092,000 to improve and replace the infrastructure of the City of Rockwood's wastewater

- treatment plant
 - \$450,000 to expand the Bridgewater Township Hall
 - \$580,000 for the Multi Lakes Water and Sewer Authority Pollution Prevention Project
 - \$850,000 to improve the City of Plymouth's Cultural Center
 - \$1,092,000 for the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority Water Main Improvement Project
 - \$850,000 to complete infrastructure upgrades to the City of Northville's high street bridge
 - \$1,031,000 for the Canton Township Bi-Directional Antennas Project
 - \$250,000 for the City of Ann Arbor to rebuild a fire station
 - \$250,000 to rehabilitate the Cross Street and Prospect Street Bridge in the City of Ypsilanti
 - \$250,000 to construct new public safety facilities in the City of Novi
- The Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority requested \$4,165,000 for its Water Main Improvement Project and received \$1,092,000 in federal funding.

The City of Ypsilanti requested \$1,468,000 in federal funding for the Cross Street and Prospect Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project, but only received \$250,000. In its Draft Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program project list,

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments estimated the cost of the Prospect Street Bridge project to be \$8,750,000. The total project cost for the Cross Street Bridge rehabilitation is estimated by SEMCOG to be \$7,407,500. Both projects have already received some state and federal funding, as well as local budget allocations.

In April 2025, City Council approved a \$295,000 contract with OHM Design Engineering Services for work on the Cross Street Bridge project.

Public infrastructure, including roads, walks and bridges, was identified as a high priority item with 86% consensus in the Ypsilanti City Council's priorities for 2026.

Dingell said in a Feb. 11 press release, "Our local leaders and organizations know what our communities need, from upgrades to our water infrastructure, much needed improvements to several of our roads, and enhanced public safety, to new and upgraded community and cultural centers ... I look forward to working closely with the recipients of these funds as they make progress on their respective projects and am optimistic about the great impact that will have for the residents of Michigan's 6th district."

Opinion

The WellNest Watch

Breaking the silence around eating disorders



Ruby Wyles
Contributor

Editor's note: In The WellNest Watch, master's degree candidates in the public health program at EMU's School of Health Promotion and Human Performance explore news, research and standard practices in the field of health and wellness.

February is National Eating Disorder Awareness Month, so this week we're bringing attention to this common, yet poorly understood, topic.

Starting with some statistics; did you know?

- 9% of the U.S. population will have an eating disorder in their lifetime.
- Every 52 minutes, one person dies as a direct consequence of an eating disorder.
- Eating disorders have the second highest mortality rate of any psychiatric illness behind opiate addiction.
- Fewer than 6% of people with an eating disorder are medically underweight. In other words, 94% of eating disorder sufferers are of normal or higher body weights.

When healthy eating goes bad

January hits, and your social media feeds are filled with "New Year, new you" messaging, an intense focus on food and fitness and the start of other, overly ambitious, health and wellness trends. Discounted gym memberships, diet hacks and over-hyped supplements prey on bodily insecurities and desires to improve our health. However, goals that begin with good intentions to "get healthy" can be a slippery slope to disordered eating and eating disorders.

Disordered eating vs. eating disorders

Think of eating behaviors on a spectrum ranging from intuitive, unrestricted eating, to pathological. Eating disorders live on one side of the spectrum, with disordered eating closer to the middle.

Eating disorders are clinically diagnosed psychiatric conditions. They are serious mental health conditions — not phases or lifestyle choices — that involve disruptions in eating behaviors, thoughts about food and body image and ways of coping with stress or emotions. While disordered eating is also characterized by problematic eating behaviors, it is often associated with health, and societally reinforced.

Signs of disordered eating

Some signs include frequent dieting, "clean" eating, obsession with eating healthy, fasting or skipping meals, rigid rules surrounding food and extreme exercise routines.

What are eating disorders?

Eating disorders present themselves in many different forms, each associated with a variety of negative physical and mental health consequences. Three of the most common eating disorders include the following:

Anorexia Nervosa: Restriction of food or energy intake, intense fear of weight gain and a distorted perception of body size or shape. This can occur at any body weight.

Bulimia Nervosa: Cycles of binge

eating followed by compensatory behaviors such as vomiting, laxatives, fasting or excessive exercise.

Binge Eating Disorder: Recurrent episodes of binge eating without compensatory behaviors, accompanied by distress or loss of control.

Signs and symptoms

Eating disorders affect both the body and the mind. Warning signs may include the following:

Physical: Ongoing fatigue or dizziness, frequent cold feelings, digestive issues, missing periods or hormonal changes

Psychological: Preoccupation with food, calories or body image, anxiety around meals, feelings of guilt or shame after eating and brain fog, irritability or mood swings.

Behavioral: Skipping meals or avoiding food groups, compulsive or punitive exercise, eating in secret and needing strict routines to feel in control.

You do not need to experience all of these signs for an eating disorder to be present. Disordered eating often doesn't look extreme at first. It may look like discipline, motivation or wellness. But health is not defined by restriction, punishment or constant monitoring of food and body.

Who is affected?

Eating disorders affect people of all genders, races, sexual orientations, body sizes and backgrounds. There is no single "look" or personality type. Unfortunately, college students may be at higher risk than the general population due to academic stress, social comparison, athletic or performance pressure, loss of structured meals and exposure to diet culture.

Tips to prevent disordered eating and eating disorders

There are ways to protect yourself from eating disorders and their harmful affects. For one, aiming for consistency as opposed to perfection when assessing your fitness goals. Ensure that your motivations surrounding fitness and food choices are healthy, and that your mental health is also being taken into account.

When dieting, question the rules you put in place regarding food, and diversify your community both online and in-person.

Lastly, talk about it no matter your body size, gender or background. If you find yourself preoccupied with thoughts about food and exercise, reach out to someone. Check in with a counselor, dietitian, doctor or other health professional. A friend or family member could be a good place to start as well.

Eating disorders do not discriminate, and help is out there. You don't need to reach a breaking point to deserve support. Find more resources by emailing hphp_ohp@emich.edu.

Editor's Note: Contributors to The WellNest Watch health column are Kegan Tulloch, Ebrima Jobarteh and Ruby Wyles, graduate assistants in the Office of Health Promotions, and Shafaat Ali Choyon and Nathaniel King, graduate hall directors in the Department of Residential Life. All five are master's degree candidates in the Public Health Program from the School of Public Health Promotion and Human Performance at Eastern Michigan University.

EMU chosen for statewide education preparation program

Hannah Borders
News Reporter

Eastern Michigan University was one of five universities to be chosen for the statewide competitive Educator Preparation Provider Collaborative.

EPP is a two-year, statewide initiative by Michigan Educator Workforce Initiative to strengthen Educator Preparation programs at colleges and universities.

"This was a competitive process statewide and the Michigan Educator Workforce Initiative, or MEWI, invited EPPs from across the state. Colleges and Universities compete to participate in this EPP collaborative," said Ryan Evely Gildersleeve, dean of the College of Education at EMU. "We participated in a round-table sort of introduction to what the collaborative could be, what opportunities, who else might be involved, earlier in the fall semester."

The EPP Collaborative enables schools to improve their Educator Preparation Programs through collaboration with other universities. Participants are able to share data, are provided with technical assistance and are able to build higher quality apprentice programs, among other benefits, according to Deans for Impact.

Deans for Impact is an organization that supports college EPP programs throughout the country.

"We were extremely motivated to submit a proposal, and that proposal effort was really led by Dr. Yukari Amos, who is the associate dean of the College of Education, as well as Dr. Jackie McGinnis who is the department head for the Special Education



The Porter Building, found on West Circle Drive on Eastern Michigan University's campus, is home to the EMU College of Education. Israel Shriki / The Eastern Echo

and Communication Sciences and Disorders Department, and also Dr. Wendy Burke the department head for Teacher Education," Gildersleeve said.

EMU's EPP program has two goals in mind while participating in this collaborative, Gildersleeve said.

Their first goal is to strengthen relationships with transfer students from community colleges across the state. EMU strives to achieve a friendlier, more holistic approach to supporting transfer students' success in their Education Preparation Program, Gildersleeve said.

Their second main goal is to strengthen workforce partnerships for future educators.

The EPP Collaborative is facilitated through MEWI with the help of two other organizations, EdPrep Partners and 2Revolutions.

EdPrep Partners is an organization that provides guidance and technical assistance to EPP programs at colleges and universities. EdPrep Partners aims to strengthen faculty, supervisors, programs leaders and course work, as well as guiding EPPs through

the planning and execution of their educator preparation.

2Revolutions is an organization that brings together communities of educators throughout the country. 2Revolutions work toward three main goals: transforming the student experience, empowering educators and aligning system conditions.

EMU will be collaborating with Northern Michigan University, Central Michigan University, Western Michigan University and Michigan State University.

"We don't often have structured ways to deeply share and learn from our peers across the state, and we certainly wouldn't be able to afford the high-caliber technical assistance from 2Revolutions and EdPrep Partners and without the support from MEWI, the Michigan Educator Workforce Initiative, and this Educator Preparation Provider Collaborative," Gildersleeve said. "We see this in part as a recognition of our legacy of leadership in educator preparation in the state of Michigan and we're proud to be carrying that legacy forward."



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Eagle Watch | Feb. 16-22

Eagle Sports Tips & Tales:

Feb. 24 - March 2

Darrell Justice
Sports Reporter

Men's basketball
Feb. 24 vs. Miami University:

The Eagles face a tall task against the last undefeated team in college basketball as the Miami RedHawks enter at 26-0. Mohammad Habbab, a star redshirt freshman for the Eagles, leads the team in average and total rebounds and sits second in average points scored; he will need to maintain his strong presence if the Eagles want to break the RedHawks' streak. This conference game will be streamed on ESPN+.

Women's basketball
Feb. 25 vs. Miami University:

The recent history between these two teams has been close, with their most recent game in January 2026 being a tight 55-69 win for the RedHawks. Viewers can tune into ESPN+ and radio listeners can follow the action via WEMU and the Varsity Network.

Feb. 28 vs. Northern Illinois University:

The first time these two teams met was Nov. 24, 1981. Since then, the Eagles have secured a winning record of 42-24 against the Huskies. The ESPN matchup predictor currently shows EMU to have a 77.6% likelihood of winning. This Mid-American Conference matchup will be streamed on ESPN+ and broadcast on the radio via WEMU and the Varsity Network.

Women's swimming
Feb. 25-28, MAC Championship:

The women's swimming team is heading to the MAC Championship in Akron, Ohio, this week and have seen recent personal bests, including Abbey Clarke breaking her own records in both the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle. The tournament will be streamed on the MAC website.

Track and field
Feb. 27-28, MAC Indoor Championships:

The track and field teams are headed to the MAC Indoor Championships, hosted this year by Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant. Recent successes include Gabe Oliveira, who has become the MAC leader in the triple jump. Live results will be available on the MAC website.

Women's gymnastics
Feb. 27, EMU Quad Meet:

The gymnastics team is hosting a quad meet against Western Michigan University, Illinois State University and Wilberforce University. The Eagles are currently tied in their all-time matchups against Western Michigan with a record of 19-19. Where to watch: Fans can tune into ESPN+ to watch the meet.

Baseball
Feb. 27 - March 1 vs. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville:

This is the first series ever between EMU and SIUE. The teams open with a single game Friday, Feb. 27, followed by a Saturday doubleheader and a Sunday finale. Where to watch: The first game in the series will be streamed on ESPN+.

Women's lacrosse
March 1 vs. Austin Peay State University:

The Eagles are on a three-game win streak following a 9-7 win over Xavier University, led by Kelsea Dague with three points. The game will be streamed on ESPN+, and live stats will be available on the EMU Athletics website.

Women's tennis
March 2 vs. Stetson University:

The Eagles are on a two-game win streak with an overall record of 8-3. They aim to take the lead in the all-time record against Stetson. Live stats will be available via the Stetson Athletics website.

Men's basketball: Godslove Nwabude

Originally from Anambra State, Nigeria, Godslove Nwabude powered the Eagles to a 66-54 victory over rival Central Michigan University on Feb. 17. Nwabude recorded a career-high 16 points, shooting a nearly perfect 7-of-8 from the field. In addition to his scoring, he contributed six rebounds and three blocks, marking his 12th game this season with multiple rejections. His defensive presence helped Eastern snap an eight-game losing streak and lead for nearly 38 minutes.

Gymnastics: Analiah Solorio

Junior gymnast Analiah Solorio, hailing from Littleton, Colorado, contributed to the Eagles' top team score of the season during their Feb. 15 meet at Ball State University. Solorio posted a 9.750 on the uneven bars, tying for seventh place and helping the team achieve a season-best 48.800 rotation. She also competed on the balance beam, earning a score of 9.325. Her steady performances across both events were vital to Eastern's record-setting team total of 194.125.

Lacrosse: Karly Low

Named the Mid-American Conference Defensive Player of the Week on Feb. 17, Karly Low has been a defensive anchor for the lacrosse team. From Owen Sound, Ontario, Low has helped the Eagles to their 3-1 start. In a Feb. 14 comeback win against Xavier University, she collected a career-high five ground balls and caused two turnovers. This followed a strong performance against Lindenwood University, where she recorded three ground balls and two caused turnovers.

Women's basketball: Fernanda Ovalle

Junior guard Fernanda Ovalle recently became the most successful Chilean player in NCAA history. She

made history as the highest-scoring Chilean-born player in NCAA Division I basketball history and the first to surpass 500 career points. A star for the Eagles, she is dominating the MAC with three consecutive 20-point games, proving she is an elite playmaker.

Women's tennis: Matilde Parreira

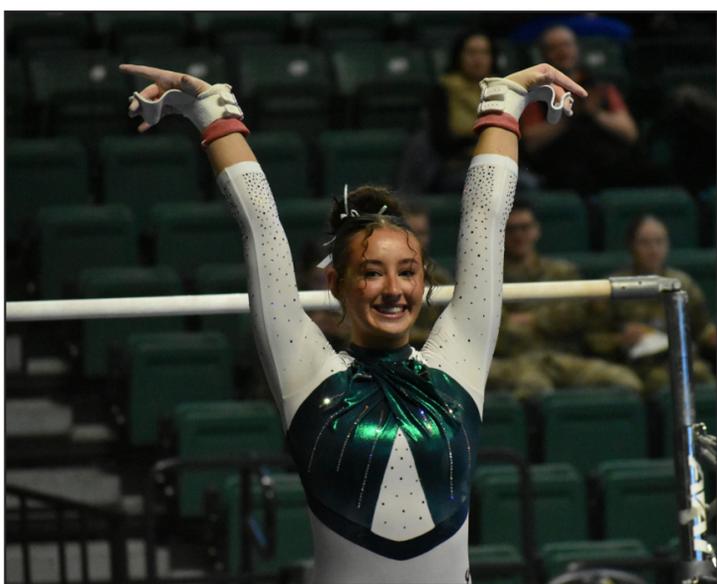
Freshman Matilde Parreira, from Leiria, Portugal, was honored as the MAC Doubles Team of the Week on Feb. 16, alongside partner Sabrina Tolstova. The duo went 2-0 at No. 2 doubles, clinching the doubles point in road wins against DePaul University and Butler University. Parreira also excelled in singles play, securing the overall team victory against Butler on Feb. 14 with a dominant 6-3, 6-0 win at the No. 5 spot.

Men's track and field: Gabe Oliveira

Representing São Paulo, Brazil, Gabe Oliveira delivered a conference-best performance at the Heartland Invitational on Feb. 14. He won the triple jump with a personal-best mark of 15.37 meters (50-05.25), which currently leads the MAC. This impressive leap also moved him into a tie for seventh all-time in program history. Oliveira's performance was a major highlight for the men's team during the two-meet weekend.

Women's track and field: Megan Rybitski

Pole vaulter Megan Rybitski, from Dayton, Ohio, secured an event win for the women's track and field team at the Heartland Invitational. Competing Feb. 14, Rybitski cleared a personal-best height of 3.81 meters (12-06.00) to take first place in the open pole vault. Her victory contributed to a successful weekend for the Eagles, and Rybitski's performance continues to establish her as a top competitor in the conference.



Analiah Solorio smiles as she sticks her landing after her uneven bars portion of the Eastern Michigan University Gymnastics meet Thursday, Jan. 29, against Wilberforce in the George Gervin GameAbove Center. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo

Ruby Brannon
Sports Editor

Men's golf: Robby Turnbull

Freshman Robby Turnbull, a native of Auckland, New Zealand, delivered a standout performance at the Hal Williams Collegiate held Feb. 16-17. He tied for sixth place with a 7-under-par 203, marking his best collegiate finish and his first tournament under par. Turnbull was remarkably consistent, serving as the only Eagle to shoot under par in all three rounds (69-67-67).

Women's golf: Janae Leovao

Oceanside, California native Janae Leovao tied for fourth place at the Alice and John Wallace Invitational, which concluded Feb. 16. Currently ranked No. 80 nationally, Leovao shot an even-par 213, highlighted by a second-round 67 that tied for the third-

lowest single round in program history. This effort secured her third top-four finish this season. Her performance helped the No. 30-ranked Eagles finish second overall, besting higher-ranked opponents, including the No. 14-ranked University of California, Los Angeles and No. 12-ranked Vanderbilt University.

Baseball: Ty Stecko

A utility player from North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, Ty Stecko was a key contributor during the Eagles' early-season road trip. On Feb. 14, Stecko launched the team's first home run of the 2026 season — a three-run shot that sparked a comeback against the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. This marked the 12th home run of his Eastern career. Stecko continued to lead the lineup as the team faced Vanderbilt Feb. 17.

Sacramento State joins the MAC as football expansion hits the West Coast

Ruby Brannon
Sports Editor

The landscape of Mid-American Conference football is about to stretch across the country. In a move that President Luke Woods of California State University, Sacramento, called a bold leap into the future, the MAC formally announced on Feb. 16 that Sacramento State will join the conference as a football-only affiliate member.

Beginning July 1, 2026, the Hornets will officially become part of the MAC for a five-year term, marking a transition from the Football Championship Subdivision to the Football Bowl Subdivision. For students and fans at Eastern Michigan University, this means a new, formidable opponent is entering the MACtion rotation — one that brings a legacy of success and a massive West Coast market into the fold.

A strategic addition to the MAC

The invitation to Sacramento State follows a shift in the conference roster after Northern Illinois University accepted an invitation to join the Mountain West Conference. By adding the Hornets, the MAC maintains a 13-team football configuration for the 2026 season.

Scott Wetherbee, Eastern Michigan University's vice president and director of athletics, played a central role in this expansion as the chairperson of the MAC Council of Directors of Athletics. Wetherbee praised the "forward-thinking leadership" of MAC Commissioner Jon Steinbrecher, noting that "the addition of Sacramento State as a football-only member strengthens our conference and positions us well for continued collective success."

Steinbrecher echoed this sentiment and said the move is about

strengthening our competitive profile and creating value for the membership. He highlighted Sacramento State's demonstrated success in football and the university's commitment to institutional growth.

The Hornet pedigree

Sacramento State is not entering the FBS as an underdog. The Hornets boast an impressive resume, including seven conference titles and three consecutive Big Sky championships from 2019 to 2022. They were one of only 12 FCS programs to win at least seven games in five of the last six seasons and held a top-25 national ranking for 50 weeks during that span.

Beyond the gridiron, Sacramento State is a powerhouse institution. Located in the capital of California, the world's fourth-largest economy, the university serves nearly 31,000 students. It has been recognized by The Wall Street Journal as the second-most diverse campus in the Western United States.

The price of the leap

Stepping up to the highest level of college football is a major financial undertaking. Sacramento State's cost of entry into the MAC is approximately \$18 million, in addition to a \$5 million fee paid to the NCAA to reclassify.

To fund this transition, the university will rely on increased game guarantees, corporate partnerships, ticket sales and new revenue streams such as merchandise and pouring rights. University officials said that Sacramento State will not use state funds to pay for the move to the MAC.

The move is expected to be an economic engine for the region. A study by Collegiate Consulting projects that the athletic economic impact will rise to \$975 million. Perhaps most importantly for the campus community, 15% of new revenue starting in 2027 will go towards Academic Affairs.



California State University, Sacramento, will join the MAC as a football-only member beginning July 1, 2026. The Hornets will be a new competitor for Eagles football in the upcoming season. Julius Stewart / The Eastern Echo

Impact on students and fans

For EMU students, this expansion ensures that MAC football remains a fixture on national television. A key factor in Sacramento State's decision was the MAC's television contract with ESPN networks, which provides the national exposure necessary for a growing brand.

Sacramento State students will continue to receive free admission to home games, and the university is currently evaluating plans for a new stadium at Cal Expo while upgrading its current facility for the 2026 season.

While the football team heads east to the MAC, the majority of Sacramento State's other 21 intercollegiate teams will join The Big West.

Looking ahead to 2026

The Hornets will be led into this new era by head coach Alonzo Carter, who was named to the position in December

2025. Carter, a native of Northern California with deep recruiting ties to the state, previously spent eight seasons at San Jose State University and the University of Arizona. Mark Orr, Sacramento State's director of athletics, said Carter is a proven leader who has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to developing student-athletes on and off the field.

As the 2026 season approaches, the MAC enters a period of dynamic transformation. By reaching across the country to secure a winning program in a major market, the conference — and leaders like EMU's Wetherbee — are betting that the Hornets will become a competitive and contributing member of one of the nation's oldest Division I conferences.

As former Hornet Lorenzo Lynch said, the move is like waking up a sleeping giant.



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Ypsilanti Planning Commission approves Dzanc House zoning resolution



Amanda May Moore, Dzanc House creative director, holds up a sign at the Ypsilanti Planning Commission Feb. 18. Moore, along with other Dzanc House supporters, attended the meeting to support changing the language of the zoning laws for Ypsilanti's Core Neighborhood Mid. *Gray Connor / The Eastern Echo*

Gray Connor
Managing Editor - Operations

Dzanc House is set to keep its doors open after the Ypsilanti Planning Commission voted in favor of amending zoning language and laws that previously prohibited arts and crafts studios within Core Neighborhood Mid Zoning Districts at its Feb. 18 meeting. The amendment, if passed by the Ypsilanti City Council, would permit arts and crafts studios within

this specific zoning designation by reclassifying them as Special Use, a permit for which Dzanc House has applied. The amendment would also add the words “theater” and “literature” to the definition of an arts and crafts studio, with the intention of making the zoning ordinance laws less rigid on creatives. In the meeting, Planning Commission Vice-Chairperson Matt Dunwoodie defined CN-Mid as a walkable mix of housing types and

neighborhood businesses. “A small-scale arts and crafts studio feels to me personally like it fits pretty well in the definition of that,” Dunwoodie said. “I do think we have to address some of the questions about the scale, and what limits exist.” A Special Use permit allows property owners to use land in ways that are not typically permitted by zoning laws. According to Dunwoodie, classifying arts and crafts studios as permissible under Special Use allows for the city to

monitor the scale of operation, as those limits are not clearly defined. The amendment was supported by the Planning Commission without opposition. On Nov. 5, 2025, Dzanc House received notice that its function as an arts and crafts studio was in violation of zoning district laws under Section 122-441 in the Ypsilanti Code of Ordinances, and that all activity was to be ceased by Nov. 19, 2025. Notice was sent to Dzanc House by Joshua Burns, Ypsilanti's city planner, by email. Steve Gillis, the founding executive director of Dzanc House, as well as several staff and supporters of the arts studio, responded to the shutdown notice, expressing the impact that it has had on the Ypsilanti community since its establishment in April 2024. “What we do for the community is unparalleled in the neighborhood and in point of fact, the community has embraced us and the neighbors and neighborhood love us,” Gillis said to the city planner in an email obtained by *The Eastern Echo*. At the Ypsilanti City Council's Nov. 18, 2025 meeting, councilors spoke in favor of Dzanc House's operation, as long as the proper steps were taken for the studio to be in compliance with the city, including obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy and making the location itself more accessible. The amendment will be reviewed by the Ypsilanti City Council and

councilors will choose whether or not the change in language and zoning laws is ideal for the city. As of this writing, it has not been clarified which meeting agenda the amendment vote will appear in. Sarah Nisbett, a supporter of Dzanc House who spoke in favor of the amendment's passing at the Feb. 18 meeting, emphasized the importance of getting involved at the local level, noting how all levels of government can have an impact on a resident's daily life. Amanda May Moore, who serves as creative director and occupancy coordinator at Dzanc House, spoke about the vote and Dzanc House's future as a studio. “In general, I was expecting a good result tonight. Even with the Special Land Use permit,” Moore said. According to Moore, the cost of applying for a Special Use permit was \$1,000, which was covered by Gillis. As of now, Dzanc House will continue operation. On March 21, the studio is set to host a Cake Carnival and Cake Walk, featuring a cake decorating competition and a cash prize for the winner. The event will run from 5-9 p.m. and will be hosted at the in-person location at 402 S. Huron St., Ypsilanti. For more information on how to enter and the competition's requirements, visit the Cake Carnival form on Dzanc House's website.

The Echo Q&A Series: English professor writes across the curriculum, into the community

Lilly Kujawski
Managing Editor - News

Editor's note: The Eastern Echo staff meets regularly with interesting people on and off campus. Engage in those conversations with us through our Q&A reports.

According to Ann Blakeslee, everyone is a writer, and she is working to empower students in classrooms across Eastern Michigan University and people throughout Ypsilanti to believe that of themselves, too. Blakeslee is an English professor and the director of the Office of Campus and Community Writing at EMU, where she oversees the university's Writing Across the Curriculum program. She has worked at EMU for 30 years, and is also the co-founder of the writing-focused Ypsilanti nonprofit YpsiWrites.

Q: Could you start by explaining your work in the Writing Across the Curriculum program at Eastern?

A: I will say, starting out, that we're celebrating, and we've been celebrating this year, the 25th anniversary of the WAC program, and I was here for the very beginning of it, in the year 2000, so that was pretty exciting. Last year was 25, but it's kind of a full year celebration. And it is basically a program that supports faculty, and the idea that we sort of believe in is that everybody should be integrating writing throughout the curriculum. It's not something students should only encounter, say, in first year writing, or in the writing intensive classes, but through all faculty.

Writing is a way of promoting critical thinking, and other really essential skills. So, it is our hope that we can provide the kind of support to help faculty create effective assignments, and to be able to assess those assignments well, and to integrate those assignments well within the structure of their courses, and in relation to their learning outcomes. So that that writing is meaningful to students, but also helps the faculty member assess student learning, and in every way, sort of connect it to their

goals for the course.

Q: What advice do you have for young writers?

A: Keep writing. Just write, all the time. Whatever strikes you. We're doing a book club this semester on sort of reframing writing, to get faculty — especially faculty who may find writing challenging or difficult at times — to kind of shift how they think about writing, and in doing that, the aim is to also shift how we think about working with students as writers.

I think, like, keeping journals, or I started a sort of collective journal with some of my colleagues across the country, where we just sort of write about things we're encountering in teaching right now, and the work that we're doing. It's a space where we can share our thoughts and ideas, and express ourselves, where somebody else benefits from seeing what we're dealing with, and we feel less alone. So, I think writing, any type of writing, helps people feel less alone. I also founded a writing nonprofit, and our sort of tagline is “everyone is a writer.”

Q: Can you tell us some more about that, your work at YpsiWrites?

A: I co-founded it with a colleague who is now retired. Her name is Cathy Fleischer. We had been doing a lot of work in the community. She had been working a lot with teachers in the community and schools, and I had been working a lot with nonprofits and other groups. We had colleagues at Saginaw Valley, who had developed a community writing center, and I thought, “that's a pretty cool idea,” because Ypsi is a pretty cool community, with a lot of arts, and a lot of people who are creative types.

We met with Ypsilanti District Library people. We did a survey of the community through YDL. There was clearly interest, and we started out really small, just kind of offering open writing, like, a writing center, kind of, “Just come in and talk about your writing.” We offered a few workshops, and then the pandemic happened, and we pivoted online, and we started offering all these workshops and getting lots and lots of people, 20, 30, 40

people at workshops. We did a memoir series. We have done everything under the sun. We do poetry workshops. We do publishing workshops, fiction workshops, songwriting workshops, and then we developed a program called The Writers of Ypsilanti. So, every year, you can self-nominate, or people in the community can nominate you. You have to have a connection to the Ypsilanti community. Like you could nominate yourself. And we name up to 12 writers of Ypsilanti who are writers for the next year, and they help us with programs, they maybe do workshops, we honor them, we elevate who they are, and promote them, and do things like that.

Now we have a writer in residence that we select from past Writers of Ypsilanti, who then participates. We pay that person, that person gets an award, and we elevate their writing, but they also run a program throughout the year. They propose something they want to do to promote writing in the community. So it's become a really cool program. We do a lot with community partners. So we have a write for mental wellness program that we do in conjunction with the Washtenaw County Health Department, and it is the Wish You Knew Washtenaw program. We're now partnering with another new nonprofit at the University of Michigan, where it was founded by two students who place journals out in the community, and they're sort of, like, community journals, and people write in them. We're actually helping them produce one that has specific prompts that we produce for the mental wellness program, on particular themes and topics. And so that's, like, the perfect marriage of two initiatives that really have the same mission.

Q: Could you talk a little more about the tagline, “Everyone is a writer.”

A: When you teach writing, what you find out is a lot of people say, “Oh, I can't write,” or “I'm not a writer,” or, “Oh, my God, my grammar.” People don't want to show me their writing. And I don't think of writing at all as that way. I think of writing as an expression in communication, and hopefully you all do at *The Echo*, too.



Ann Blakeslee is an English professor and director of the Office of Campus and Committee Writing at Eastern Michigan University and the co-founder of the nonprofit YpsiWrites. *Lilly Kujawski / The Eastern Echo*

It's such a gift for all of us. The ability to use language, whether as a speaker or as a writer, is just also so cool. Not to go political, but I'm just, fangirling over, or fan-whatever, over [Canadian Prime Minister] Mark Carney's speech at that conference, [the World Economic Forum] because, what an eloquent use of language. It's brief, it's to the point, it conveys so much, and the richness of that text, I could sit forever and read that and just unpack it. There's so much there. And I think anyone can achieve that.

We can all express ourselves, and I think we express ourselves best when we express ourselves from the heart. That doesn't necessarily mean it has to be a type of personal writing, but, I suspect you have this experience: Most of us, as students, enjoy writing most on writing about something that interests us. We hate writing most when a professor gives us an assignment about something for which we could care less. Then it is a real struggle. I just had a faculty member say to me the other day, she just gets blocked and stuck and frozen. And I said, “You know what? Just your goal between now and Tuesday is to write the crappiest

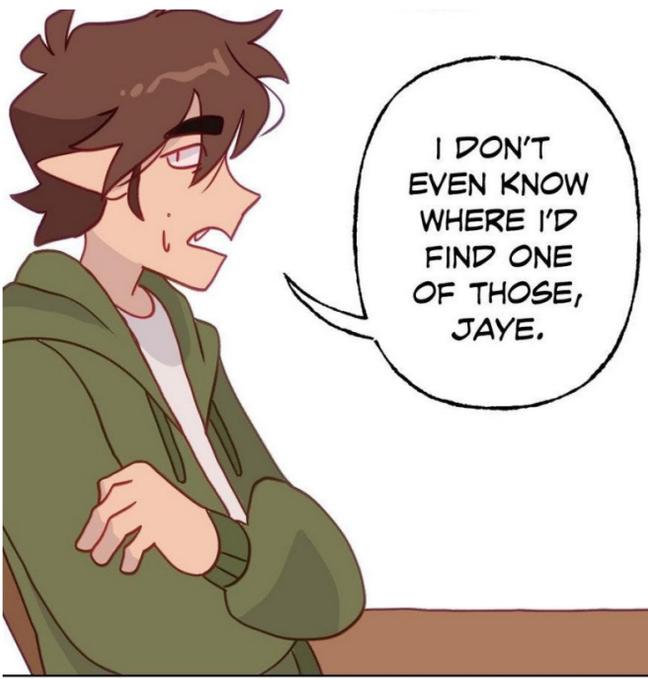
draft you can possibly write.” Just get something down.

Q: What are some moments in your career that you are especially proud of or that you found especially rewarding?

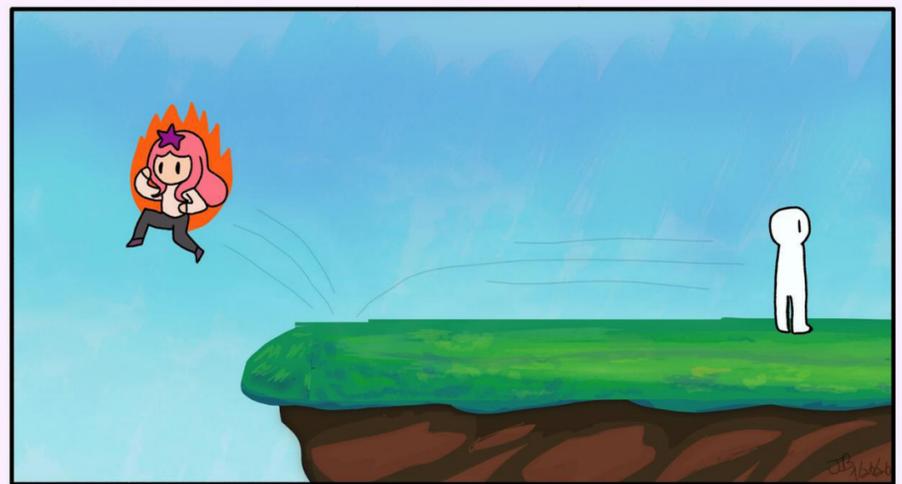
A: I was at University of Illinois, for my first job. That was very much a research-oriented university. I was able to realize during that time how much I love teaching or working with students, which was not valued as highly. I went out on the job market, and I had a lot of offers, and the department head here at the time kind of persuaded me to come here. That was a decision that was life changing for me. I have always loved this institution and loved the students at this institution, because you are all such real and interesting people. I mean, there is not a day that goes by that I probably don't interact with five to 10 of my former students, either on social media, or, like, those relationships endured across the years and they are such cool, interesting people.”

Read the full Q&A at easternecho.com.

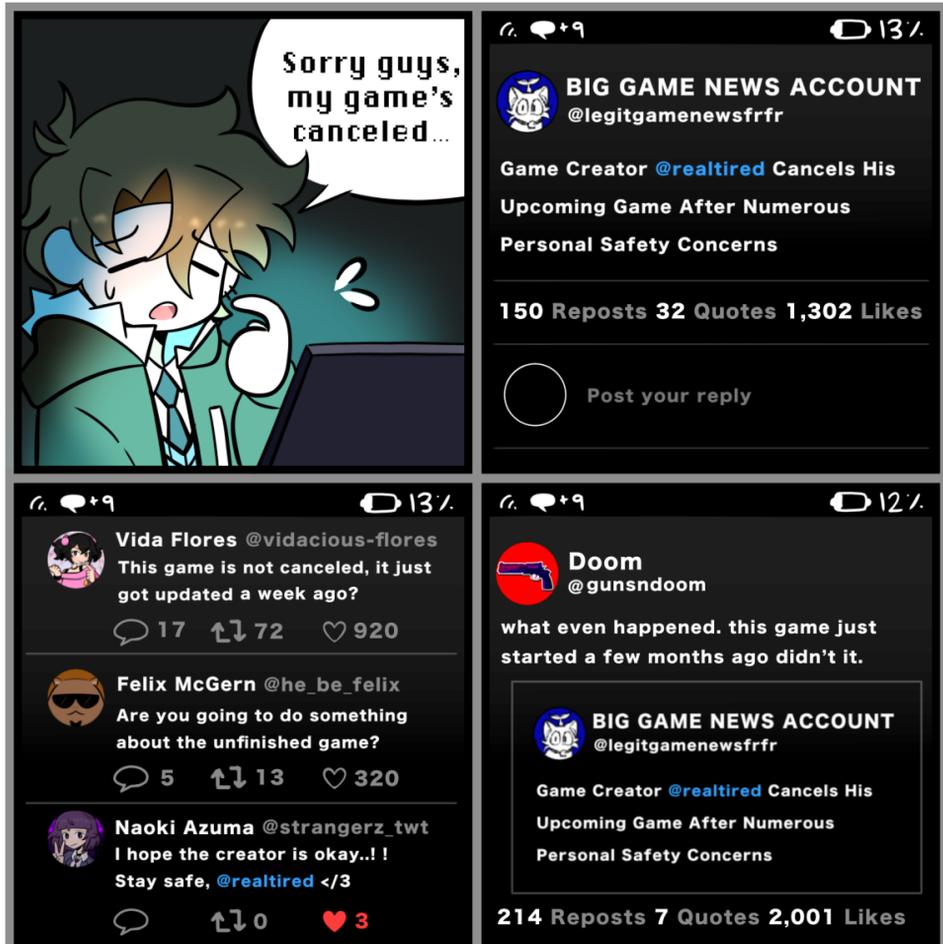
Moonlight 12-5 / 12-6 | FunkyL0af



Advice for Doormats | Julia Bartlett



Comment Sections | Rylee Curley



Last week at a glance, Feb. 16-21



Cosplayers gather for a group photo at Eagle-Con, held in the Eastern Michigan University Student Center, on Tuesday, Feb. 17. Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo



EMU students participate in activities at Joyfest, an annual event held by the college of Education on Wednesday, Feb. 18, in the Porter Building, Room 100. Owen Cardenas / The Eastern Echo



Grendel Gymm poses at their booth and sells their handmade accessories at Eagle-Con in the Eastern Michigan University Student Center on Tuesday, Feb. 17. Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo



Catherine (Makiyah Harris) argues with her sister Claire (Frankie Cramer) as she reacts in dismay in EMU Theatre's production of "Proof" in Judy Sturgis Hill's Sponberg theatre. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo



Catherine (Frankie Cramer) listens to Hal (Wyatt Hicks) as he excitedly discusses the findings from the notebook in her father's desk in EMU Theatre's production of "Proof" in Judy Sturgis Hill's Sponberg theatre. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo



Catherine (Makiyah Harris) comes outside to check on her father Robert (Dylan Benson) as he makes an apparent breakthrough in EMU Theatre's production of "Proof" in Judy Sturgis Hill's Sponberg theatre. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo



Eastern Michigan University women's basketball player No. 5, Fernanda Ovalle, dribbles around University at Buffalo players at the Feb. 21 game at the George Gervin GameAbove Center. Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo