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Icy Campus Frustrates Students



The Student Center following the first snowfall of the year.

ANDREW LENZO | THE EASTERN ECHO

Dominic Sevilla

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News Editor

Eastern Michigan University students were met with cold temperatures and a slick commute to and through campus with freezing rain hitting the area Tuesday evening.

Campus was covered in sheets of ice, and road conditions in the area were affected by the rain freezing the ground and cars.

"I think it is super dangerous," junior Lauren Antle on her walk to class said. "The fact that people are walking through the snow and grass because the sheet of ice on the sidewalk. Last year when it was like [this], I was hanging onto two complete strangers to get to Pray-Harrold."

The freezing rain started around 6 p.m. on Tuesday with the lowest temperature earlier in the day being 2 degrees below zero. Although not as cold when the freezing rain started, this temperature was cold enough throughout the day to cause frozen surfaces. This continued on and off until around 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

Makenzie Williams, a senior at EMU, also found the conditions unsettling.

"It is ridiculous," she said. "We are mostly a commuter school and to expect people to walk and drive on the ice is not ok. The only reason I did not have class is because my professor drove into a ravine."

An anonymous member of the EMU community did not have an easy commute either. "The weather made it longer, and I was late getting in," they said. "I had to jog

through the snow to try to be on time, but getting to the center of campus was not easy."

Washtenaw Community College (WCC) did close morning classes due to the weather. "The WCC main campus is closed on Wednesday Jan. 23 due to weather conditions," WCC said in a tweet. "The college's Brighton and Hartland are also closed."

In another tweet, WCC added: "Update: The WCC main campus will open for business at 1 p.m. today, Wednesday, Jan 23. Afternoon and evening classes scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. and later will meet as scheduled. Employees scheduled to work should report to campus by 1 p.m."

EMU's campus and classes, however, took place as normal.

JUMP TO PG. 3

News Brief

Andrew Lenzo Managing Editor

President Trump signed a spending bill that reopened the government on Friday. The deal came 35 days into the longest shutdown in U.S. history.

The bill will fund the government until Feb. 15, giving the president and congressional leaders time to negotiate a new deal. It doesn't include any money for a border wall.

In a speech at the Rose Garden, Trump announced he'd be ready to declare a national emergency or shutdown the government again if Democrats don't agree to wall funding in a future spending bill.

"The wall should not be controversial," Trump said. "Every career border patrol agent I have spoken with has told me that walls work."

Nearly 800,000 federal workers were affected with some working without pay. Trump has promised back-pay for all workers affected by the shutdown and thanked them for not complaining and caring about their country's border security.

Trump's willingness to sign the spending bill came after it was clear that Democratic leaders in the House and Senate wouldn't support any plant that included funding for a steel wall along the Mexico-U.S. border.

"No one should underestimate the speaker," Sen. Chuck Schumer said following Trump's announcement to sign the deal. "Our democrats stay unified."

The shutdown hurt Trump's approval rating, going from 42.2 percent to 39.3 percent over the span of the shutdown, according to FiveThirtyEight.

You can watch Trump's full address from the Rose Garden at easternecho.com.

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