



The Eastern Echo

Volume 142, Issue 20
Serving EMU and Ypsilanti since 1881

Tuesday, October 7, 2025
easternecho.com

Editorial

The Eastern Echo weighs in on the importance of independent journalism

National Newspaper Week is Oct. 5-11. The Newspaper Association of America has sponsored the celebration in the United States and Canada since 1940, marking this year as its 85th anniversary. "National Newspaper Week is a time to reflect on and reinforce the vital role newspapers play in informing, empowering, and uniting our communities," the organization stated on its website. *The Eastern Echo* is joining in the celebration to honor our role in serving the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti communities since 1881 as an independent student newspaper. *The Echo* distributes weekly printed editions on campus and throughout Ypsilanti during the fall and winter academic semesters, and publishes year-round online. It is our mission to highlight newsworthy content in

a fair, accurate and timely manner. Members of the Ypsilanti and EMU communities have the right to be informed about the issues that affect them. This is what *The Eastern Echo* has sought to achieve for more than 140 years, giving voice to the stories of EMU and Ypsilanti. As an independent news publication, *The Eastern Echo* adheres to the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics. Acting independently, minimizing harm, seeking truth and reporting it, and being accountable and transparent are all critical parts of *The Echo's* reporting practices. In the United States, more than 200 counties do not have a local newspaper and half of all counties have only one, stated a report from the Hussman School of Journalism and Media at the University of North Carolina. Washtenaw county hosts only

one newspaper, The Ann Arbor Observer, according to the UNC's report. Thus, the city of Ypsilanti meets the definition of a news desert, meaning the community lacks a dedicated professional newspaper covering local news. In service to the public, *The Eastern Echo* functions to keep its population informed and up-to-date on college and community events and uphold democratic principles. Those who cannot afford or access either technology or news subscriptions are always welcome to pick up a free copy of our publication at one of the numerous stands around the city to stay informed. At *The Echo*, we invite dialogue and accept letters from our readership community, the university and the Ypsilanti area. Readers can participate in public discourse by submitting a letter to the editor to let us know what

issues are on their minds. Letters should be 300 words or fewer and must be signed by the writer, including their hometown, email address and phone number. The phone number is used to verify the letter and will not be published. Letters should be sent to editor@easternecho.com. A print newspaper not only tells the news of today, it lives on as a physical footprint in history, highlighting the importance of independent student journalism and freedom of the press. If journalism is the first rough draft of history, a phrase attributed to Philip Graham, former publisher of the Washington Post, then a print newspaper also serves an archival purpose. As we celebrate National Newspaper Week, we would like to thank our audience for supporting independent student journalism by reading *The Eastern Echo*.

The Eastern Echo

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

COPYRIGHT © 2025 (The Eastern Echo) All rights reserved.
www.EasternEcho.com

THE ECHO MISSION

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

HOW TO REACH US

The Eastern Echo
Fall 2025 Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief:
Ameera Salman
editor@easternecho.com

Managing Editor:
Natalie Kyle
managing@easternecho.com

Sports Editor:
Caleb Henderson
sports@easternecho.com

Podcast Editor:
Gray Connor
podcast@easternecho.com

Arts Editor,
Cellar Roots Editor-in-Chief:
Madison Cantrell
cellarroots@easternecho.com

Design Chief:
Rylee Curley
design@easternecho.com

Photo Editor:
Max Taylor
photo@easternecho.com

Print Layout Designer:
Jada Hauser
digital@easternecho.com

Copy Desk Chief:
Allie Beecher
copyeditor@easternecho.com

Marketing Director:
Gabriella Payeur
advertising@easternecho.com

Business Manager:
Quanzelle Wyatt
advertising@easternecho.com

Student Media Advisor:
Christine Uthoff
advisor@easternecho.com

CORRECTIONS

Last week's print edition of *The Eastern Echo* misstated the date of the Honors College Fall Fest in the Student Life gallery. The Honors College Fall Fest took place Friday, Sept. 26.

Where to find the newest volume of *Cellar Roots*, EMU's Fine Arts and Literary Magazine:



CALENDAR

OCT 7

CORE Conversations: Student Activism and Ethnic Studies

All day
Student Center — Room 208

OCT 8

Benefits & Wellness Fair

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Student Center — Room 310 A-B

OCT 9

OUT on the Lawn

1-4 p.m.
University Park Lake House

OCT 10

AAAS Alumni Panel Discussion

2-4 p.m.
Student Center — Room 320

OCT 11

EMU Football vs. Northern Illinois

1 p.m.
Rynearson Stadium

Fall Break
Oct. 13-17



WEATHER FORECAST

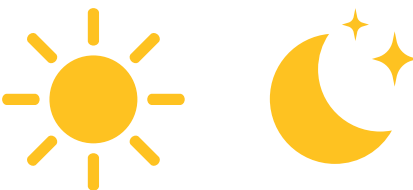
Tuesday, October 7

High: 69 | Low: 62
Rain / Chance of Rain



Wednesday, October 8

High: 64 | Low: 40
Sunny / Clear



Thursday, October 9

High: 65 | Low: 42
Sunny / Mostly Clear



Friday, October 10

High: 69 | Low: 48
Mostly Sunny / Partly Cloudy



Saturday, October 11

High: 70 | Low: N/A
Mostly Sunny



Source:

The National Weather Service

Where to find The Eastern Echo:

- Off Campus
- Aubree's, 39 E. Cross St.
 - Spark East, 215 W. Michigan Ave.
 - Jet's Pizza, 1298 Anna J. Stepp Dr.

- On Campus
- Roosevelt Hall
 - Sill Hall

Where to find our links:



Instagram @easternechoofficial



TikTok @theeasternecho



Facebook @ The Eastern Echo

EMU Department of Public Safety investigates anonymous USB drive

Lilly Kujawski
News Reporter

A USB drive was anonymously mailed to an Eastern Michigan University campus department on Sept. 19. EMU’s Enrollment Management office received the device, said Ron Woody, chief information officer at EMU. The USB drive was not inserted into any campus servers or hardware.

The USB drive contained a written letter, EMU Chief of Police Matthew Lige said. An email sent to the campus community about the incident stated that the messaging in the letter was consistent with propaganda tactics.

The letter used “anonymous type” with recurring themes, including criticism of the European Union and funding for the Russia-Ukraine war, Lige said. The letter encouraged the receiver to insert the USB into a laptop or computer for more information about the Russia-Ukraine war, he added.

“They did not plug the USB drive into any of their computers, they reported it to both IT and campus police because of the suspicious nature of it,” confirmed Rocky Jenkins, director of network and system services in EMU’s information technology department.

“It’s never a good idea to plug in an unexpected USB drive into your computer,” Jenkins added.

The USB drive and letter are undergoing forensic analysis and there is an ongoing investigation, Lige said. There was no source identified or return address included in the letter or USB drive.

The concern with an unknown USB or flash drive is that it could contain a virus that could compromise a computer or laptop and lead to a malware or phishing attack, Lige said.

“We suspect that the USB drive



An anonymous USB drive mailed to Eastern Michigan University's Enrollment Management office was turned into the EMU police department on Sept. 19.
Lilly Kujawski / The Eastern Echo

contained programming similar to malware,” Lige said.

There was no attack on any campus server or hardware, and so far, no crime was committed, Lige said.

Police are calling the anonymous USB drive and letter an isolated incident at EMU, with no reports of any other departments or any students receiving a similar USB drive or letter, Lige said. Police are also checking for similar incidents at other higher education institutions as part of the investigation, he added.

Sometimes, students will report unknown thumb drives as lost and found items at the IT help desk, Woody said. In these cases, IT employees will confirm that the student did not plug

the drive into any hardware, he added.

“This is the first I remember, at least, that was reported to us of an office receiving a thumb drive in the mail, or something being delivered to them in this way,” Woody said.

Students, staff and faculty should exercise caution if they encounter an unknown or unexpected USB drive, Woody said.

“Don’t pick up a drive that you found on the sidewalk and plug it in out of curiosity,” Woody said.

If an unexpected USB drive arrives in the mail, even if it is said to be sent from a vendor you already have a relationship with, such as an internet provider, it should not be plugged in, Woody added.

IT staff also reminded students, faculty and staff to be cautious about phishing and malware scams online.

It’s wise to exercise caution if you receive an unexpected email, especially one that contains links or attachments, Jenkins said. If a member of the campus community receives an email they suspect is a phishing scam, they should forward the email to phishing@emich.edu, Jenkins said.

If you receive an unsolicited commercial email, you can unsubscribe, block the sender or use Google’s option to report spam, Jenkins added.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, Woody said. Staying up to date with current

cybersecurity threats is an important way to help prevent them, he added. Woody recommended the National Cybersecurity Alliance’s website staysafeonline.org for more resources and information about online safety and privacy.

The following was sent to students, faculty and staff in an email:

What to do if you find or receive a suspicious USB drive:

- Do not plug it in. Resist any curiosity to see what is on the drive.
- Do not attempt to identify the owner.
- Immediately report the device to the EMU Police Department at 734-487-1222.

Dos Hermanos looks forward with gratitude after car wreck delays opening of new business



Property at 418 W. Michigan Ave. where La Michoacana, the new ice cream parlor, is set to open later this year.
Quanzelle Wyatt / The Eastern Echo

The 400 block of West Michigan Avenue in Ypsilanti, home to the row of Arreloa-family-owned businesses, including Dos Hermanos market, recently faced a destructive incident to its forthcoming ice cream parlor.

The Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Office reported that a car crashed into 418 W. Michigan Ave. and subsequently caught fire at 3:21 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 21.

One person was injured and also detained in connection to the incident, the report stated.

The building sustained damage from the crash and flames, pushing back the business’s timeline to open.

La Michoacana Ice Cream, led by Christian and Sergio Arreloa, was slated to open sometime in October.

“Before the accident, we plan to open by the middle of October,” Reyes Arreloa said. “But right now, we really don’t know. It all depends on how fast they accept our permits and everything. So it’s going to take a bit longer.”

The family has received support from both in and outside of the Washtenaw area after the unexpected delay.

“We feel very blessed because we got more support from the community than the city,” Reyes Arreloa said. “All the neighbors says ‘oh wow, you’ve been [doing] a good job ...trying to get this whole block back to life.’”

His brother, Nicolas Arreloa said community support has been awesome.

Dos Hermanos has come a long way since opening its market in 2007.

The business expanded into the space next door in March 2023, opening the Dos Hermanos restaurant, which serves authentic Mexican cuisine. Since then the restaurant has become a fixture in the community.

Besides the market and restaurant, Nicolas’s son, Ariel, also owns the Mi Rancho Boots, a shop that sells authentic Mexican boots, Western-style clothing and more.

The family also owns Dos Hermanos chains in Ann Arbor and Westland, with the possibility of growing in the future.

“We are a big family,” Nicolas Arreloa said. “[My brother] has sons, I have sons and all of us are doing business.”

Despite facing a surprise setback for the family’s new business, Reyes Arreloa said he is determined to perservere.

“It doesn’t matter what happens — you have to stand up again,” Reyes Arreloa said. “It’s not easy to start or grow a business. So it’s not easy, but it’s not impossible — It’s a hard way to get there, but you put all your energy on it, you will get there.”

The family continues it’s day-to-day business at both the restaurant and market, but look forward to the future and want to give back to a community that has supported them through all of the ups and downs.

“We try to get this whole corner back to life. Because all the comments from our neighbors and customers are positive,” Reyes Arreloa said.



WASHTENAW
CTE
CAREER
TECHNICAL
EDUCATION

COUNTYWIDE PREK-12 PROPOSAL

This proposal would expand access to hands-on learning and real-world experiences for students as they prepare for college, careers, and beyond.

VOTE ON OR BY NOVEMBER 4

CREATED AND PAID FOR BY THE WASHTENAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
1819 S. WAGNER RD., ANN ARBOR, MI 48103



Instagram @easternechoofficial



TikTok @theeasternecho



Facebook @ The Eastern Echo

Student groups report free speech access at EMU despite 'F' rating

Lilly Kujawski
News Reporter

Free speech is guaranteed by the First Amendment, but what does that mean on a university campus?

When students step on campus, they don't give up their First Amendment rights, said Gregory Plagens, a political science instructor at Eastern Michigan University. However, limitations may arise when it comes to matters of public safety, he added.

"The thing with free speech on college campuses, and where the tension comes in, is the government does recognize that there are times and places where free speech can cause disturbances that can rise to the point of being dangerous to people's safety," Plagens said. "So, campus administrators, while trying to promote free speech, and invite dialogue, also have a responsibility to everybody here to keep people safe."

Colleges can set reasonable time, place and manner restrictions on speech, said Sean Stevens, senior research adviser for the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, or FIRE.

EMU has some guidelines for events and gatherings on campus, such as planning ahead and avoiding blocking access to buildings, among others.

"The University cannot cancel or disband a function or gathering based on the organizer's views," posted policies state. "However, the University reserves the right to cancel or disband a gathering or function that is significantly disruptive or poses a significant risk to campus safety as determined by the University's Director of Public Safety."

Examples of significant disruption can include obstructing the flow of pedestrian or vehicle traffic or activity that interferes with orderly conduct on campus.

"No bullhorns after 10 p.m. is a reasonable restriction," Stevens said as an example. "You cannot disrupt the functioning of the university."

Certain expressions of protest, such as occupying a building, are considered civil disobedience and are not protected by the First Amendment, Stevens said. Persistent harassment, clear incitements of violence and child pornography are not protected under the First Amendment, either.

The Echo submitted a request to university officials for comment but one was not yet available.

Rating free speech at EMU

Recently, FIRE published a ranking

of how free speech is on college campuses in the United States. The ranking and grading are based on a number of factors, including surveys of undergraduates, university policies and databases that track the outcomes of speech controversies on campuses, Stevens said.

Eastern Michigan University was one of 167 colleges in the United States that reportedly failed, receiving an "F" grade.

FIRE polled 68,510 undergraduate students across the country to gauge student perception of free speech on campus, including 285 students from EMU. The survey asked students about their perceptions of administrative support, their comfort expressing ideas, how often they self-censored, political tolerance and openness surrounding controversial topics and more.

Poll results of student perceptions placed EMU in the top 50 for "Comfort Expressing Ideas" and "Self-Censorship," which indicates students at EMU may "feel free to speak their minds compared to other schools," the survey results stated.

36% of EMU respondents say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month, survey results stated. FIRE reported no speech controversies at EMU in its 2026 ranking.

The survey asked students how difficult it is to have an open and honest conversation about certain issues on campus. Survey results stated that some of the most difficult issues for EMU students to discuss include abortion, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and the 2024 presidential election. 57% of respondents said that abortion is difficult to discuss on campus, 49% said that the Israeli/Palestinian conflict is difficult to discuss and 47% said the 2024 presidential election is difficult to discuss.

How do students feel?

Some examples of First Amendment freedoms in action on campus include student groups, the rainbow flag display on campus lawn, student journalism at the Echo, petitions and assembly and political tabling, Plagens said.

At EMU, students in some of the organizations involved in political or social advocacy on campus report a healthy relationship with free speech at the university.

"We don't see any restrictions or any implications posed on us," said Laith Hassan, outreach chair for EMU's Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) student organization. "We're given a fair shot just like any other

[organization] is."

"We have a good relationship with free speech on campus," he added.

SJP holds educational events and forums, an example of free speech and expression in practice. Last year, the group hosted a speaker panel event on campus that focused on raising education and awareness about Palestine, said Leena Joz, co-president of SJP.

"I think, if anything, we do have support from EMU," Joz said. "We feel more encouraged, than anything, to use our voice, so we feel pretty supported."

Everett Peabody, president of the pro-life advocacy group, Protect Life EMU, also said he has had mostly positive experiences with exercising free speech on campus.

"The state of free speech on EMU's campus is mostly in a good place," Peabody said. He added that the only pushback from university administration was in the form of minor nitpicky enforcement of rules, such as being told not to call out to passers-by while tabling in the Student Center. He said there have been no continuous issues and that the relationship with the administration has been fairly good.

Universities are a space where people of different backgrounds should be able to come together and have difficult conversations openly, Hassan said.

"Many of the people who go to Eastern believe in that, from what I can see, which is what gives us that safe space to share what we think and talk to other people who might have different opinions or who might not share the same beliefs or views," Hassan added.

When it comes to engaging in dialogue with someone you disagree with, the key is to approach the conversation with mutual respect, Peabody said.

"If you see the person you're dialoguing with as another person, who has their own life experience and their own thoughts, then you can work with them using speech to seek the truth. If you don't see them that way, if you see them rather as an opponent to be fought against, then the conflict that will result will not be productive or healthy," Peabody said.

On some occasions, Protect Life EMU's demonstrations have received counter-protests and pushback from other students and student groups, Peabody said. In a couple instances, the situation escalated to the point of involving campus police because of threats against property that Peabody said he witnessed.

In most cases, though, the pushback

from students who disagree with his group was simply counter-expression and speech also protected by the First Amendment, Peabody said.

What have faculty noticed?

Plagens, who has taught political science at EMU for 15 years, said he thinks there is some self-censorship from students, especially given the political climate.

"I think these are challenging political times for expressing your views," Plagens said. "We have seen a lot of people draw the ire of one side of a political issue or the other and rather than treating everything as a healthy part of a democracy, where we need to be able to consider all sides, people seem to take this so personally now and there seems to be a lot of anger."

"I do think there is self-censorship, that students will be reluctant to say their piece, because they wonder, you know, how they will be perceived, or sometimes, the response they might get from somebody else," he added.

Sometimes, as individuals, Hassan and Joz have reported self-censoring in classroom or social settings.

"As an individual, I do feel that sometimes, I guess personally, I kind of censor what I might be saying or not get into a controversial subject," Joz said, citing safety concerns and job prospects as factors. "But on a bigger, -level, I don't feel like we have to censor information we're giving out."

Peabody also said he has self-censored on occasion in classrooms and in social situations to avoid conflicts with other students.

However, when students hesitate to talk about certain topics in class, it may not be because they're uncomfortable talking about it or feel the need to self-censor, Plagens said. In some cases, they may choose not to add to a conversation for other reasons, such as not feeling fully informed about a topic, he added.

"I've had very vibrant discussions in classes," Plagens said. "I've had students disagree. I always set ground rules at the start of the semester. I've never had anybody storm out of my class. I've never had a student be disrespectful to another. I've had a couple push about as far as you can get."

Joshua Koss, another political science instructor at EMU, also reported open dialogue in his classes.

"In the classroom environment, I think generally my students have been pretty open to express their mind when given the opportunity to do so," Koss said.

What's the Move?

Oct. 7 - 13

Israel Shriki
Staff Writer

Grateful Dead Second Drop @ SO!, Tuesday, Oct. 7

Ypsilanti's own fishing gear store Schultz Outfitters, is hosting a party surrounding the new release of Grateful Dead-themed merchandise.

In Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town, Schultz Outfitters is turning the release into a party called the Grateful Dead Second Drop @ SO! The event includes food, drinks, giveaways and live music from 5-8 p.m.

Among the items available will be limited edition stickers and limited-edition Simms Fishing brand Grateful Dead hats, tees, sun hoodies and waders.

The event will include a Turtlebox Ranger speaker giveaway at 8 p.m. Admission is free.

Fall Symphony Orchestra Concert, Thursday, Oct. 9

Featuring two Brazilian pieces by Fernandez and Nepomuceno, and directed by Rodrigo Amorim, the EMU Symphony Orchestra will present its Fall Symphony Orchestra Concert from 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9 at Pease Auditorium.

The orchestra will perform Symphony No. 2 in D major of Sibelius during the last part of the concert.

Admission is free, and EMU students can receive learning beyond the classroom credit for attending.

The concert at Pease will also be available via a live stream on YouTube.

For more information, visit the EMU Orchestra page on emich.edu.

Symphonic Band Concert with "Influences!", Friday, Oct. 10

The EMU Symphonic Band will perform its first concert for the semester Friday, Oct. 10 at Pease Auditorium.

The event's theme is influences, and the performance will be conducted by J. Nick Smith.

The concert is from 7:30-8:30 p.m. and will be live streamed on YouTube.

Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased through EMU's online box office.

For more information, contact J. Nick Smith by phone at 734-487-4143 or email jnick.smith@emich.edu.

Run Scream Run 2025, Saturday, Oct.11

The Run Scream Run race comes to town Saturday morning, starting and finishing at Wiard's Orchards at 5565 Merritt Road in Ypsilanti.

Athletes, anyone who likes running and even those who enjoy walking outdoors are encouraged to join the 5K-10K-1M race.

Registration is required, and ticket prices vary.

- The "Freaky" ticket for the 5K race costs \$38.
 - The "Terrifying" ticket for the 10K race costs \$42.
- Both the Freaky 5K and the Terrifying 10K begin at 8:15 a.m. Registration for the races includes:
- Race bib and chip time
 - Official results
 - Custom medal
 - Closed racecourse with aid
 - Orchard discounts
 - Theme award eligibility,
 - Age group awards eligibility
 - Cider and donuts at the end
- The Cider Mill Mile ticket for the 1M race costs \$19. That race begins at 10 a.m. Registration includes a race bib, a custom medal, "Trick or Treat" style run at the orchard, orchard discounts, theme award eligibility and cider and donuts at the end.
- Students can use a coupon code of UNIV that offers \$5 off the fees.
- Runners can pick up their packets at Wiard's Orchard from 4-7 p.m. Friday or on Saturday starting at 6:30 a.m. Packets must be picked up more than 15 minutes prior to race start.

Ypsilanti Food Co-op celebrates 50th anniversary

Lauren Holloway
News Reporter

This October, the Ypsilanti Food Co-op is celebrating National Cooperative Month and the 50th anniversary of its opening.

Corinne Sikorski has been working at the co-op since its opening in 1975. She started as a volunteer before the organization started hiring staff. As a vegetarian going to Eastern Michigan University, Sikorski found it difficult to find nutritional food on campus because there were less options.

The purpose of the co-op is to bring nutritional food into the community at a reasonable price. The food it sells is often organic, has less preservatives and less packaging than other grocery stores. Sikorski defines it as keeping things as close to their original state as possible.

The co-op features local produce, organic groceries, vitamins and supplements, healthy snacks and fresh meat. There's also a deli kitchen with ready-to-eat and to-go options, and a bakery that produces fresh bread, pies, cookies and pastries.

"A great way to keep good food in the community," Sikorski said.

The co-op is also all about sustainability. It gets much of its produce from local farmers and encourages natural farming techniques.

"My passion is for changing the world, making it a better place, protecting the environment," Sikorski said.

After getting a grant in 2004, the co-op now has 60 solar panels to help power the building. The building itself is also part of their efforts to be sustainable. The co-op moved into its location on North River Street in 1983, but the structure has been around since 1840. There are ongoing repairs to keep it in good condition.

"Being here has its challenges, but it keeps the community vibrant," Sikorski said.

The co-op makes just enough money to keep running the day-to-day operations. Other expenses come from memberships. Anybody can pay an upfront, lifetime fee of \$200 or pay in installments. The membership comes with up to a 4% discount on items. It has had thousands of members over the years and currently has around 1,390. The co-op also takes out loans when it has big expenses.

Members can also special-order products. They can come in, call or email to request information on the price of a product. They tell the cashier what they want, put down a \$10 deposit and the order comes within a week. Sikorski said special ordering items in bulk is a great way to save money.

During the month of October, the



The Ypsilanti Food Co-op entrance on Sept. 30.

Lauren Holloway / The Eastern Echo

co-op will have events to celebrate its 50th anniversary. The co-op will also put together a time capsule to be opened in another 50 years.

However, the co-op isn't just a store, it's also a place to build community. The same people come back, run into

neighbors and stop to talk to people. Community information is shared and spread through bulletins and newsletters.

For more information, schedules or menus, visit the co-op's website or Facebook page.



Instagram @easternechoofficial



TikTok @theeasternecho



Facebook @ The Eastern Echo

Eastern Michigan football loses heartbreaker in OT to Buffalo, 31-30



Eastern Michigan halfback Dontae McMillan ran for 121 yards during the team's victory over ULL on Sept. 20. Julius Stewart / The Eastern Echo

Caleb Henderson
Sports Editor

Heading into UB Stadium as 10.5 point underdogs, Eastern Michigan's football team found themselves on the doorstep of pulling off a stunning upset in what would go down as one of the most captivating Mid-American Conference games this year.

That was until the final play.

After taking the University at Buffalo to overtime and surrendering a touchdown in the opening frame of the extra period, the Eagles responded quickly with another touchdown run from quarterback Noah Kim to put the green and white within one point of a tie.

While Eastern Michigan head coach Chris Creighton could've elected to kick the extra point and advance the game to a second overtime, he chose instead to trust his offense and try for a two point conversion attempt to secure

the game for the Eagles if successful.

Racking up 30 points and over 400 yards of total offense, trusting the offense with the ball seemed like a no-brainer at the time — at least until the ball was snapped.

A slightly errant snap forced Kim to extend his right arm to corral the ball, damaging the timing of the play and resulting in a fumble from the graduate transfer just seconds later.

The loose football was quickly recovered by the Buffalo defense and effectively ended the game, allowing the Bulls to secure a homecoming victory and their second straight conference win, 31-30.

Eastern Michigan's final snap gaffe failed to overshadow another potent day for the offense and a much improved defensive effort throughout all five quarters of the game.

Even without the team's best wide receiver, Terry Lockett Jr., the Eagles' offense did not skip a beat.

Multiple 90+ yard touchdown drives highlighted the group's offensive efforts in the first half, with a balanced attack remaining prevalent throughout the rest of the afternoon of football.

Noah Kim continued to shine with three total touchdowns, two through the air and one on the ground, while halfbacks Dontae McMillan and Tavierre Dunlap combined for 196 yards rushing.

McMillan, who was spotted noticeably hobbling multiple times throughout the first half, played through pain all day and channeled his grit into providing two pivotal touchdowns for the team — one rushing and one receiving.

Nick Devereaux stepped up once more in Lockett Jr.'s absence, with the deep threat corralling a 45 yard touchdown to cap off a 99 yard initial scoring drive from the offense; his final stat line reading three catches for 62 yards.

Defensively, the Eagles forced a critical fumble from Buffalo quarterback Ta'Quan Roberson midway through the fourth quarter, just their third takeaway this season, while also holding the Bulls to 24 points in regulation — matching their season low for points given up through four quarters.

With the win, Buffalo improves back to .500 on the season with a mark of 3-3, remaining undefeated in conference play and boasting a 2-0 record. Meanwhile, the Eagles drop to 1-5 and currently sit 0-2 in MAC action, having now lost seven straight conference games dating back to last year.

Next week, the Eagles return to Ypsilanti and hope to return to the win column with a date against Northern Illinois at Rynearson Stadium Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025, at 1 p.m. Viewers can stream all of the action live on ESPN+.

Eagle Sports Tips & Tales: Oct. 7 - 13

Caleb Henderson
Sports Editor

With fall sports in full swing, here's a look at some of this week's top stories from Eastern Michigan University's various athletic disciplines.

Football | Eastern Michigan returns home, aims to save season against Northern Illinois

Following a heartbreaking defeat to the University at Buffalo last Saturday, the Eagles find themselves holding a 1-5 record at the halfway point of the season.

In order to return to bowl eligibility for the first time since 2023, Eastern Michigan will need to post a 5-1 record the remainder of the campaign — a tall task that begins with their first home game since homecoming, and the first of the green and white's Mid-American Conference home slate.

Welcoming Northern Illinois to town for the final time as a MAC competitor, the Eagles do not boast the greatest track record against the Huskies over the past decade, having dropped eight of their last 10 meetings, including the last three straight.

The last time these two teams met was in 2023 at Rynearson Stadium, with the Huskies securing a road win in a 20-13 battle.

Viewers can stream all the action on ESPN+ live this Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025, at 1 p.m.

Track & Field | Eastern Michigan athletics opens new track & field complex ahead of upcoming season

A pivotal part of the second phase of EMU's Championship Building Plan has been completed — the athletics department held a ribbon cutting ceremony on a brand new complex for the men's and women's track and field programs on Sept. 20, 2025.

"Since my arrival in 2017, I have always wanted to give our track and field program the facility they deserve. No more sharing with other teams, they now have their own state of the art facility," said Scott Wetherbee, the Eastern Michigan vice president and director of athletics.

Crucial donations totaling \$2 million from former track and field alumni Dan McClory and Keith Moore were key in getting the project over the finish line, along with funding from NFL superstar Maxx Crosby and his wife, Rachel, a fellow EMU alumnus, totaling \$1 million, and a \$2.5 million gift from Eastern Michigan Regent Emeritus Phil Incarnati.

The opening of the complex comes on the heels of longtime Eastern Michigan men's and women's track program stalwart Sue Parks announcing her retirement at the conclusion of the 2025-26 season after 20 years at the helm.

Eastern Michigan also plans to retain the current Olds-Marshall-Parks track moniker to coincide with the facility upgrade.

Lacrosse | Eastern Michigan releases full 2026 regular season schedule

Fresh off a shared conference title and the team's second straight MAC tournament appearance, Eastern Michigan's lacrosse program geared up for their fourth season of competition with the release of their full 2026 calendar on Sept. 30.

16 games are on the slate for the Eagles, with the season opener set for Feb. 6, as a road date against Marquette.

Senior day for the green and white will be held Apr. 18, 2026, against Robert Morris, with 12 upperclasswomen set to graduate and be honored in a critical conference match. The season finale pits the Eagles against Youngstown State to close out the campaign.

The Eagles have shown consistent refinement each of the past two seasons under head coach Maddie Dugan, improving from 7-9 in 2024 to 8-9 last year — each campaign boasting a 4-2 record in conference play.

Eastern Michigan Bowling Green in volleyball falls to home opener, 3-2

Jeffrey Ellingsworth
Sports Reporter

The Eastern Michigan volleyball team returned home to the George Gervin GameAbove Center for the first time in nearly a month, welcoming the Bowling Green Falcons for a Friday night matchup on Oct. 3.

Eastern entered the weekend looking to get its first Mid-American Conference win of the season against the Falcons, who entered the match undefeated in league play. The Eagles were also looking to break a three-game losing streak by using home court to their advantage and keep their home unbeaten record.

The Eagles struck quickly in the first set as Layna Waslewsky delivered a pair of killer serves, forcing the Falcons to backpedal and burn a timeout. Bowling Green stayed composed, however, and battled back to take a 15-12 lead halfway through the set. A deadly spike by Hatteras Welker kept the Eagles within striking distance, but it was not enough as the Eagles dropped the first set 25-17, and Bowling Green took a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five series.

In the second set, Bowling Green's towering front three proved to be difficult to score against as the Falcons controlled the beginning of the second set. Luckily, a back-and-forth scoring affair gave Eastern a two-point lead halfway through the set with a 15-13 lead. All-around domination by Ava Siefke forced the Falcons to call a timeout, but she could not be stopped as she led the Eagles to the set victory, evening the series at one apiece.

Siefke's superiority continued into the third set as her kill on the Falcons' attack gave Eastern the 15-12 lead at the timeout break. A late comeback



EMU Women's Volleyball player #20 AshleeKay Christensen preparing to spike the volleyball against BGSU on Oct 3, at George Gervin GameAbove Center. Bradan Copeland / The Eastern Echo

attempt by the Falcons was crushed by Hatteras Welker as she slammed the door closed on the third set, giving Eastern the 2-1 advantage and all the momentum going into the fourth set.

A slow start by the Eagles in the fourth set forced Coach Foeman to call a timeout and attempt to regroup his team as they looked to fight their way back from a 10-4 deficit. The Falcons continued to lead in the fourth as they were up 16-11 halfway through the

set with Eastern desperate to go on a scoring run. Eastern's scoring run did not materialize, and Bowling Green forced a fifth set as they dominated the fourth set by a score of 25-16.

Video reviews ruled most of the fifth set as neither team was able to get any momentum, and the Falcons came out on top in a back-and-forth serving battle with a final score of 15-13, winning the five-set series 3-2.

Outside hitter Ava Siefke led the

Eagles with a career high 22 kills, while Ashlynn Belcher earned 23 assists during the match.

Eastern Michigan will travel to Mount Pleasant for their next game as they face their in-state rivals, the Central Michigan Chippewas, on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 7 p.m. The Eagles will then return home to the GameAbove Center on Thursday, Oct. 8, for a clash with Kent State at 6 p.m. Both games can be streamed on ESPN+.



Instagram @easternechoofficial



TikTok @theeasternecho



Facebook @ The Eastern Echo

Windgate Arts Complex brings potential fellowship for EMU students



The Windgate Arts Complex front entrance is framed by large windows that reflect the EMU campus and the horizon. Israel Shriki / The Eastern Echo

Israel Shriki
Staff Writer

Art students at Eastern Michigan University may have a new opportunity thanks to a potential \$200,000 gift from the Windgate Foundation. The gift is a matching grant, meaning it is contingent upon the EMU School of Art and Design raising a portion of the funds needed for the project, \$100,000.

The funding will be used to establish a fellowship program in 3D art for both undergraduate and graduate students.

The art school will identify 10 students for two cohorts to be known as EMU Windgate Fellows. Each Windgate Fellow will receive a stipend for one year for use toward tuition, fees, travel and other expenses related to creative activity and scholarly research.

The Windgate foundation is a private organization based in Little Rock, Ark., with a mission to support craft and visual arts. Launched in 1993, the foundation was a key donor to the Windgate Arts Complex at Eastern, which opened a year ago. The foundation provided \$3.4 million in gifts toward construction of the \$7.5 million complex.

School of Art and Design Director Sandra Murchison said that the donation and the fellowship program are important gifts for art education.

“That’s huge,” Murchison said. “We were

given \$100K, approved for a second \$100K as a challenge grant, and I’m raising \$100K to meet that challenge for a budget of \$300K.”

The school recently received \$100,000 of the grant. Murchison said they now have two years to raise the matching \$100,000. Once that fundraising is complete, the school will receive the additional \$100,000 from the Windgate Foundation for a total of \$300,000 dedicated to EMU students.

Anyone wanting to contribute to the matching grant should contact Murchison at smurchis@emich.edu or Jill Hunsberger, the university’s associate vice president for advancement, at jhusnberg1@emich.edu.

Fellowship application

“We’re looking to support our best students,” Murchison said of the fellow project.

Students will first need to apply to the program. Eligible students include sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Selections will be made by the faculty fellowship committee. Fellows will be announced at the end of the academic year.

The grant is designed to do the following:

- Support students taking experiential learning classes.
- Help pay for tuition and fees for an internship or a class at the Parsons Center for Arts and Science, or other courses requiring domestic travel. (Parsons offers summer 10-day immersive classes.)

- Cover part of the costs for art supplies, travel and possibly a conference.

“We’re going to be running an art history class to New York City this May,” Murchison said. “So, it’s those kinds of special experiences that a lot of the students don’t have a chance to take advantage of, and support our best students doing some of our coolest class work.”

Possible effects on the local community

Murchison said because of the grant, the school can increase its community engagement work, which she called a win-win situation.

The art school currently is working with the Riverside Art Center, a nonprofit art center in Ypsilanti, to pay for a summer workshop.

“Hopefully, these fellows will help, or some of our students will help in teaching a workshop this summer along with the Riverside Art Center,” Murchison said.

Windgate Arts Complex a year after its dedication

The Wingate Arts complex was designed to house EMU’s 3D arts classes, studios and spaces in one place.

“Previously, the classes were just sort of shoe-horned into other spaces,” Murchison said.

The new complex offers spaces where students can take classes in sculpture, metalsmithing, jewelry work, ceramics, digital fabrication, 3D design and furniture design. All classes are open to anyone at EMU, and non-major courses are

included in general education.

Murchison said having the new complex for the study of art is beneficial for students’ careers and knowledge.

“Before we had these studios, ceramics was in the shipping and receiving building, so it was really separate as an outpost itself, and then sculpture was a much smaller footprint,” Murchison said. “It was in this building, but this building used to be a small, tiny piece of what we see now.”

“Now they are able to share one large, wonderful new wood shop,” Murchison said. “They share the digital fabrication studio as a resource and working space. They share sculpture spaces; they share a new wet lab that’s used by both ceramics and sculpture students for plaster making.”

Murchison said the new shared space is a smarter way to work. The students in the new faculty are aware of what the other studios are doing, and they’re able to collaborate much more.

Galleries and artworks

The doors of the Windgate Arts Complex are open only to authorized students enrolled in a specific class. However, those who love art and are interested in viewing the works that come from this complex can visit EMU display areas like the student-run Intermedia Gallery Group gallery, the Ford Gallery and the University Gallery.

EMU Swifties celebrate 'The Life of A Showgirl'

Lilly Kujawski
News Reporter

On the third floor of the Student Center, Eastern Michigan University students danced and sang along as they celebrated the release of Taylor Swift’s 12th studio album “The Life of a Showgirl” on Friday.

Team Taylor, EMU’s student fan club dedicated to Taylor Swift, hosted a campus listening party on Oct. 3. About 15 attendees gathered in a room decorated with orange streamers and balloons — a nod to the color associated with the new album — to listen as a group.

Club members, many donned in Swift-branded apparel and friendship bracelets, chatted over the music, analyzing lyrics and signifying their favorite songs.

“Hey, I know I said that the last five were my favorite, but this one is my favorite,” attendee Maddy Jecewski said to the group as a new song poured out of the boombox speaker.

Team Taylor at EMU

For many members, joining Team Taylor was a way to connect with fellow Swifties, as Swift’s fans are affectionately known, at EMU.

“The community aspect and the friendships that can be formed by listening to [Swift’s] music is a big draw,” said Aleigha Parrack, Team Taylor member-at-large.

President of the club and EMU’s self-identified “head Swiftie” Justin Giles founded Team Taylor this semester. Often found walking around campus with his headphones and Swift merch on, listening to the pop star’s music, Giles rallied his Swiftie friends to start the group.

Born the same year of Swift’s 2006 debut, Giles, a freshman studying psychology, calls



EMU's Team Taylor club president Justin Giles chats with a group during the club's "The Life of A Showgirl" listening party on Friday, Oct. 3. Lilly Kujawski / The Eastern Echo

himself a lifelong fan.

Shared connection

The club offers a space for like-minded Swifties to connect and bond over their love of Swift’s music, Giles said.

He likened the connection to the one he experienced with other fans when he attended the Eras Tour, Swift’s record-breaking world tour, in Detroit in 2023. Swift played two shows in Detroit in 2023 on June 9 and 10.

“It was just really awesome to be at a stadium full of people that I had something in common with, and everyone was so social and nice,” Giles said. “And I’ve yet to be in a space like that, except

for — I guess — my own club.”

The Eras Tour was an emotional experience for Team Taylor club members who attended the show.

“I sobbed like a baby,” said Spencer Keefer, a member of the club since its first meeting, who also attended a Detroit show.

The power of storytelling

To Giles, Swift’s music represents catharsis.

“I’ve just always gone to her in the case of heartbreak,” Giles said. “I fall for someone, I’m listening to Taylor. We break up, I’m listening to Taylor.”

An artist known for her songwriting talents,

Swift’s lyricism stands out to Giles, especially on his favorite album “evermore,” which was surprise-released in 2020.

“The storytelling on it is just so powerful,” Giles said. “I think it’s like the peak of her storytelling capabilities, at least for now.”

Swift’s music has often been the soundtrack of important moments in Giles’ life.

“My first kiss with a guy, ‘Everything Has Changed’ was playing, and that really stuck with me,” Giles said. “Every time I hear that song, I’m like, transported back to that moment.”

Celebrating “The Life of A Showgirl”

For “The Life of A Showgirl,” Swift reunited with Swedish producers and songwriters Max Martin and Shellback, who were collaborators on some of her previous albums, including “Red,” “1989” and “Reputation.”

“I liked how it was just fun,” Giles said of the new album. “I was just dancing and having fun.”

As for album release night traditions, Giles said he tries to always stay up until midnight to listen to Swift’s new albums right when they come out, and “The Life of a Showgirl” was no exception.

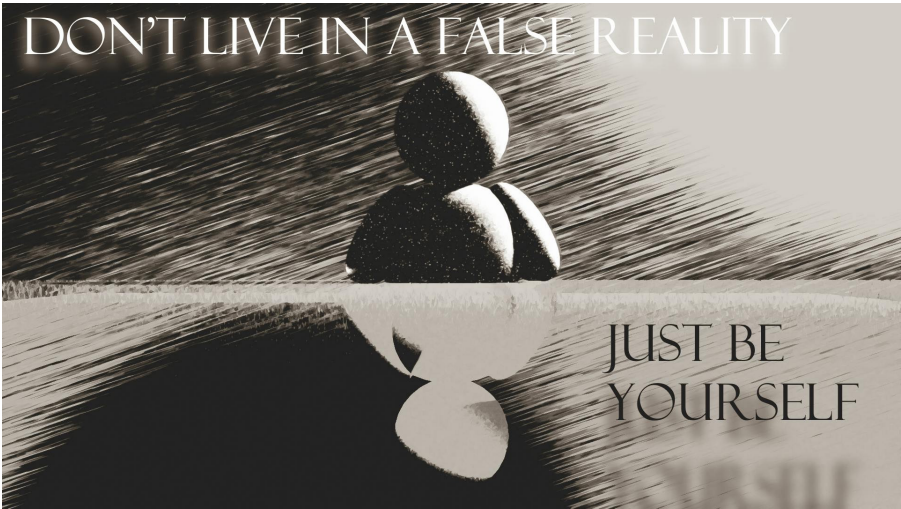
Globally, Swift fans flocked to movie theaters from Oct. 3-5 for “The Official Release Party of A Showgirl,” which featured the world premiere of “The Fate of Ophelia” music video, behind-the-scenes footage, lyric videos and Swift’s reflections on the new album. Several members of the Team Taylor club mentioned plans to attend the theatrical event.

Team Taylor’s next meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. and will feature a game of Kahoot! covering Swift trivia. The meeting location will be announced closer to the date, and those interested in attending should check Team Taylor’s Instagram, [@emuteamtaylor](https://www.instagram.com/emuteamtaylor), for updates.

Engravings XIV | Gideon the Ghost, Comics Artist

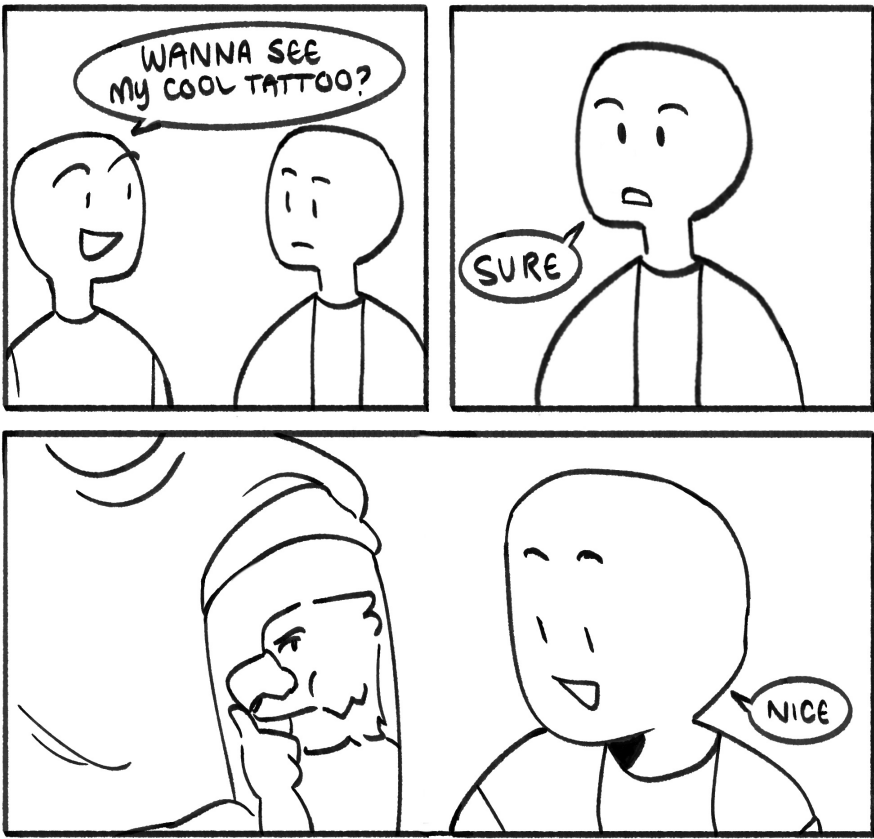


Yourself | Yiri, Comics Artist



Scan to find our links!

Tattoo | FunkyLOaf, Comics Artist



Smoking | FunkyLOaf, Comics Artist



First Amendment Crossword Puzzle

Across

1 Home state of public official who sued the NYT in famous defamation case

2 Type of protected speech used by editorial cartoonists

3 Number of First Amendment protections

4 Defamation by speech

5 The U.S. is known widely for this freedom

6 Establishes freedom of speech

7 Protected speech used by businesses

8 Main defense of libel

9 Unprotected speech often expressed in images

10 Protected speech used by elected officials

11 Fourth pillar of democracy

12 Newspaper involved in landmark defamation case

13 A type of unprotected speech considered dangerous

14 Number of amendments to the U.S. Constitution

Down

10 This First Amendment right allows citizens to challenge government

15 Used as part of the proof of libel

16 Platform featuring latest free speech battles

17 All 10 were adopted as a single unit in 1791

18 Expert user of First Amendment

19 The protection for non government groups

20 First Amendment author

21 The First Amendment was ratified during this month

22 A First Amendment protection the pilgrims would approve

23 Number of words in the First Amendment

24 The First Amendment establishes five of these

25 A type of speech most people dislike

26 Defamation in writing

Scoop says...





The art booth run by Arlo Hawthorne at the 2025 Ypsilanti Freakfest held in Riverside Park on Saturday, October 4. Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo



EIDining hosts a farmers market on the Student Center Patio on Wednesday, Oct. 1. Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo



EIDining hosts a farmers market on the Student Center Patio on Wednesday, Oct. 1. Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo



EMU Women's Volleyball player, #15 Ava Siefke, spikes the volleyball over the net to receive a point for her team during the game against BGSU on Oct 3 at the George Gervin GameAbove Center. Bradan Copeland / The Eastern Echo



Pride flags were installed on campus in University Park to celebrate National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11. Natalie Kyle / The Eastern Echo



The Pippin Jewelry booth at 2025's Ypsilanti Freakfest held in Riverside Park on Saturday, October 4. Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo



Donna runs the booth with snacks and mocktails at the Craft and Sip with CORE event held in the Eastern Michigan University Student Center on Wednesday, Oct. 1. Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo



Attendees look through a selection of Taylor Swift-themed stickers at "The Life of A Showgirl" listening party hosted by EMU's Team Taylor fan club on Friday, Oct. 3. Lilly Kujawski / The Eastern Echo



EMU Women's Volleyball players, #3 Layna Waselewsky, #14 Ella Voorhees, #15 Ava Siefke, #18 Kendal Bonney and more, celebrate after getting a point against BGSU on Oct 3, 2025, at the George Gervin GameAbove Center. Bradan Copeland / The Eastern Echo