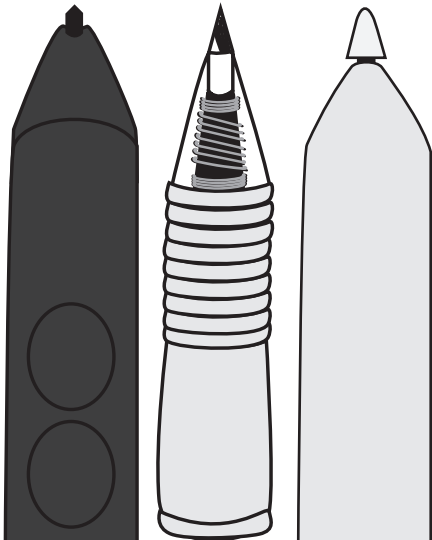
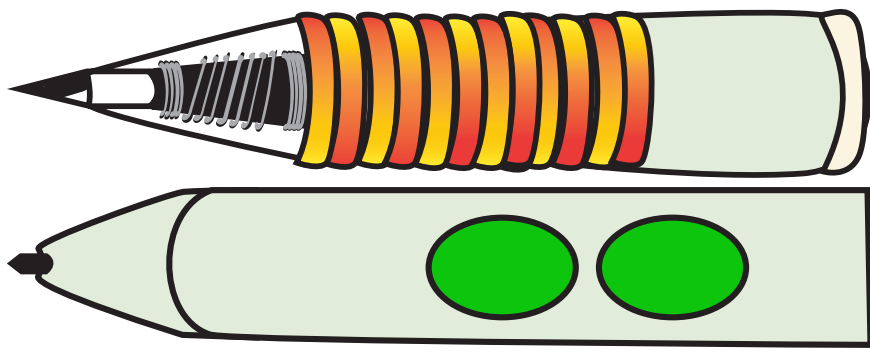




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Welcome
(back) to
campus

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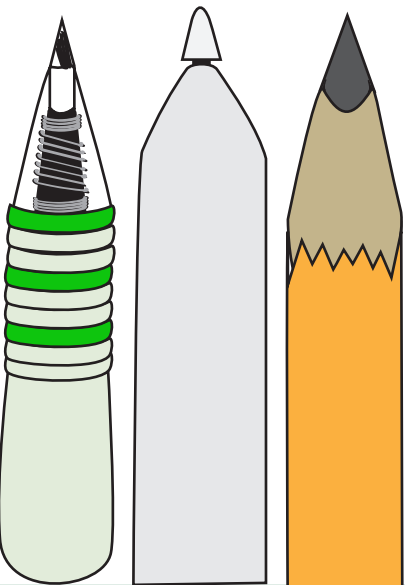
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Negotiations between EMU and its lecturers continue

AMEERA SALMAN
CELLAR ROOTS EIC

As students prepared to return for fall class, Eastern Michigan University and its lecturers are attempting to wrap up a new contract.

The current agreement expires Aug. 31, and fall classes begin Aug. 28.

"It is frustrating. ... We had really hoped for our members' sake and our students' sake that the contract would be wrapped up by now and we would have achieved a good, fair contract for the people that are covering more than 40% of the credit hours at EMU," said Anke Wolbert, a lecturer who serves as vice president of the union.

The EMU Federation of Teachers represents roughly 520 part-time lecturers, 69 full-time lecturers and three library staff,

according to the EMUFT.

The university administration declined to speak in detail about the issues, but has requested a state-appointed mediator and included its own legal representation during many of the negotiation sessions.

"Both bargaining teams are working diligently to identify common ground," EMU vice president of communications Walter Kraft said in an emailed response. "Additionally, a state-appointed mediator is in place to assist in the process of obtaining a successful outcome in which all parties are satisfied."

The new contract, in negotiations throughout the summer between the union and the university, covers everything from compensation, workload, parking and healthcare.

"So if you were hired 10 years ago...

what do those salary growths look like? For faculty, you've increased your salary by about 40%, for full-time lecturers, you've increased your salary by a little under 30% and for part-time lecturers it's a little under 20%," said Jeremy Proulx, a full-time lecturer of philosophy at EMU and co-lead negotiator for the union.

"We're not asking for salary equity with faculty, but we do think salary growth needs to be equitable across campus," said Proulx.

Since their bargaining kick-off rally March 17, union leaders have met with EMU administrators more than a dozen times to discuss contract negotiations. The state-appointed mediator, requested by the university, joined proceedings mid-June to help both parties come to an agreement.

Bargaining priorities for the lecturers union include livable salaries for both

part- and full-time lecturers, mitigation of healthcare costs and manageable workload expectations outside of the classroom.

Continued on page 2



Restaurants open late near campus

VICTORIA SMITH
CONTENT EDITOR

As a college student, there are often times in which one will have to pull an all-nighter in order to complete homework assignments or study for exams. According to Dine on Campus, Eastern Michigan University's dining and market locations all close by 10:30 p.m., with all restaurant-style locations closing earlier.

There are some food locations in Ypsilanti that are open late and are all within a 22-minute walk from Eastern's Student Center, according to Apple Maps. Here are five restaurants that are open until at least 12 a.m.

1. Insomnia Cookies

Insomnia Cookies is located at 733 W. Cross St., and it is a 15-minute walk from the Student Center. The chain is known for its locations being near college campuses, allowing students the opportunity to appease

late-night cravings for sweets. They offer classic cookies, such as red velvet and chocolate chunk, and they also offer deluxe cookies. A selection of vegan cookies are available, as well. Customers can purchase these cookies individually, or they can purchase them in packs. Additional items sold are different flavors of ice cream, brownies and milk, with bottles of water also available.

2. The Wurst Bar

The Wurst Bar is located at 705 W. Cross St., with the projected walking time being listed as 16 minutes from the Student Center. Opened in 2013, The Wurst Bar is known for its burgers and house-made wursts. Wursts



can be ordered on either a brioche or pretzel bun, and a selection of toppings can be added. The bar also sells an array of snack foods, such as their Bavarian pretzels. The Wurst Bar also hosts Bingo Night weekly on Tuesdays starting at 9 p.m.

3. STUFD

Located at 505 W. Cross St., STUFD is

19 minutes away in walking distance. This restaurant specializes in burritos, tacos, chimichangas, quesadillas and nachos. It also offers a variety of protein options: steak, grilled chicken, shredded beef, shredded chicken and tofu. There are also vegetarian options available. After selecting their protein options, customers are able to select desired add-ons, free of charge. If a desert is craved, one can also choose from the restaurant's churros, fried candy bar or cookies. As food



is being prepared, customers also have the opportunity to play a game of foosball, with the table being located down the stairs of the establishment.

4. D.P. Dough

D.P. Dough is located at 729 W. Cross St. Approximately a 15-minute walk from the Student Center, this establishment is known for its calzones and chicken wings. Regarding calzones, customers can choose from a certain calzone on the menu, or they can build their own. When choosing to build one, customers can select from a variety

of proteins, vegetables, cheeses, sauces to be placed in the calzone, and sauces to be served on the side. Tater tots and different



types of sticks, including cinnamon sticks, are available.

5. Got Burger!

Got Burger! is located at 301 W. Cross St., encompassing a 22-minute walk. Although "burger" is in the restaurant's name, different food items are sold. Shawarma, chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, chicken wings, and wraps are listed on the menu, alongside a variety of sides. They also sell a multitude of flavored smoothies, such as mango, peach and strawberry.

Hours

Monday-Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 1 a.m., Thursday-Saturday: 10 a.m. to 3 a.m.

Although Eastern may close its dining locations earlier in the night, students have options when it comes to feeding their late-night appetites. With these locations being in walking distance from Eastern's Student Center, students can ensure their schoolwork will not be completed on an empty stomach.

PHOTO CREDIT: VICTORIA SMITH

EMU Marching Band heads into its 129th season with high enrollment numbers

NAJAT HACHEMICL
REPORTER

This year marks the 129th season of Eastern Michigan University's Marching Band (EMUMB). Despite the university's enrollment numbers gradually decreasing, the marching band's enrollment numbers have seen an increase this school year.

"While this is not the largest enrollment in the history of the EMU Marching Band, it still represents a significant achievement that, while the university's enrollment has been gradually decreasing, our enrollment is spiking. We are up 70% since COVID-19 (2020)," EMU's Marching Band Director, J. Nick Smith said.

In 2019, the marching band's enrollment stood at 153. In 2020, that number decreased to 101. In the current year, however, enrollment for the band has reached 170, with the possibility of that number increasing as the university heads into the fall 2023 semester.

"The marching band is a team-based

organization that operates with a variety of staff, graduate students, and faculty," Smith said. "It takes the full force of all of these individuals for our organization to be successful and fulfill the roles we have accepted as ambassadors for EMU, our alumni, and our football team."

Beginning Aug. 18, leaders of the marching band will attend Leadership Camp. This two-day camp provides an opportunity for these students to train, learn and engage in leadership discussions and activities. Following that is Band Camp beginning Aug. 20-27. It is done as "3-a-days," going from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Students work as a unit through fundamentals as they learn the traditional EMU Marching Band style, their pregame show and their first halftime show.

There are six total halftime shows throughout the season.

Once all camp activities conclude, practice for these musicians are every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

"The marching band is one big unit. In

order for us to put on our best performances and have good representation of the band, it's important that all members show up and give their best at every practice, show, and appearance," Abigail Dunn, an alto section leader of the marching band, said.

Throughout the school year, the public can expect to see multiple performance events by the band. This includes the High School Band & Twirler Day, Marchathon, Alumni Marching Band/Homecoming, Behind the Curtain, Dress Rehearsal celebrating 45 Years of Jazz at WEMU and Band O' Rama.

"Being in this band to me means being a



PHOTO CREDIT: KEVIN MCKAY

"There truly is no other organization on EMU's campus that compares to the hard work and dedication we put into this program," MacKenon Tyrrell, twirler section leader of the marching band, said. "It is a family, and to me, it means having a home away from home where I can be a part of a community that encourages me and pushes me to my goals while doing something I love."

What's the move at EMU? Aug. 21-31

The fun is on. With classes schedule to start Aug. 28, students are moving into the residence halls this week and there are plenty of activities on the calendar to welcome them back to campus, and back to Ypsilanti.

Welcome to EMU Connect program during move-in weekend

The university's orientation program for in-coming freshman, called EMU connect is sponsoring a long list of activities to help students get oriented to campus and the opportunities both in and outside the classroom. The schedule includes self-guided tours, advising sessions, group tours, exploration workshops and social events. For details, visit the EMU Connect page on the university website.

Join the first-week fun at EagleFest on Aug. 29

A festival and student organization introduction all in one, EagleFest is scheduled for 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29. Student clubs and organizations will be at the tables stretching around the lake outside the student center with plenty of information about what they do and how to join. Several will also have a few games to play, and perhaps some prizes to win. Food will also be available.

Get an early look at the EMU marching band Aug. 20-27

Did you know the EMU marching band is bigger than ever? Heading into its 129th season, the band is breaking records for membership. The band also is hosting a pre-season camp all week, Aug. 20-27. The camp is open to all EMU, WCC, and ECA students; and those who haven't joined the band yet still have time. Check out the practices on the marching band field and fill out this Google marching band form if you're interested in joining.

Ride the Tin Goose Aug. 24-27

Ypsilanti features the Yankee Air Museum, which keeps antique aircraft in the air and in the hanger for visitors to see. Once in a while, the museum offers rides on one of those vintage aircraft, and this weekend it's on the Tin Goose, the Liberty Aviation Museum's 1928 Ford Tri-Motor 5-AT-E. Tickets are available in advance at EAA Shop and in-person at the museum. The flights will run from 2-5 p.m. Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. For details, visit the Yankee Air Museum website.

Like to golf? Join the EMU Women's team for a fundraising event Aug. 27

Eastern alumni, friends and students and staff are invited to join the women's golf team for a round of golf, dinner and prizes at the university's nationally ranked golf course at Eagle Crest Resort. The event is Sunday, Aug. 27, all day. To register visit the event page.

Eastern Eagles football kickoff is Sept. 1

The Eagles set their sights on a championship this year, and the first game is at home, kicking off at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 1 at Rynearson Stadium. For the season opener, the Eagles face the Bison of Howard University. The night includes Eastern-Fest, a host of pre-game activities outside the stadium. Student admission is free with a valid university ID.

Take a swing -- at dancing at the Riverside Arts Center

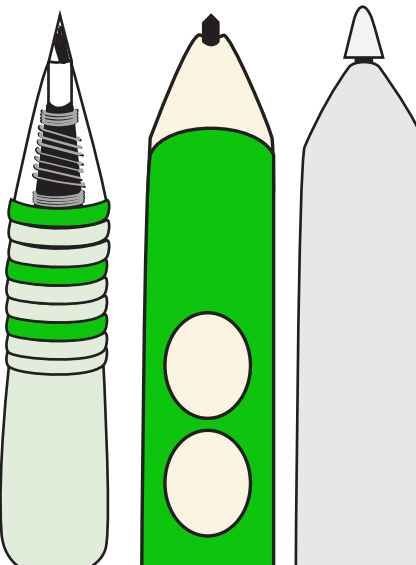
From 9 to 11 p.m. every Friday, instructors are on hand to teach swing dance at the Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron in Ypsilanti. Admission is \$5, or \$4 for students, and includes beginner lessons from 8 to 9 p.m., and then fun and dance the rest of the evening.

It's a firetruck muster at Riverside Park on Aug. 26

Antique firetrucks will be on display at Riverside Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday Aug. 26, courtesy of the Michigan Firehouse Museum. Activities for kids during the muster include turns at pedal cars, a hand pumper, and a bucket brigade. The muster is free. So is museum admission on this day!

Listen to new voices Aug. 26 with a concert by Beyond Choir

Southeastern Michigan's newest professional choral ensemble, Beyond Choir, performs at 7 p.m. Aug. 26 at Eastern Michigan University's Honors College Auditorium. Under the direction of Brandon Johnson, the concert features a wide range of music. The concert is free to the public. Seating is limited, however, and guests are encouraged to reserve free tickets online at www.beyondchoir.com.



EMU greenhouse brings plant knowledge to the community

MARIE WHITE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Eastern Michigan University's Greenhouse is located in the aquatic research facility on campus, bringing plants right to the students for research, curiosity and relaxation purposes.

Built in 1997, the EMU greenhouse is 1,158 square feet with three climate controlled rooms. Most of the funding for the greenhouse was provided by a National Science Foundation grant. The rest of the funding came from fundraising, donations and EMU themselves.

The three rooms in the greenhouse have different purposes attached to them, each with their own various plants and names attached to them. The first room in the greenhouse is where plants are grown for plant sales, classes, research and more. It is called the Research Room.

The second room houses the plant sale with various types of plants at different prices, ranging from \$1-\$20. This room also carries the majority of non-sale plants that are part of the greenhouse coordinators collection; that room is considered the propagation room.

The third room in the greenhouse is the Conservatory where the majority of the plants are housed in the greenhouse collection, and students can come in to relax at a study table located in the back.

The current greenhouse coordinator is Brad Cross who has worked in the EMU greenhouse since 2016. Cross is an alumni from EMU who majored in biology and has a passion for plants. He found the greenhouse during his undergraduate degree and fell in love with the space itself, and couldn't wait to work for it.

"I asked Judy if I could work there - and

came back every semester till I got the job," Cross said.

Before Cross was the coordinator, his mentor Judy McBride was the coordinator from 1997-2016. The previous structure of the greenhouse was a wood shack behind a Hoover that housed plant specimens, before the current greenhouse's construction.

The greenhouse's original purpose was designed for student experiments in a cookie cutter format that, in recent years, has been shifting to a project based format. Students come up with their own experiments for the purpose of engaging themselves and making them actively think about the research.

Around 50 students currently have research projects in the greenhouse with the majority of the research being for the BIO 121 course. Dr. Grman in the Biology Department has had germinated prairie species for years in the greenhouse, with other professors keeping plants and conducting research in there.

The conservatory was originally designed as a plant library for professors to borrow plants from to take into the lab and lecture classes. While that still happens, the classes have shifted into doing more greenhouse tours.

There are around 1,000-2,000 plants in the greenhouse, with around 500 of those being in the conservatory and around 500 in the propagation room.



PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE WHITE

"The density and variety of stuff that is here is really awesome, some of the tables literally do not have any space to fit another pot," Dan Ruffling, Greenhouse assistant, said. "There is a huge variety, everything from nonvascular little mosses all the way up to really huge trees."

One of Cross's main focuses when taking over the greenhouse was getting rid of the pests and focusing on the structure of the plants in the greenhouse.

Get involved on campus at EagleFest

FRANK REMSKI
NEWS REPORTER

August 28 begins a new semester at Eastern Michigan University. With a fresh start and campus buzz, many students are looking to find an organization to join. For many, the time to do so is at the university's Eagle Fest on August 29 from 4-7 p.m. outside of the Student Center.

The Eagle Fest is one of the many opportunities that allow both new and returning students at EMU to explore the 180 student organizations the school has to offer. The fair is a great way for students to gather contact information and find out more about how they can get involved in the organization they are interested in.

"Joining a student organization is a good way for students to make friends, build a sense of community at EMU, and explore their interests and hobbies," Karen Thompson, coordinator of Student Organizations and Fraternity & Sorority Life, said. "Depending on what student organization they join - for example an academic-related student organization, it can help them with their major and future career after EMU."

Listed below are different organizations

a student can join broken down into 11 categories. To view the full list of organizations, visit EagleSync or the EMU Engage app.

1. Academic, Business, and Professional Development

These organizations are educational in nature. Dedicated to furthering the academic and professional careers of students, these organizations give students an opportunity to gain more knowledge and network. Some examples of these organizations are the Accounting Club, the Black Honors Student Organization, and Future Physicians.

2. Music, Art, and Entertainment

EMU has various organizations dedicated to the arts, both when it comes to students interested in entertainment, or creating art themselves. The Anime Music Club, Amplifying the Arts, and Diversion Dance Troupe are all music, art, and entertainment organizations a student can join.

3. Activism, Service, Philanthropy, and Advocacy

For students who have an interest in helping and advocating for the community, there are Amplifying the Arts, Sistat That Care which focuses on Black women and their mental health, and Best Buddies whose members befriend people with

developmental disabilities.

4. Fraternities and Sororities

EMU offers many fraternities and sororities. View the full list of these organizations here: Fraternity & Sorority Life - Campus Life - Campus Life (emich.edu)

5. Multicultural and Racial Identity

Several student organizations acknowledge and celebrate the diversity of the EMU student body. These include, but are not limited to, the Japanese Students Association, International Student Association, and Students Organize 4 Syria.

6. Gender and Sexuality

These organizations are dedicated to women and members of the LGBTQ+ community. There are several organizations for women such as the Society of Women Engineers and Crystal Queer, dedicated to members and allies of the LGBTQ+ community.

7. Religion and Spirituality

For students interested in spirituality there are many Christian organizations, a Jewish organization, Hillel at Eastern Michigan University, and the Muslim Student Association.

8. Gaming and Technology

Many organizations that feature gaming

Five Off-campus study spots

ERIN FLYNN
NEWS EDITOR

Eastern Michigan University not only provides study spaces for students on its campus, but there are many study spots surrounding the campus too. From cafes to libraries, here are 5 study spots a student can venture outside of campus for when in need of a change of scenery.

1. Cross Street Coffee

With a 15-minute walk from EMU, Cross Street Coffee is located at 317 W Cross St. They offer a variety of coffee flavors and treats, and Its small space allows for a cozy and comfortable environment for studying.

2. Ann Arbor District Library

Ypsilanti's district library is currently closed. But no worries, students can still venture to Ann Arbor's District Library located at 343 S 5th Ave. In addition to its books, magazines, music, and video, AADL offers musical instruments, art, board games, puzzles, art prints, giant games, and more at checkout.

3. Cafe Liv

Located at 202 N Washington St. in Ypsilanti, Cafe Liv offers coffee, pastries, and sourdough bread for its customers, to eat while studying

4. Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea

Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea is a 10-minute walking distance from EMU's

campus. Located at 735 W Cross St, it provides long tables for multiple students, such as study groups, to sit at. Sweetwaters also offers live music. When the weather is warm, students can also choose to sit outside.

5. The Common Cup

The Common Cup is located at 1511 Washtenaw Ave in Ann Arbor. It offers a wide range of coffee, tea, smoothies, and bagels. Its wide and open space provides its customers a variety of seating options to sit down and study.



PHOTO CREDIT: ERIN FLYNN
Inside of Cross Street Coffee

Lecturers continued

As of 2022-2023, the average salary for a full-time lecturer was under \$50,000 for five classes per semester. Part-time lecturers earned \$1,342 per credit hour, teaching anywhere from one to five classes per semester.

When it comes to healthcare, part-time lecturers do not have access to benefits through university employment. Full-time lecturers do, and are on the same plan as faculty members, paying the same premiums out of a smaller salary.

These premiums range from \$423 to \$1,363 for a single person, and \$1,050 to \$3,275 for a family of 3, according to the EMU FTL Contract Extension. The university has allegedly proposed increasing these premiums for full-time lecturers, according to the union.

Except for the hours spent in the classroom, much of the work lecturers do is not compensated.

"Lecturers, like all instructors in higher education, do an enormous amount of work outside of the classroom. ... The university tells us that we should not do it unless we are willing to do it for free," said Proulx.

To help combat this issue, the EMUFT is negotiating for a \$25,000 professional development fund for lecturers. The fund would support lecturers in attending conferences, renewing accreditations and staying current in their field.

"I threw the kitchen sink at them until I got them under control, and the plants are now feeling that relief," Cross said.

He would like to make improvements to the current layout of the greenhouse to make everything more accessible. The focus is to get more epiphytes growing on the larger trees with more canopy trees overall, to give shade to the smaller plants and to create a canopy overall in the greenhouse.

"I was exposed to tropical plants and the humid environment at a young age," Cross said. "I wanted to create a tropical feel in the conservatory."

The greenhouse opened the door to The Botanical Society of America at EMU, which started in 2018 and runs out of the greenhouse. The club consists of around 30 constant members and a leadership board of five positions.

Students find the Greenhouse a place for relaxation, study and wonder. From common house plants to stinky plants that bloom every year, the greenhouse always brings something new.

"The greenhouse brings a lot of life to the Biology Department and to campus," Kinsey Ruffner, a greenhouse patron studying secondary education integrated science, said. "I really like that the greenhouse is available to all students and you don't need to be a specific major or person to enter."

People can visit the EMU greenhouse at their hours of operation Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Those interested in coming to the Greenhouse can also make an appointment with Cross to come in at bcross@emich.edu.

"I enjoy every moment here," Cross said. "I like nerding out with students about plants and picking up their positivity about plants and them getting excited and sharing stuff with me. I learn something new everyday."

and technology at EMU often dedicate their organizations to specific video games such as Call of Duty, Minecraft and Super Smash Bros. In addition, students can join the EMU Game Developers Guild.

9. Political, Historical, and Social justice

These organizations hone in on various different political issues. Examples include the Student History Association, NAACP, and Rise which helps students get involved in elections.

10. Health and Wellness

These organizations help students with both their physical and mental health. Some even focus specifically on topics such as exercise, psychology, and medicine. This can be found in the Gymnastics Club, Psychology Club, and Student Nurse Association.

11. Environmental and Science

There are four organizations in this category, each one dedicated to a different science. There are the Astronomy Club at EMU, Botanical Society of America at Eastern Michigan University, Future Physicians, and the Sierra Club Eastern Michigan University Chapter.

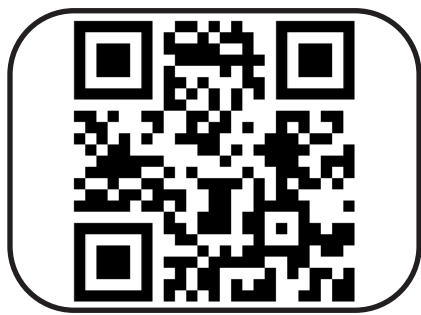
Learn more about student organizations and how to get involved in EMU's community through Campus Life.

"The expectation is that, you know, we are offering world-class education and it is really hard to do that when you cannot do the professional development you need to stay up to date and the people who are going to suffer for that are the students," said Wolbert.

According to the EMUFT, if their contract expires without a new one in place, they will continue with the contract they currently have and continue bargaining proceedings.

Bargaining has continued throughout the summer and is scheduled to continue in the following days and weeks. The EMUFT has several events planned around their bargaining caucuses and a rally to kick-off move-in day. More information about union events can be found here and the rally being held here.

Follow the easternecho.com for current updates to this story.



Review: Barbie brings herself into reality and



MARIE WHITE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
July 22, 2023

Barbie and Ken live a perfect life in Barbie Land where every day is amazing. However, when a disruption causes the flow of perfection to stop, Barbie must find a way to restore it by traveling into the real world, and along the way discover what it's like to be human.

Directed by Greta Gerwig starring Margot Robbie as Barbie, Ryan Gosling as Ken, America Ferrera as Gloria and many more Barbie's and Ken's throughout the film.

Highs

The casting and portrayals of the characters are immaculate. Margot Robbie just radiates Barbie energy throughout the film, from speech to mannerisms. It truly feels like everyone is a real Barbie doll. Throughout the film, you get the classic arched foot, plastic food, empty cups, to the entire area of Barbie Land looking like something out of a Mattel ad. It's the amazing eye for detail that sells the movie as the "Barbie" movie.

The music throughout the movie drags you into Barbie Land head first. Somehow, even though the movie is a mix between a

us into hers

musical, comedy, and drama, it all works together, and sound plays a huge part in that. The songs like Lizzo's "Pink" and Billie Eilish's "What Was I Made For" truly set the scenes, and the lyrics truly encapsulate the emotions in the moments of the film. All the songs throughout tell the story. Music was used brilliantly as a tool throughout, as well as sound with a narrator being present as well that brings comedic relief to the audience.

The coolest part is actually seeing that most of the characters in the film are real Barbie dolls that have been made over the years. It brings forward that fantasy and reality moment that is really cool to see as a viewer.

Lows

Sometimes the goofiness is too much. They break up reality with singing and comedic timing break offs, and it is sometimes off putting in the flow of the movie. I understand that it's there to show us it's still "Barbie" we are watching, but I would like more reality (especially with the realness the film brings). This is truly the only low and saying a lot would spoil the film completely.

Verdict

I can't wait to watch this film again. I thought the cinematography was amazing. The concept truly brought reality into Barbie Land, and it captivates you. Women will relate to this film with their whole beings, and I love that because when you come down to the reality of Barbie, that's what she was made for.

"My whole philosophy of Barbie was that through the doll, the little girl could be anything she wanted to be. Barbie always represented the fact that a woman has choices," Barbie inventor Ruth Handler said.

This movie encapsulates that feeling.

I give "Barbie" a 10 out of 10.

While the print is on summer vacation, the Echo posts daily content on our website. Here is a recap of the most popular stories of the summer.

Go to easternecho.com to read more!

CHARLES BOYKINS
REPORTER

Washtenaw County is one step closer to its long-term goal of developing a recreation and community center after state lawmakers finalized Michigan's 2023-24 general omnibus budget.

That budget included a \$15 million enhancement grant for the county to be used to develop the center. Sen. Jeff Irwin and State Rep. Jimmie Wilson Jr. both pushed for the grant funding to be approved. The money contributes to the project construction costs, which are expected to hit \$30 million.

"Yesterday's budget announcement underscores the power of effective partnership between our county and the state," Commissioner Justin Hodge, Chair of the Board, said in a written statement. "By joining forces, we are able to secure the much-needed funding for a state-of-the-art community center that will serve as a hub of health, wellness, and engagement for our residents."

Hodge realizes these efforts will reflect positively on the community.

"This collaborative effort reflects our shared commitment to enhancing the quality of life in our community and empowering individuals of all ages. Together we are creating a lasting legacy of progress and opportunity."

In December 2022, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners allocated \$7 million of American Rescue Plan Act lost revenue funding towards the project. In summer of 2022, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell helped to secure a \$3 million Community Project Fund grant.

Washtenaw County receives \$15 million towards community and recreation center

"This project represents for us, what community building can and should look like," County Administrator Gregory Dill said in a written statement. "We are prioritizing the needs of residents. We are leveraging both public and private community partnerships. We are developing this site in a way that strategically positions an under-invested area of our county to ensure measurable, positive outcomes for generations of future residents."

Washtenaw County is in on-going discussions with Ypsilanti Community Schools to acquire the site of Cheney Elementary (1500 Stamford road) for the new community and recreation center. With about 27 acres of space, the site is located in both Superior and Ypsilanti Townships.

The amount of space provides room for a state-of-the-art facility, outdoor recreation parks and future development that could benefit the community, including mixed-income housing or healthcare amenities.

"I am proud to see this collaboration between the federal, state, county and local government which showcases the power of community," Commissioner Annie Somerville said in a written statement. "The site chosen for the future Eastern Washtenaw Community and Recreation Center is located in part of the lowest opportunity zone in the entire county. The center will serve as a catalyst for positive change, providing a safe and inclusive space where residents of

all backgrounds can come together, connect, and thrive. This project will change lives."

While Washtenaw County will own the site and facility, community engagement has been a cornerstone of the development process. Washtenaw County is regularly engaged with the Community Center Advisory Committee in Superior Township, whose ongoing commitment is to help shape the community center space of the project. Elected officials from Ypsilanti Community Schools, Superior Township, Ypsilanti Township, and the City of Ypsilanti continue to be involved. Additional opportunities for community engagement are planned as the project develops.

Some of the current plans for the project include world-class indoor and outdoor recreational amenities, youth development programming, resources for older adults, access to childcare, and flex space specifically for community and county service offerings.

"This community and recreation center will help break down barriers in Washtenaw County and the Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to the ongoing partnership for the facility," Commissioner Katie Scott said. "I am incredibly thankful to everyone involved in securing funding for this vital project that will have a positive impact on the lives of individuals and families in the community."



BLAKE MCQUEARY
SPORTS EDITOR
June 23, 2023

Eastern Michigan University basketball star Emoni Bates was officially selected in this year's 2023 NBA Draft by the Cleveland Cavaliers with the 49th pick.

During his lone year in an Eagles uniform, Bates averaged 19.2 PPG, 5.8 RPG, and 1.4 APG through 30 games played this season.

Bates is now just the fifth player in EMU basketball history to be selected in the NBA



Draft, and the first to do so since 1998 when Derrick Dial was selected by the San Antonio Spurs at pick 58 of the second round.

The former number one high school basketball prospect in the world, who landed on the cover of Sports Illustrated at just 15-years-old, had the sports world buzzing once again after his 43-point performance against Kent State where he ended the first half chalking up 29-straight points himself.

Bates excelled at this year's NBA Draft Combine, specifically in shooting drills. He finished first in "shooting off the dribble,"

knocking down 25/30 (83.3%), and finished second in the "three-point star" drill, going 19/25 (76%).

The Ypsilanti native will now get the chance to live out a dream of his that has been in the works since his childhood.

The Cleveland Cavaliers Take EMU's Emoni Bates in Round 2, Pick 49 of 2023 NBA Draft

Ypsilanti celebrates 200 years with grand time capsule opening

CHARLES BOYKINS
REPORTER
July 3, 2023

To celebrate 200 years of Ypsilanti, the Ypsilanti Bicentennial Commission will be opening Ypsilanti's sesquicentennial time capsule for the public's viewing. Originally buried on July 8, 1973, the event will take place on July 4.

The grand opening will take place from noon to 2 p.m., right after Ypsilanti's annual 4th of July parade. The parade ends in Depot Town, and the capsule opening will take place at Riverside Park.

For centuries, the time capsule has been located under the grass of Ypsilanti's

namesake statue, Demetrius Ypsilanti, a former Greek army officer. The time capsule instructs residents to open it on July 4, 2023.

Many activities will be taking place around the time of the parade, but for participants of the time capsule, there is more.

"We organized a hot dog luncheon for the first 300 people that participate in watching the unearthing of the time capsule," Katie Jones, community member and coordinator of the event, said. "The commission believes this is a good way to garner involvement from the community, by providing an incentive for community members during this celebratory time."

Jones understands the event's significance to the community.

"It is a historic event for Ypsilanti, this festival replicates the same one that took place in 1973."

A slide show presentation will also take place during the time capsule's grand opening. It will first show audience members what items were placed within the capsule in 1973. After, the presentation will discuss each of the item's significance.

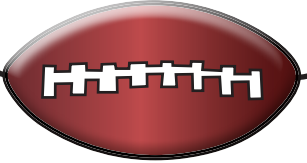
Only a few community members who were around for the original burial of the time capsule know what was placed inside of it. Even Jones is unaware of the contents. However, that doesn't stop her and other community members from thinking about their own would-be time capsule items.

"It would have been different from what people normally put in them," Jones said.

"I have witnessed other time capsule openings and they are usually letters, newspapers, or things that would have decomposed in time. I, instead, would put a technology of the time, a specific item of value, or maybe even a coin of the time. Something that would last."



Eastern Eagles 2023 Football schedule



- September 1 - Howard at EMU 6:30 p.m. “Eastern Fest”
- September 9 - EMU at Minnesota 7:30 p.m.
- September 16 - UMASS at EMU 2:00 p.m. “Car Show, Band Day, and Kid’s Club Day”
- September 23 - EMU at Jacksonville 4 p.m. CT
- September 30 - EMU at Central Michigan TBA
- October 7 - Ball State at EMU 3:30p.m. “Homecoming”
- October 14 - Kent State at EMU TBA “Mitten Made, Beer Fest and Fall Fest”
- October 21 - EMU at Northern Illinois TBA
- October 28 - Western Michigan at EMU TBA “Family Weekend, Salute to Service and Hall of Fame”
- November 8 - EMU at Toledo 7/7:30 p.m.
- November 14 - Akron at EMU 7 p.m. “Senior Night and MACtion”
- November 21 - EMU at Buffalo 7/7:30 p.m.
- December 2 - MAC Championship 12 p.m. Detroit

EMU’s fall sports

BLAKE MCQUEARY
SPORTS EDITOR

Volleyball
The Eagles volleyball team hosts a seasoned and experienced lineup this year with multiple returners from a season ago. The team will also see some newcomers, especially their first-year head coach, Kevin Foeman.

Returning to the squad for the Eagles this year is senior Samantha Basham, sophomore Emma McMahon, senior Bella Hommes, junior Mackenzie Gross, senior Olivia Szylar, grad Callie Minshew, sophomore Jessica Wilson, junior Mekayla Koger, junior Emily Surin, and sophomore Sabrina Gremm.

For their full season schedule, you can visit EMUEagles.com.

Soccer
After a disappointing finish last season with an overall record of 3-11-4, the Eagles soccer team is back for vengeance under the longest tenured coach in the MAC, head coach Scott Hall.

Hall will enter his 25th season at the helm as he’s taken the Eagles to 15 MAC tournaments, capturing one title, three regular season championships, three MAC championship berths, and nine top-five regular season finishes.

Key returners to the squad this year include junior Meagan Lukowski, junior Sophia D’Ambra, junior Maddie O’Farrell, junior Vittoria Greco, junior Sam Lenaghan, sophomore Hannah Thompson, and sophomore Arielle Fink.

For their full season schedule, you can visit EMUEagles.com.

Rowing
The EMU women’s rowing team is back for another season, and at the helm once again is head coach Kemp Savage, who enters his 10th season in charge.

Savage has had a pretty successful reign, as he’s led the Eagles to three fourth-place finishes and three third-place finishes at the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Championships.

Samson Evans speaks about offseason expectations

CHARLES BOYKINS
REPORTER

After what some would call a breakout season Samson Evans is on the national radar in this upcoming season. Current EMU football star had multiple notable games that caught attention such as his 258-yard performance against Arizona St, his 122-yd performance at Buffalo, his 133 yd performance at Central Michigan and his 135-yd performance Central Michigan. All of this to say how beneficial it is to have Evans in Eagle Green and White.

His 2022 campaign under many circumstances would be considered successful in individual and team aspects. But Evans is not concerned about the past anymore. He and the EMU team are pressing forward, focused on capturing a MAC Championship, a bowl bid and win, and the best team success that they can acquire this year.

Having to not only recap the 2022 season but speaking to the potential of the 2023 season. Samson Evans speaks with Charles Boykins III about the upcoming season and what it means to Evans.

First question is last season was a historic season for you in the backfield. You rushed for 287 yards against Arizona State and then you scored your 27th career touchdown against Central to become EMU’s all-time touchdown leader. What was the special moment about your dominant season last year and where these achievements something you set out prior to season or things that just ended up happening?

Evans: So, I’ll say that it was a mixture of both. At the beginning of each year, we set out goals for ourselves but the ultimate goal

for me was to get a ring. Whether that was a MAC championship or a bowl game. And I feel like all those accolades the 1000 yards or 27 touchdowns or whatnot it all kind of just happened trying to chase that goal. So that was kind of special because, going into the game the only thing that really matters to me is winning. So, if that means I have 280 yards against Arizona State or me getting 50 yards against the other team, like at the end of the day I was just happy about winning. So, I mean it was exciting I was battled through a lot of stuff but at the end of the day just being out there with my guys on offense and defense like it was special.

So, the second question I have for you is you respectively have had a lot of attention and flowers giving to you this offseason. Being selected for the Maxwell Award watch list as well as the Doak Walker watch list for the second consecutive season. Do these preseason selections like me anything to you? Assuming being a person who has had a long career considering high school and college now. You get used to being considered or called out at the beginning of the season, does that still mean anything to you or you kind of used to that now?

Evans: A little bit of both, I think it definitely means something just to get recognized for your last season, but I would also say that it’s also your last season. I did well last season but just because I get those awards now it doesn’t mean I’m going to do well this season. I still gotta put in the work in the offseason so for me personally like all these awards are nice but I know like what I gotta put in the offseason to achieve stuff like that. So, I personally like deleted like my Twitter and Instagram just so like I couldn’t really see those things. So, that’s something that I do just to kind of clear my mind

especially in camp just really focus in on my craft and get into our wannabe.

Third question, there’s been a good amount of buzz around the 1-2 punch that you and Jaylon Jackson are and what you’re able to bring to the table this upcoming season. You guys have a pretty talented running back room. How’s it feels that you got an All-Mac selection guy along with you to take some of the load off your back, as well as the exciting running back room that this team holds. And not only that but knowing that you were talking about how those are your guys, and you all hang out and do all types of stuff together off the field. What is it like to not only know how good you are but how good the next guy up is? Does that help push you during drills, team sections of practice, individuals or your even pre practice stuff even team/group meetings?

Evans: I’ll start off saying that Jaylon’s been nothing but special this is camp, and this offseason he’s putting in a lot of work I’m really excited to see what he can do this season. Because I think we kind of just scratched the surface there at the end of last season. He finally got comfortable and now that he’s getting more and more comfortable with those guys, he’s been doing some special things out there so I’m excited about that. I think as a unit just like as a running back room and the offense in general like we’re all really close so that helps us out a lot. And for the position group, me and Jay have two totally different running styles I think that kind of helps us both out. I’m more physical, so like he sees me being physical and that makes him want to be physical, I see him making those jukes and that pushes me to try to make those jukes or cuts. Maybe I might not be able to but at least I can try to do

it just to like maybe to have something like that in my bag. So, I think we complement each other well and we talk about it all the time. He’s always saying he’s like bro I need you to wear them down so then I can use my speed to get around so that’s what we’re going to do this year especially.

Final Question, we know you dealt with some, you know, health issues last season and luckily nothing wasn’t too serious, but you didn’t participate in this year’s spring game. So. going into the new season how are you prioritizing your health? Is something that is still concerning? Former and current athletes know you’re never truly 100%. So how do you push yourself to be able to get through that camp grind that season grind to be able to even though I might be banged up and its week 8,9,10?

Evans: The coaches have been really helpful for me just helping me get not get through practice but I’m still getting a good amount of work in. And still staying active and still doing a lot of stuff. I’ll say health wise like me personally I’ve been taking a lot better care of my body after especially last season. I have seen how the whole season can take on my body so, I’ve been making sure I’m getting treatment before practice after practice later in the day so probably about three or four times a day. I’m getting in the treatment room trying to get healthy or stay healthy, so I’m trying to be proactive instead of reactive on all my recovery type deals. Even when practice ends like literally right when practice ends, I put ice on both my knees just to make sure that my knees stay healthy anything else that needs ice and make sure everything staying healthy so just little stuff like that getting ice tubs after practice all that type of stuff and I think it’s been it’s been helping a lot.

EMU Volleyball to begin 2023 season



BLAKE MCQUEARY
SPORTS EDITOR

The Eastern Michigan University women’s volleyball team is just six days away from gearing up for their 2023 season.

The Eagles, a very seasoned and experienced team this year with the number of returners from a season ago, will also see some newcomers, especially first-year head coach, Kevin Foeman.

Foeman previously spent his time as the head coach at Ashland University where he saw great success. In five seasons at Ashland, Foeman led the Eagles to two NCAA Division II Championships while capturing four conference titles, and a GMAC regular season title.

Although the decision wasn’t an easy one to depart Ashland, Foeman saw great opportunities both on and off the court in Ypsilanti.

“The biggest sell for me and my family was that we saw Eastern as something that we

Some new faces will arrive as well in Ypsilanti, as freshman Surabhi Srinivasan, sophomore Ellie McLoughlin, freshman Aubrieh Oswald, freshman Hannah Howard, freshman Ava Siefke, junior Hannah Kivett, senior Angel Baylark, sophomore Kendal Bonney, and sophomore Abigail Stanford will all be joining the Eagles for the new season.

It will be a whole new University for McLoughlin, Bonney, and Stanford, but familiarity stands with all three, as they previously spent their time at Ashland University before making the switch to EMU alongside Foeman.

“It means a lot to have those three here with me,” Foeman said. “It helps to bridge that gap between people who may not know

us right away, and understanding things that will help them get comfort with us.”

When asked about the goals and expectations for this team this year, Foeman expressed the importance of control, grit, and competitiveness.

“I want to control the ball better, control the controllable. Those mistakes that are made, teams that don’t win as much make them more than the teams that win often,” Foeman said. “We want to be competitive and have a chance to win every single match we go in. We don’t want to be dead and defeated, we want to be prepared to have a chance to win, and have that confidence.”

The Eagles will officially kick off their regular season with four non-conference tournaments, before beginning conference play which will consist of a total of 18 games.

Before the unofficial season starts, the Eagles will hold an exhibition match against Hillsdale on Saturday, August 19, at the George Gervin GameAbove Center. That is set to begin at 1 p.m.

EMU Football teammate's touching story receives national spotlight

MACKENZIE THOMPSON
SPORTS WRITER

It was no secret that fourth year walk-on Zack Conti would donate plasma and do landscaping jobs in order to make money to pay bills, pay for his education, and cover other expenses while being a full-time student-athlete.

On July 31, Conti would receive life changing news due to a selfless act from his teammate Brian Dooley who is redefining what it means to be a brother, teammate, and friend.

With only two classes left in his masters program, Dooley, an offensive lineman for Eastern Michigan gave his football scholarship to Conti who was a walk-on after hearing that he might quit due to financial hardships.

After talking it over with his family and gaining their full support, the kind gesture brought Dooley’s mother to tears hearing that he wanted to give up his scholarship for the sake of another player.

“I’d do it again in a heartbeat,” Dooley said. “If it helps him more then by all means I’m gonna give it to him and hopefully I can later down the road help him out even more.”

Head Coach, Chris Creighton announced the news during a meeting as the team wrapped up its first day of fall camp.

The announcement was captured in a video that garnered more than 13,000 views on the team’s YouTube channel and since has made its way around social media gaining attention from media outlets like ESPN, “It was always tough when some of your guys weren’t there,” Dooley said. “I look back to it and it kind of hurts

Good Morning America, ABC and more over the last week.

The video shows the moment Dooley handed the official scholarship letter to Conti and then the two embrace one another. The rest of the team immediately swarmed both Dooley and Conti jumping, clapping, and chanting in excitement.

"It was the smile; it was awesome for us. We're all like a family and that's how we react, nothing was fake about it," Dooley said.

"He (Conti) called me later that night and congratulated me and he still does to this day. I know it's only been a couple of days, but he says thank you every single time and I wouldn't change it."

Speaking to the true meaning of brotherhood, Dooley says EMU’S o-line has a bond that's truly hard to break and they can all count on one another.

“That’s why I just feel like I needed to have Conti’s back throughout these couple of years that he has left, and I feel like Conti would do the same thing,” he said.

A lot of times other players would ask where Conti was and the answer was simply, working.

On days when it was nice outside or after a workout some of the players would go to the pool, but Conti couldn’t because he had to work.

“It was always tough when some of your guys weren’t there,” Dooley said. “I look back to it and it kind of hurts

because you want to build relationships with guys on and off the field.”

Sometimes Conti’s teammates didn’t see him until 7 or 8 p.m. after workouts that were at 6 a.m.

In light of Dooley and Conti’s story being shared heavily on social media Eastern Athletics held a press conference Tuesday for the media, unfortunately due to the overwhelming amount of attention Conti was not at Tuesday’s press conference.

Dooley expressed that he was also feeling a little overwhelmed, but still wanted to show up for Conti.

“He’s a great guy and will probably be the best man at my wedding,” Dooley said. “Our friendship is tight, it's unbreakable.”

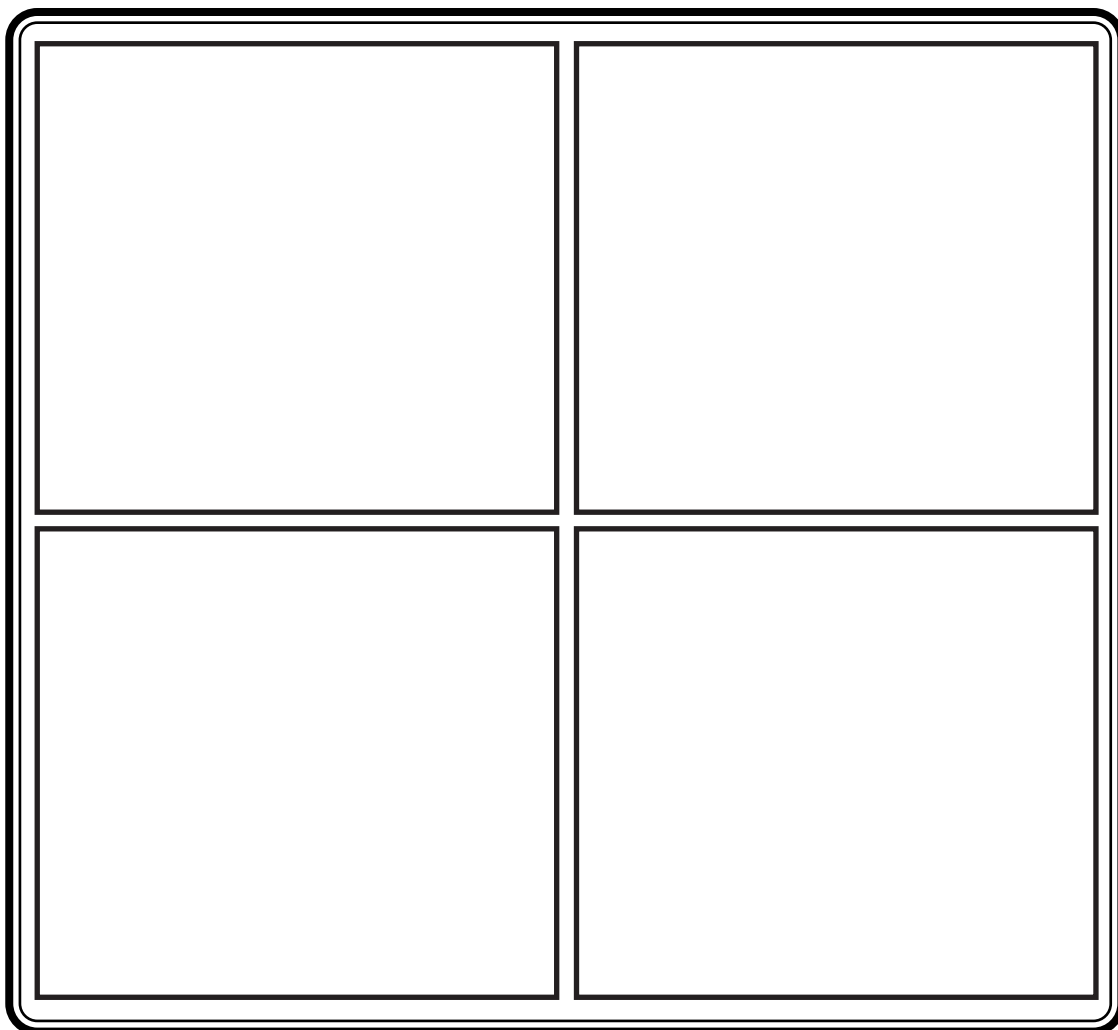
The biggest message Dooley wants people to take away from this is don't judge a book by its cover. “You really got to dive into people's lives to see how they really work,” he said.



PHOTO CREDIT: MACKENZIE THOMPSON

AT LEAST... | RYLEE CURLY | COMICS ARTIST

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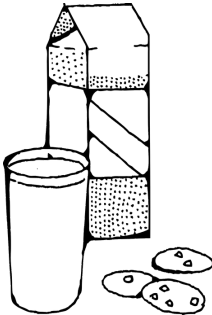
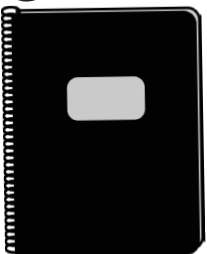



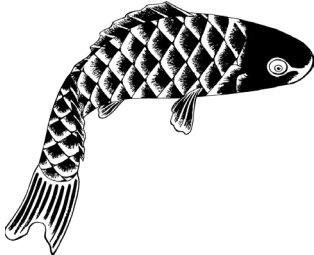


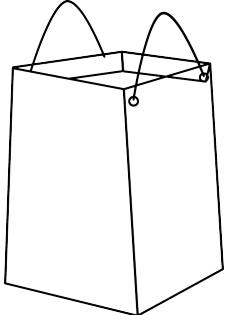
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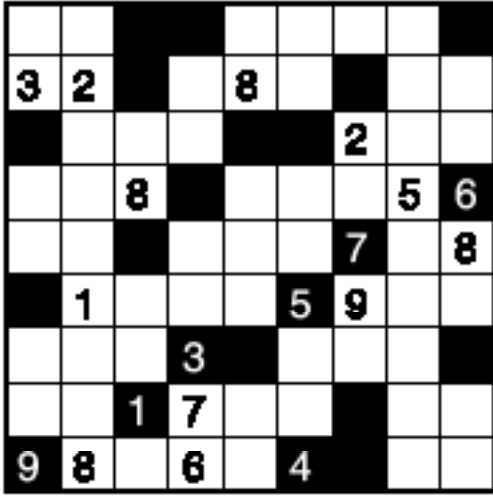
Back to School Bingo

<div>Ride a scooter to class</div> <div></div>	<div>Buy a textbook from the EMU book store</div> <div></div>	<div>Stop at Starbucks in the Student Center</div> <div></div>	<div>Set up a hammock in trees</div> <div></div>
<div>Lift weights in the REC IM</div> <div></div>	<div>Cook a meal in shared dorm kitchen</div> <div></div>	<div>Run into Swoop the Eagle</div> <div></div>	<div>Go to Insomnia Cookies after 10p.m.</div> <div></div>
<div>Join a club at EagleFest</div> <div></div>	<div>Check out a book in the library</div> <div></div>	<div>Stop at Swoops Pantry</div> <div></div>	<div>Assigned homework in the first week</div> <div></div>
<div>See a koi fish in pond</div> <div></div>	<div>Meet an ESA on campus</div> <div></div>	<div>Ride the bus</div> <div></div>	<div>Doordash a meal</div> <div></div>


STR8TS

No. 659

Medium



Previous solution - Easy

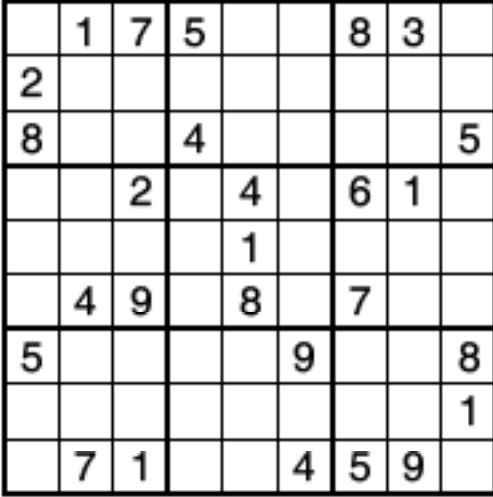


How to beat Str8ts - Like Sudoku, an eight number can appear in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into superregions. These need to be filled by eight numbers that complete a "straight". A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps that can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells mean that number is an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Clues in the solution to see how "straight" are formed.


SUDOKU

No. 659

Very Hard



Previous solution - Tough



To complete Sudoku, fill the board by entering numbers 1 to 9 such that each row, column and 3x3 box contains every number uniquely.

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit www.sudokuwiki.org

If you like Sudoku check out our books, iPhone/iPad Apps and much more on our site.

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Our Mission Statment

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