

# The Eastern Echo

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Serving EMU and Ypsilanti since 1881

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easternecho.com



Kaleb Stanley/The Eastern Echo

## BACK TO CAMPUS EDITION

Welcome to campus! We are *The Eastern Echo*, the independent, student-operated newspaper of Eastern Michigan University. We're here to serve EMU students and the Ypsilanti community with fair, ethical and accurate reporting. Our print papers are always free and are published every Tuesday during the school year. We post on our website, [easternecho.com](http://easternecho.com), year-round. Keep an eye on our newsstands throughout the semester to get the latest scoop on campus and community happenings.



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The Eastern Echo

The Eastern Echo serves the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti-area communities as an independent student-operated newspaper. Founded in 1881 as The Normal News, The Echo distributes weekly printed editions on campus and throughout the surrounding community during the fall and winter academic semesters; and publishes year-round on the web. Contents are 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 community by highlighting newsworthy content in a fair, accurate and timely manner.

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CORRECTIONS

The Eastern Echo corrects mistakes. If we got it wrong, we want to make it right. Errors should be brought to the attention of the editor in chief by email: editor@easternecho.com.

Where to find the newest volume of  
Cellar Roots,  
EMU's  
Art Magazine:



EVENTS CALENDAR

AUG  
27

Honors College Kickstart

From: 4:30 pm-6:00 pm  
Honors College—Auditorium

AUG  
28

Work Smarter, Not Harder: Tools for Time Management

From: 6:30 pm-7:30 pm  
Halle Library—G09

AUG  
29

Honors College Kickstart

From: 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
Honors Colleg—Auditorium

AUG  
31

Soccer vs. Robert Morris

From: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Paul Scicluna Soccer Field

SEPT  
2

EagleFest

From: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Student Center—University Park

SEPT  
3

Sex in the Dark

From: 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
Student Center—200A/B

SEPT  
4

Welcome Back BBQueer

From: 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
Student Center—Patio

WEATHER  
FORECAST

Trent Frey of the Detroit-Pontiac subsidiary of the National Weather Service reports probabilities of warmer than usual temperatures and lower than usual precipitation on campus for the opening week of classes spanning from Aug. 26 to Sept. 1.

Frey said a 55 to 60% probability for above normal temperatures is likely during this time frame, with the forecast of below average precipitation also bearing the same likelihood.

Only a 40 to 45% chance of normal or above normal precipitation levels exists during the week.

Remember to check this page for future weekly weather updates.



Where to find  
The Eastern Echo:

Off Campus:

- Basil Babe on Cross Street
- Benito's Pizza in the Eastern Plaza on N. Huron River Drive
- Biggby Coffee on Washtenaw Avenue

On Campus:

- Alexander
- Boone

Where to find our links:



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# 'One Big Beautiful Bill' changes student borrowing, loan limits

*Quanzelle Wyatt*  
*Business Manager*

President Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act passed July 1, 2025, and was officially signed July 4. The 2025-26 budget bill included changes in student borrowing power and repayment plans.

The legislation is a win with most Republicans, but the bill faced opposition, particularly from Democrats who said the bill would raise the cost of living, balloon the debt to \$3 trillion, and threaten the healthcare and benefits of Americans.

From payments to loan limits to Pell grants, the act will impact college students throughout the country and here at Eastern Michigan University.

## Student loans and borrowers

The nonprofit financial research group Investopedia reported that under the big, beautiful bill, new borrowers who hold more than \$25,000 in student loans may receive smaller monthly payments than they would under older plans.

The original standard plan gave borrowers 10 years to repay loans. If a borrower wanted lower monthly

payments, they could enroll in one of three income-driven plans: Income-Based Repayment, Income-Contingent Repayment, and Pay-As-You-Earn. However, the new legislation will eliminate those three income-driven repayment plans and revise the original standard one.

New borrowers will be automatically assigned to the revised standard plan, under which the repayment period varies depending on the loan size. This could give borrowers longer loan periods, meaning that they will pay more in the long run.

For borrowers who cannot afford the revised standard plan, there is another new option called the Repayment Assistance Plan, which uses a different calculation method.

The Repayment Assistance Plan calculates monthly payments based on adjusted gross income. This means single borrowers will pay less under the plan, but borrowers with families will have to pay more than if they were in the old Income-Based Repayment plan.

The new rules take effect for borrowers who take out loans starting July 1, 2026.

## Loan limits

The legislation also changes loan limits for both graduate and undergraduate students.

The federal government will no longer allow graduate students to borrow enough money to cover tuition or related costs. The Grad Plus, a federal loan created in 2006 that let students borrow up to the full cost of attendance to pay for a graduate degree, will be eliminated.

The legislation states that graduate students can borrow up to \$20,500 a year and a lifetime of \$100,000. Professional students can borrow up to \$50,000 a year and a lifetime of \$200,000.

These limits are for the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans, and they will not be in effect until July 1, 2026.

Undergraduate borrowing limits for students remain unchanged. The Parent-Plus Loan has new limits of \$20,000 in an academic year.

## Pell grant and aid eligibility

BestColleges, a higher education resource group, reported that the legislation allows students to apply the Pell Grant to workforce training

programs at a minimum of eight weeks. Previously, Pell Grants were applicable only to programs 16 weeks or longer.

Programs must meet the following requirements for students to qualify for the short-term Pell extension:

- Between 150 and 600 clocked hours of instruction
- Offered at the institution for at least a year
- Verified completion of at least 70% within 150% of normal time to completion
- Verified job placement rate of at least 70% measured 180 days after completion
- Tuition and fees not greater than the median earnings of completers or 150% of the federal poverty guidelines

However, while the legislation will make the Pell Grant applicable to more programs, it also aims to eliminate Pell Grant eligibility for students with a high student aid index beginning July 1, 2026.

State governors will be in charge of deciding which programs are aligned with the high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations requirements.

# What's the Move?

## Aug. 26 - Sep. 1

*Allie Beecher*  
*Staff Writer*

Welcome back, Eagles! This week offers a wide variety of fun and interesting events on and around Eastern Michigan University’s campus.

## Welcome Back Popsicle Party — Aug. 26, 2025

On Tuesday, Aug. 26, the Honors College will host a popsicle party from 4:30 to 6 p.m. to welcome students back to EMU. This free event is open to everyone and provides a great opportunity to connect with students, faculty and staff. For more information, email [emuhonors@emich.edu](mailto:emuhonors@emich.edu) or call 734-487-0345.

## Holman Success Center Open House — Aug. 27, 2025

At this event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 27, the Holman Success Center will provide students with the opportunity to meet success coaches, supplemental instructors, tutors, and peer academic coaches. This event will take place in the lower level of the Halle Library. For more information, contact LaTina Jackson at [ljackson3@emich.edu](mailto:ljackson3@emich.edu) or visit the Holman Success Center’s webpage.

## Student Employment Job Fair— Aug. 27, 2025

Looking for some part-time work on campus or in the local area? Stop by the Student Employment Job Fair on Wednesday, Aug. 27! At this job fair, students will have the chance to network with employers such as restaurants, retailers, local businesses, EMU campus departments and others.

The job fair will take place in the Student Center Ballroom from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, email John Carlson at [jcarls18@emich.edu](mailto:jcarls18@emich.edu) or call 734-487-0400.

## Center of Race and Ethnicity Welcome Party — Aug. 29, 2025

On Friday, Aug. 29, EMU’s Center of Race and Ethnicity will kick off the academic year with a celebration open to all students, staff and faculty. This celebration will take place from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in Student Center Ballroom A and will feature food, music, games, raffles, community-building opportunities and more.

The event is free, but attendees should RSVP using the Google form available on the EMU Today calendar website.

For more information, contact Sariah Metcalfe at [smetcal3@emich.edu](mailto:smetcal3@emich.edu) or call 734-487-2277.

## Black Pride Ypsi’s x Baddie Brooks: Come As You Are Open Mic Night — Aug. 30, 2025

Turn up the mic and enjoy an evening of community, music and talent! On Saturday, Aug. 30, Black Pride Ypsi will present an open mic night featuring Detroit-based singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Baddie Brooks. The event will take place from 7 to 10 p.m. at Sticks, an Ypsilanti bar located within an Aubree’s at 39 E. Cross Street #1972. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

This open mic is free, but attendees are encouraged to RSVP on Eventbrite. com. This event is restricted to attendees 21 years of age or older.

## Bee and Tea Time-Hibiscus — Aug. 30, 2025

Need some time to unwind after a hectic first week of classes? Try a relaxing creative workshop at Ypsilanti cafe Ohana Lounge! On Saturday, Aug. 30, The Be Creative Studio will be partnering with Ohana Lounge to present Bee and Tea Time-Hibiscus, a painting workshop where attendees can paint a piece of their own, enjoy some refreshing tropical tea, and listen to Afrobeats and island sounds. All attendees will receive one beverage for free, and refills will be available for purchase.

This event will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. at Ohana Lounge, at 11 E. Cross St. in Ypsilanti. Tickets cost \$44.52 and are available for purchase on Eventbrite. com.

## Soccer vs Robert Morris — Aug. 31, 2025

On Sunday, Aug. 31 from 1 to 3 p.m., the EMU women’s soccer team will face off against the Robert Morris Colonials at Scicluna Field. Don’t miss this chance to support the Eagles!

# The Eastern Echo's guide to EMU

*Allie Beecher*  
*Copy Desk Chief*

The start of the academic year can be an exciting yet nerve-wracking time for new and returning students. To help, The Eastern Echo created a brief guide to on campus resources including study spots, the bookstore, buying merch and more.

## Study spots on campus

While students can study anywhere, these are three options:

The Halle Library, at 955 W. Circle Drive, is a quiet space where students can reserve private study rooms. To reserve a study room, students can visit the library’s website.

The Student Center, at 900 Oakwood St., is a lively hub where Eagles can study, get a bite to eat, or spend time with friends.

The lower level of the Honors College, located at 511 W. Forest Ave, is a quiet space for students who work better with less noise. Although this space is in the Honors College, all students are welcome to use it.

## Bookstore and book purchases

As of July 1, 2025, EMU officially changed its campus bookstore provider to eCampus.com. The previous bookstore located in the Student Center is now permanently closed.

EMU Today stated eCampus.com was founded in 1999 and is a leader in virtual bookstore services. Currently, it provides services for over 150 institutions.

Students can find, rent or purchase their textbooks and other required course materials by visiting [emich.ecampus.com](http://emich.ecampus.com). To find the materials they need, students can click “Shop by Schedule” or “Shop by Courses” on the website’s homepage.

## Where to get merch

There are several websites and stores where students can purchase EMU merchandise to show off their school pride. For instance, Barnesmith sells college apparel such as sweatshirts, shirts and hats for more than 100 different colleges and universities, including EMU. Underground Printing also sells EMU apparel and offers free shipping for all orders over \$75.

Rally House is another place to find EMU merch, and there are several locations close to campus. In addition to offering clothing, such as shirts and sweatshirts, Rally House offers other merchandise, such as mugs, tumblers, picture frames, teddy bears, Christmas ornaments and more.

Moreover, students can find merchandise through the Honors



University Pond in front of the Student Center is home to koi fish and geese. Israel Shiki/The Eastern Echo

College. They can order the merch at the online EMU Honors College Apparel Store or visit the Honors College in person. Honors College merchandise includes sweatshirts, T-shirts, caps, mugs and more.

## Professional and career support

Whether students are looking for an internship or just exploring potential career paths, EMU’s Career Coaches are there to help. Career Coaches are professionals with experience in career development who help students figure out which careers may suit them best based on their interests, strengths and personalities.

To schedule an appointment with a Career Coach, students must create an account on Handshake, a job-searching platform for professional opportunities both on and off EMU’s campus. Handshake is similar to other job search platforms, but it is designed specifically for students. Students can use their EMU credentials to create an account.

Handshake accounts are completely free and provide students with many resources in addition to career coaching. For example, students can book appointments with a member of EMU’s career staff to receive feedback on their resumes, get help with writing a cover letter, or prepare for interviews.

Moreover, EMU offers the Career Closet, in 251 McKenny Hall. The Career Closet provides free access to

professional clothing and accessories for interviews, conferences, employment fairs and other similar events. Every semester, students may take and keep one free outfit, including shoes and accessories, from the Career Closet. During the fall and winter semesters, the Career Closet is open Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To learn more about the Career Closet, visit the University Advising & Career Development Center’s website.

## Mental health support

On campus, EMU Counseling and Psychological Services is committed to supporting students’ mental health needs. CAPS provides individual, couples, and group counseling; crisis intervention; limited psychiatry appointments for medication; educational workshops; and more. Any student enrolled at least half-time is eligible to receive care from CAPS. To learn more or set up an appointment, visit the CAPS page on EMU’s website.

CAPS also provides support during emergency situations. For an emergency that occurs during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., students can call CAPS at 734-487-1118 or go to the Campus Wellness Center at 1075 N. Huron River Drive.

For emergencies that occur outside of those hours, students still have several options, including calling CAPS at the same phone number for after-hours

crisis counseling, calling 911, going to a local emergency department, or calling the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988. More emergency resources are available on the CAPS website.

## Fun facts about EMU

- EMU was founded in 1849 as the Michigan State Normal School
- It is the second-oldest public university in Michigan
- The Princeton Review has named EMU a Best in the Midwest college since 2003
- EMU’s students come from 47 different states and 83 different countries
- The oldest remaining building on EMU’s campus is Starkweather Hall, built in 1896
- More than 300 majors, minors and concentrations are offered
- There are five different colleges within EMU: Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, Health and Human Services, and the GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology
- There are over 150 student organizations on campus, ranging from choirs and a cappella groups to professional organizations to sports clubs
- **Bonus:** *The Eastern Echo* was originally called The Normal News



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# The Eastern Echo summer check-in: What have our editors been up to?

## Editorial

From pursuing internships to taking on new leadership positions to traveling the country, *The Eastern Echo's* editors have been busy this summer!

Let's take a look and see what they've been up to so far.

**Ameera Salman, Editor-in-Chief**  
*Journalism Major, Urban Studies Minor*

"This summer I am working full-time. I self-published my second poetry book this summer and am prioritizing revisiting my hobbies like reading and cooking. I'll be going on a few trips, visiting Florida, Georgia, and North and South Carolina!"

**Max Taylor, Photo Editor**  
*Digital Media Production Major*

"Over the summer, I've been continuing work at *The Echo* full time, with my project this summer being organizing our photo archives in our database, going through all of our photo equipment, and beginning the process of setting up a permanent studio space in our office! Besides work, I've been busy preparing for the EMUMB's 131st season, as this time I'll be marching with the EMU Drumline! In my spare time, I've been catching up on a lot of movies, hanging out with friends, attending concerts, and spending time up north."

**Gray Connor, Podcast Editor**  
*Media Studies and Journalism Major*

"This summer, I've been doing a lot of catch-up work. I'm pretty busy

throughout the school year, so this summer is dedicated to making my bank happier. The most exciting part has been accepting the position of vice president of Eagle Filmmakers Association, an EMU club dedicated to getting those interested in all things digital media the opportunity to work hands-on with a camera!"

**Caleb Henderson, Sports Editor**  
*Journalism Major*

"This summer has been a hectic but fulfilling one thus far. From embracing my new promotion at *The Echo* to working overnights to hanging out with friends and studying for the LSAT in between, I've been trying to enjoy my last summer of undergrad to the fullest. Recently, I've also begun to start reading again, along with doing some traveling with a return trip to Boston."

**Natalie Kyle, Social Media Manager**  
*Communication Technology Major*

"I've been working three jobs this summer to help pay tuition and pursue new opportunities. One of these is the Digital Summer Clinic, where I have been growing my web design and social media skills and developing as a young professional. In the rare times that I haven't been working this summer, I've enjoyed caring for my large collection of plants and traipsing around Depot Town. Before the summer ends, I hope to take a trip to Cedar Point and retreat to somewhere quiet up North!"

**Rylee Curley, Design Chief**  
*Arts Management Administration*



The Eastern Echo's mascot Scoop is happy to be enjoying the summer!  
*Rylee Curley/The Eastern Echo*

**Major**

"I'm currently interning remotely at Indiecade to create my first game! The game is called Orbyter, and it follows the journey of a space explorer crash landing on Earth, forced to navigate harsh disasters due to climate change. In my rare moments of downtime, I've been catching up with friends at the beach! The summer sun has been great this year."

**Quanzelle Wyatt, Business Manager**  
*Communication, Media, and Theatre*

**Arts Major; Simulation, Animation and Gaming Minor**

"I've been taking summer classes and looking toward graduating in August. I'm currently working for the esports program as their marketing intern and have been involved with Michigan Student Action. I've also recently released a merch store that is focused on creating activist merch that speaks to the current climate in the U.S. right now."

**Gabriella Payeur, Marketing Director**

**Marketing Major**

"I started my summer by taking two online classes, macro and microeconomics. Outside of those, I have spent time relaxing with family and volunteering at the Humane Society of Huron Valley. For the rest of the summer, I plan to do much of the same while traveling to Washington DC and Traverse City, all while still writing and loving my new position at *The Echo*."

**Allie Beecher, Copy Desk Chief**  
*Business and Public Relations Double Major*

"This summer, I am taking on three exciting jobs! In addition to my role at *The Echo*, I am working as a digital marketing intern for a company called AdAdapted. I also work with Eastern Michigan University's orientation team; I am part of O-Team, a group of student orientation leaders who train Connect Group Leaders to facilitate a positive EMU Connect experience. In my free time, I am enjoying the summer sun and time with my friends, family and puppy."

**Braylen Wallace, Copy Editor**  
*English Major, Creative Writing Concentration*

"This summer, I've mostly been job searching, trying to save for the upcoming fall semester. It took me a while to find something, but I'm glad it was *The Echo* that I found."

All of *The Echo's* editors hope students are enjoyed their summer and made the most of the final few weeks!

## Need some coffee? A short walk offers cups



An Ypsilanti mural promotes the town on the side of Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea. *Max Taylor/The Eastern Echo*

**Gabriella Payeur**  
*Marketing Director*

As the fall 2025 semester begins, many students start losing sleep. Thankfully, for the sleep-deprived on campus, there is no shortage of nearby coffee shops.

**Sweetwaters — 0.8 miles, 3 minutes**

Sweetwaters is at 735 W. Cross St. According to Google Maps they are 0.8 miles away, about a three minute drive from the Student Center at Eastern Michigan University. Sweetwaters operates 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday

through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Drink prices range from \$2 to \$7, with the average price being about \$5. Food prices range from \$1 to \$7, with the average price being about \$4. They offer online ordering and delivery.

**Northern Grind — 1.1 miles, 4 minutes**

Northern Grind is at 317 W. Cross St. According to Google Maps they are 1.1 miles away, about a four minute drive from the Student Center. They are open all week 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Drink prices range from \$2 to \$9, with the average price being about \$4. Food prices range from \$2 to \$10, with the average price being about \$6. Northern Grind features online ordering for in-store pickup.

**Cafe Liv — 1.5 miles, 5 minutes**

Cafe Liv is at 202 N. Washington St. According to Google Maps they are 1.5 miles away, about a five minute drive from the Student Center. They are open all week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. They do not offer online ordering and do not list their prices online; however, Google reports Cafe Liv costs \$1 to \$10 per person.

**Vertex Coffee Roasters — 1.6 miles, 6 minutes**

Vertex Coffee Roasters is at 307 N. River St. The shop is about a six minute drive, 1.6 miles from the Student Center. They operate from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Drink prices range from \$3 to \$5, with the average price being about \$4. Food prices range from \$7 to \$11, with the average price being about \$9. They do not offer online ordering.

**Hyperion Co. — 1.7 miles, 7 minutes**

Hyperion Co. is at 306 N. River St., Suite D. According to Google Maps it is about a seven minute drive from the Student Center, 1.7 miles away. They are open all week from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Drink prices range from \$3 to \$7, with the average price being about \$5. While several kinds of food and sweet treats are offered at Hyperion Co., they do not list the prices, the options or offer online ordering.

**Stimulatte Cafe — 3.6 miles, 11 minutes**

Stimulatte Cafe is at 1816 Whittaker

Rd. According to Google Maps, it is 3.6 miles from the Student Center, about an 11 minute drive. They are open Monday though Friday 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. On Saturday they are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and on Sunday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Drink prices range from \$2 to \$7, with the average price being about \$5. They offer brunch, ranging from \$3 to \$12, with the average price being about \$7. They offer online ordering and delivery. Read more about Stimulatte Cafe from *The Eastern Echo* here.

**Socotra Coffee House — 4.2 miles, 11 minutes**

Socotra Coffee House is at 3130 Packard St. According to Google Maps, it is 4.2 miles from the Student Center, about an 11 minute drive. They are open Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. On Fridays and Saturdays they are open 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. On Sundays they are open 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Drink prices range from \$2 to \$7, with the average price being about \$6. They offer food but it is not listed on their website. They offer online ordering and delivery.



# The Eastern Echo

# We're hiring!

## Multiple positions available!

Get more info at:  
easternecho.com/page/hiring



# Eastern Michigan football 2025 preview: An opportunity at redemption?

**Caleb Henderson**  
*Sports Editor*

In 2024, the Eastern Michigan University football team found itself riding high at the midpoint of October with an 18-point comeback win in front of a Homecoming crowd against in-state rival Central Michigan University. This win propelled the green and white to a 5-2 record, just one win shy of bowl eligibility for what would have been the fourth straight year.

The Eagles proceeded to not win another game for the remainder of the campaign; losing five straight to end 2024 with a disappointing 5-7 record.

However, a new year brings about a fresh start and fresh expectations for a program that’s been busy making pivotal moves throughout the winter and the spring.

“We’re excited for a new clean slate here in 2025,” Eagles head coach Chris Creighton said.

Creighton returns for his 12th season at the helm having completely changed the culture and fortunes of the program since his arrival in Ypsilanti.

The 56-year-old delivered the Eagles their first winning record in over two decades in his third season at the helm, and is one of seven coaches currently active in the Football Bowl Subdivision with 180 wins to his name or more.

With nearly three decades of coaching experience under his belt, the former college quarterback had no issues refocusing his team following a rough finish to the year prior and getting them ready for the spring—one that brought about a bevy of changes.

“There’s a hunger—the [new] guys that have come, there’s a reason why they came; and the guys that have stayed, there’s a reason why they stayed. They believe in who we are and how we do it, and we’ve got what it takes, we just need to bring it all together,” Creighton said.

2025 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE	AUGUST 30: @ TEXAS STATE	SEPTEMBER 27: @ C. MICHIGAN	OCTOBER 25: VS. OHIO
	SEPTEMBER 6: VS. LIU	OCTOBER 4: @ BUFFALO	NOVEMBER 8: VS. BOWLING GREEN
	SEPTEMBER 13: @ KENTUCKY	OCTOBER 11: VS. N. ILLINOIS	NOVEMBER 15: @ BALL STATE
	SEPTEMBER 20: VS. LOUISIANA	OCTOBER 18: @ MIAMI (OH)	NOVEMBER 25: VS. W. MICHIGAN



Eastern Michigan's tight end celebrates a touchdown against Akron during a thrilling matchup in 2023. Courtesy of Eastern Athletics

One of those major changes in the offseason was the groundbreaking announcement that NFL superstar Maxx Crosby had been named the assistant general manager of Eastern Michigan’s football team—the first active professional football player to join a college team’s administrative staff.

Crosby’s landmark hire marks the pinnacle of the numerous ways that the Las Vegas Raider has given back to his alma mater.

Between donating \$1 million to the program in 2024 and seeing the playing surface at Rynearson Stadium renamed to “Crosby Field,” establishing the

“Maxx Match” initiative, and inspiring the coaching staff to award the team’s top edge rusher his iconic No. 92; the former fourth round NFL draft pick now turned one of the best players in the league has left his imprint on his old squad, and then some.

“This is [Crosby’s] team, and that’s always going to be true. The number of people he continues to positively inspire and impact is hard to count,” said Creighton of Crosby’s vast impact.

Another major change to the squad in 2025 will be under center.

Last year, former Rutgers and Buffalo starting quarterback Cole Snyder started all 12 games for the

Eagles—throwing for 2,684 yards, 15 touchdowns, and nine interceptions.

With the 25-year-old having been signed to the Canadian Football League’s Edmonton Elks, it leaves a gaping hole at the starting quarterback spot that Michigan State transfer Noah Kim, Maryland transfer Cameron Edge, Jeremiah Salem, and Jace Stuckey have all been vying to fill.

While Ourlads scouting services has the graduate transfer Kim as the leader in the clubhouse for QB1; Creighton remained diplomatic about who will open the action against Texas State in the season opener during MAC’s media day toward the end of July.

“We’ve got a good group of quarterbacks, they work really well together, and we’re certain that we’ll have, whoever ends up [starting], a great leader for us,” he said.

Despite uncertainty at the sport’s most important position, Creighton has kept his expectations high for the 2025 iteration of the Eastern Michigan football team with one goal in mind: a MAC championship appearance.

“My expectations are for us to be playing our best football at the end of the season, and if I’m being completely honest—I believe that we can be here [Ford Field],” he said.



Redshirt sophomore Ella Holland, a goalkeeper from Dunwoody, Georgia, represents EMU. Courtesy of Eastern Athletics

## EMU women’s soccer loses season opener to Cinncinati

**Caleb Henderson**  
*Sports Editor*

It was not the start to 2025 that the Eastern Michigan women's soccer team was hoping for.

The Eagles' unbeaten streak at Scicluna Field came to an end at the hands of non conference foe Cincinnati - the Power Four opponent flexing their muscles in the second half to pull away and knock off the green and white, 4-0.

Eastern Michigan kept things close in the first half, allowing a goal in the 11th minute to Cincinnati's Maddie Swingle on a penalty kick to trail 1-0, but otherwise keeping the Bearcats scoreless during the first frame.

The second half however, was a vastly different story.

Things began to unravel for the home team after Faith Broering put the ball into the back of the net in the 56th minute following a corner kick, giving Cincinnati a 2-0 lead.

Another corner kick just a few minutes later led to Maddie Swingle's second goal of the day in the 61st minute, putting the Bearcats up 3-0; and Bryana Gaynor's goal in the 65th minute firmly put the contest out of reach - the road team taking a 4-0 advantage that they would not relinquish.

Cincinnati had 19 total shots throughout the course of the 90 minute match compared to Eastern Michigan's six, with eight of those Bearcats shots being on goal and four going into the back of the net.

The Eagles suffered their first home loss under head coach Taylor Clarke, also collecting multiple yellow cards in the second half of the match in a season opener to forget for the green and white.

Eastern Michigan will return to action aiming to secure their first win of the new campaign at home against UIC for "Back to School Night" on Aug. 21.

## EMU alum Gunnar Oakes signs with Detroit Lions



Gunnar Oakes, EMU alum, recently signed to the Detroit Lions. Courtesy of Eastern Athletics

**Caleb Henderson**  
*Sports Editor*

Following two productive seasons with the United Football League’s Michigan Panthers that saw the Eastern Michigan University alum secure All-UFL honors this year, Gunnar Oakes has received the NFL opportunity he had longed for.

“I’m hoping [an NFL team] gives me a shot after the season,” Oakes said

in an interview with *The Eastern Echo* just over three months ago.

That shot has now come with the Detroit Lions. The team announced Aug. 10, 2025, that they have signed the former Eagle to their 90-man preseason roster ahead of the team’s third preseason game against the Dolphins.

Oakes posted 14 catches, 162 yards, and two touchdowns for the Michigan Panthers in 2025 and will now join the

likes of Sam LaPorta, Brock Wright and others in a crowded Lions tight end room.

Now 26-years-old, Oakes played in 49 games while at Eastern Michigan, starting 15 of them. He posted 56 receptions for 621 yards and two touchdowns during his time as an Eagle from 2017-22.

The former Michigan Panther now becomes the 43rd UFL player signed to an NFL team, according to UFL analyst Michael Del Negro.



# 'Fantastic Four' balances thrilling action with loving family moments



Courtesy of Marvel Studios

Allie Beecher  
Copy Desk Chief

## Review

It's the moment Marvel fans have been waiting for, "The Fantastic Four: First Steps," directed by Matt Shakman, hit theaters on July 25, 2025.

Starring Pedro Pascal as Reed Richards (Mister Fantastic), Vanessa Kirby as his wife Sue Storm (Invisible Woman), Joseph Quinn as his brother-in-law Johnny Storm (Human Torch),

and Ebon Moss-Bachrach as his best friend Ben Grimm (the Thing), the film follows the Fantastic Four as they save planet Earth from Galactus, a villainous space god who devours planets, and his herald the Silver Surfer. However, this time, the Fantastic Four family has a new member to protect, Franklin, Sue and Reed's newborn son. When Galactus demands Franklin in exchange for sparing Earth, the Fantastic Four must fight to protect both their planet and their family.

### Highs

The strong relationship that bonds the Fantastic Four make it clear that they are not just superhero partners; they are a family who care deeply for one another. Their moments of funny family banter add engaging humor to the film.

The chemistry between Reed and Sue shines throughout the movie. Although "The Fantastic Four: First Steps" is an action movie, it also includes beautiful, tender moments between the married couple, such as Sue telling Reed she is pregnant with Franklin and Reed holding her close and encouraging her when she later gives birth.

Ben Grimm and his gruff but caring personality is endearing, and his brotherly relationship with Johnny Storm has many humorous moments that keep you laughing.

Moreover, the movie features thrilling action scenes that are sure to keep audiences on the edge of their seats. For example, the immersive sound effects and well-done visuals in the scene where the Fantastic Four finally confront and defeat Galactus make the audience feel almost as if they are there beside the heroes, fighting

with everything they have to keep Earth safe.

Finally, the film does a good job of humanizing Reed Richards. He may be Mr. Fantastic, the powerful superhero everyone loves, but he is also a new father who must find a way to reconcile his great love for his family with his love and care for the people of Earth. He knows the Fantastic Four must save Earth, but he cannot give up his newborn son to Galactus. Audience members can see the mental anguish and uncertainty he endures as he tries desperately to find a solution that will save both the planet and his son.

### Lows

"The Fantastic Four: First Steps" is unbelievable at times. For instance, after people learn that the Fantastic Four could save the Earth by giving up Franklin to Galactus, they are furious that Reed and Sue refuse to give up their son. They begin to turn on the Fantastic Four, holding protests in the streets and demanding that they give Galactus the baby so he will spare Earth. However, all of their anger immediately seems to fade away as soon as Sue gives a speech about how, while the Fantastic Four will be protecting Franklin, they will also find a way to

protect Earth. While Sue's speech is heartfelt, it seems unlikely that people would immediately abandon the anger they feel toward the Fantastic Four after just hearing a few words, after all, her speech does not change the fact that there is still a hungry space god determined to destroy them all.

It would have been very interesting if the movie had given Galactus a more detailed origin story. Longtime Marvel fans are likely familiar with his origin story, but newer fans and those unfamiliar with the Marvel universe may have questions. Was Galactus always a villain? If not, how did he become one? The movie gives an origin story to the Silver Surfer, and it would be even more interesting if it included more of Galactus's origins.

"The Fantastic Four: First Steps" is a thrilling superhero movie that excels at balancing heart-pounding action with heartwarming family moments. It is well worth the watch for longtime Marvel fans, newer fans, and even those who are unfamiliar with Marvel but would like to see a good movie.

**Rating: 9 out of 10**

Allie Beecher is the copy desk chief and a staff writer for The Eastern Echo. This is her first review.

# 'F1' movie supplies visual interest with a lackluster story

Gabriella Payeur  
Marketing Director

## Review

"F1" is a movie that brings the thrill of motorsport to the big screen. It follows Sonny Hayes, played by Brad Pitt, as he returns to the world of Formula One after an injury at the 1993 Spanish Grand Prix. Alongside him is rookie Joshua Pearce, played by Damson Idris, battling to prove himself and keep his spot on his failing team, the fictional APXGP.

APXGP is entering its third season in Formula One with not a single point scored. Hayes' old friend and racing rival Ruben Cervantes, played by Javier Bardem, owns the team, and if the team can't get a win by the end of the season, Cervantes is going to be forced to sell the team he has spent over \$300 million building.

The movie plays out to be a classic story about an underdog rising to the top, with Sonny and Joshua battling out egos before bonding and realizing they both have something to learn from each other.

**WARNING: CONTAINS SPOILERS**

### Highs

The movie's filming strategy creates a deep sense of realism. It was filmed during real Formula One races, during which professional racers drove real Formula One cars.

While the actors did not drive Formula One cars, they drove look-alike cars with speeds and technology closer to Formula 3 cars.

Dynamic camera angles also provide a 360-scope of the racing. Cameras are shooting from the front of the car, the back, overtop, in front, and more.

For overtaking scenes not filmed in real life, the studio used CGI to put the APXGP car livery onto the car that was overtaking.

Additionally, helmet cameras capture the feeling inside the race car, putting the audience right into the car and the intense experience of driving it.

To maintain the realism of the film,

Hayes' and Pearce's competitors are actual Formula One drivers from the 2023 and 2024 seasons. Even non-Formula One fans will see recognizable faces, such as Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton. The latter even worked as a producer on the film.

The concept of the film is unique, which is enhanced by the original soundtrack. The score is by Hans Zimmer, and it helps build tension, increasing the audience's adrenaline without the characters needing to say a word. "F1: Original Movie Soundtrack" features artists such as Tate McRae, Ed Sheeran, Doja Cat and more. The score and album are seamlessly blended to flow as one, which entices the audience and heightens the emotions in each scene.

The movie also brings its own uniqueness to an old trope, the story of an underdog coming out on top, with an old-timer and a rookie who cannot quite get along. Even though the trope has been used many times before, the strong character development arcs in "F1" make the story compelling. The movie addresses many aspects of character development; it takes on ego, patience, drive, friendship, open-mindedness, and more.

As shown with the action scenes, the fast-paced story wastes no time throwing the audience into the fray. The story hardly ever slows down, and yet it still develops characters and tells a cohesive story.

### Lows

Despite the lengths gone to achieve realism, the film does not end up being very realistic. Even to non-Formula One fans, there is a great deal of drama that comes across as over-the-top in many scenes.

Two such scenes are the major crashes of Pearce and Hayes. Both are very real possibilities, with Pearce's crash resembling that of Romain Grosjean's in 2020. However, with similar injuries, Pearce only missed three races, while Grosjean missed the final two of the season and did not race again until four months after his crash.

Another scene has Hayes pull several stunts that would have gotten him banned before he could get the needed

win. From purposely stalling the car to crashing into other drivers, Hayes' unsportsmanlike behavior would have had him sent to the FIA Stewards for a stern talking-to after every race.

For Formula One fans, smaller things may get on their nerves. MacBooks are used for technical data, the drivers do not have personal trainers, the public relations person for the team walks out while two drivers are fighting, and Hayes starts a flying lap right after he spun out during testing.

Furthermore, while the story tries to empower and include women, there are only three female characters who have names, and none of them ever talk to each other, let alone about something other than a man.

Some of the female characters do not get many lines at all; for example, the PR manager, played by Simone Ashley, only has a few lines.

Even the super quick female mechanic Jodie (played by Callie Cooke) is first introduced to the audience as she stumbles around the garage and messes up Pearce's pit-stop.

A side character who only joins the screen for three lines receives the most stereotypical and misogynistic lines of the whole film. She asks Pearce who he races for, tells him she doesn't know that team, then gleefully asks if he can introduce her to Carlos Sainz. This interaction could suggest that this is what misogynistic Formula One fans think every female fan is like.

One of the main characters, Kate McKenna, played by Kerry Condon, is a highly intelligent woman trying to prove herself in a male-dominated field. She designs the car and winds up delivering the drivers a race-winning car, but only with the help of feedback from Hayes.

Out of all the female characters, McKenna gets the most development. However, it is not deep or well-explained, and it mostly centers around her becoming Hayes' love interest.

There are also plot holes for the developed characters. For instance, Hayes has an obsession with playing cards. He throws them and always takes a random card in his pocket during races. The one time he does not, he gets angry and crashes.



Courtesy of formula1.com.

The reasoning and symbolism of these cards is never fully revealed. Hayes used to be a gambling addict, and his dad, who passed away when he was 13, taught him how to gamble. However, the film never shows the audience why Hayes' dad is so important to him or how his dad influenced Hayes.

The audience sees Hayes get nervous in the car a handful of times, such as when he did not have his card, which shows hesitation and self-destructive recklessness. It hints at wanting to explore mental health and the repercussions of a crash as serious as the one Hayes had, but it never does.

Moreover, the movie hints at Hayes having a back injury from his infamous crash several times. However, they explore this only in the last 30 minutes, when the team discovers the screws in his spine. Still, he goes on to the track and wins the race. During the race, he gets dizzy, presumably from the back injury, but that is only shown and never explored further.

Not only is that frustratingly inconclusive for the audience, it is also extremely inaccurate to the world of Formula One. Teams do extensive medical checks and Formula One's governing body, the FIA. If a racer had an injury that extreme, the team and FIA would know about it, and Hayes would have to prove that he was stable and could race safely.

This also means the ending feels unsatisfying. While the team gets their big win and Cervantes can maintain

ownership, the subplots get tied up with looser ends.

For example, Hayes and McKenna agree to see each other again before Hayes runs off to the desert to race in Baja for a small team.

This could signify Hayes has gotten his love for racing back, as he declared that is why he came back to Formula One. However, it just feels thrown in after the buildup of the final win and a series of dizzy spells during the race.

Finally, the only ending Pearce gets is Hayes telling him APXGP is now his team to call the shots for.

### Verdict

"F1" is an action-packed, visually interesting movie with a decent story. For casual Formula One fans, or even people who have never watched Formula One, this movie will be great.

For hardcore Formula One fans, it will be hard not to pick apart the over-dramatization and small aspects of the film. There are enough cameos to excite them, but the over-the-top drama will earn the movie a few eye rolls.

Content note: "F1" contains scenes of flashing lights, which may trigger seizures for those with photosensitive epilepsy.

**Rating: 4 out of 10**

Gabriella Payeur is the Marketing Director for The Eastern Echo. She has worked for The Echo since summer of 2024. She has written news stories and reviews.



Instagram @easternechoofficial



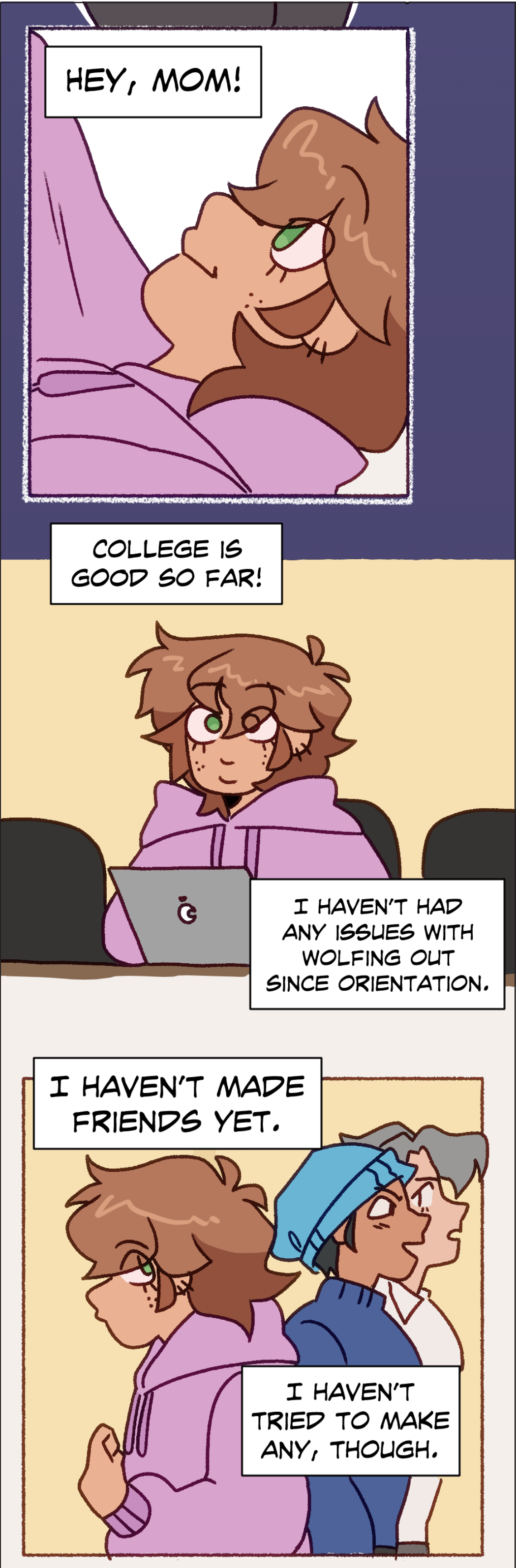
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Moonlight 10-1 | Funkyl0af, Comics Artist



Global Reality | Rylee Curley, Design Chief



Need for Sleep | Yiri, Comics Artist



## WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the back to school words?

Z	X	Y	H	I	F	C	R	O	T	O	G	I	S
L	R	O	S	S	E	F	O	R	P	K	G	D	P
D	U	E	A	G	L	E	F	E	S	T	K	Y	I
S	K	B	Z	X	K	S	O	P	J	K	D	U	E
F	I	V	Y	U	C	T	S	D	H	U	Y	N	R
B	N	W	J	M	L	I	T	R	T	B	R	I	J
U	G	F	G	X	A	V	C	S	L	N	H	V	V
J	H	Q	N	L	S	A	Y	J	P	K	U	E	C
C	A	M	P	U	S	L	I	F	E	N	H	R	X
B	L	K	H	L	R	T	Y	H	J	M	X	S	F
L	L	P	T	D	O	S	D	S	G	U	V	I	G
D	J	G	F	C	O	X	C	D	V	T	F	T	B
W	F	I	L	X	M	I	Y	X	C	U	Q	Y	H
C	O	H	C	E	N	R	E	T	S	A	E	W	J

EagleFest

University

Festival

EasternEcho

Professor

CampusLife

King Hall

Study

Autumn

Classroom

Scoop says...



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# Back-to-School Bingo!

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Ride the bus	Visit the koi pond	Watch the sunset	Visit the rock garden in the Science Complex
Take a pic with Swoop	Follow The Eastern Echo on social media	Take a pic of campus art	Doodle Scoop (our mascot!)
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