



# The Eastern Echo

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# EMU Regents approve parking system repurchase, litigation settlement plan

Lilly Kujawski & Natalie Kyle  
Managing Editor & Editor-in-Chief

Eastern Michigan University regents approved a plan Thursday to terminate EMU’s existing parking system contract, repurchase the parking system and settle litigation surrounding the agreement and the unused campus parking garage.

The regents, in a unanimous vote Thursday, Oct. 23, authorized a debt up to \$75 million to facilitate the university’s repurchase of the parking system on campus. In January 2018, EMU entered a 35-year agreement with Preston Hollow Capital, allowing LAZ Parking to operate the system, and paying \$55 million to EMU. Provident Group EMU Properties, under nonprofit corporation Provident Resource Group, was assigned as concessionaire by Preston Hollow Capital.

The university closed the parking garage Sept. 25, 2022, explaining in a campus-wide email sent two days earlier that engineering teams needed to begin an assessment of needed repairs. The decision was based in part on third-party engineering reviews that pointed to concerns about the structure’s safety.

Per the 2018 agreement, Provident EMU was responsible for making the repairs, a university statement said. When Provident EMU failed to reopen the garage, EMU issued the group a notice of default. In response to the notice of default, Provident filed a lawsuit against EMU, citing a breach of contract. There was dispute between EMU and Provident EMU over the expected cost of repairs.

The parking garage provides 784



The parking garage at Eastern Michigan University remains closed due to safety concerns. Natalie Kyle / The Eastern Echo

spaces, representing more than 8% of the university’s parking system, said a 2023 statement from Walter Kraft, vice president of communications at EMU. The statement said that Provident EMU had the responsibility to maintain and operate the parking garage under the 2018 agreement.

Regent approval allows EMU President James Smith to negotiate and sign a settlement agreement, ending litigation between EMU and Provident EMU.

“An agreement is expected soon under which the university will repurchase the parking system from

its concessionaire, bringing an end to the multi-year litigation between the parties,” said a statement issued by University Communications.

Under such an agreement, EMU would regain full control of the operations and finances of the parking system, university officials said in an email sent to the campus community from University Communications.

“The transition cannot occur immediately; instead, it would occur over a number of months,” the officials said in the email. “Upon regaining control of the parking system, the university’s primary goals in the

subsequent months will include campus safety, efficiency, and high-quality customer service.”

Some students expressed frustration with current parking options on campus.

“I do park on campus and it’s often hard to find a spot because there’s only three main lots that are accessible to buildings that people frequent a lot,” said commuter student Sarah Ahmad.

Ahmad typically parks in the Science Complex or Oakwood lots. “Last semester, I would literally follow people who are exiting the building to their car so I could grab a spot.”

Difficulty finding parking while still budgeting enough time to walk to class can be difficult, especially during peak hours, Ahmad said.

“It’s just such a game of logistics, and it all depends on a parking spot,” Ahmad said.

At the regents meeting, Student Body President Jack Booth thanked the board for taking action on the campus parking system.

“As a student, I commend the board for taking a look into the parking situation,” Booth said during the communications portion of the meeting.

# Ypsilanti City Council passes resolution opposing UM, Los Alamos data center



Ypsilanti City Council members gather in City Hall for their meeting Tuesday, Oct. 21, to discuss an agenda with nine resolutions. Lilly Kujawski / The Eastern Echo

Lilly Kujawski & Ameera Salman  
Managing Editor & News Editor

The Ypsilanti City Council unanimously approved a resolution affirming the City of Ypsilanti’s commitment to peace and opposition to the proposed Los Alamos and University of Michigan data center.

Council members approved resolution 2025-222 at their Oct. 21 meeting.

The resolution enters Ypsilanti into Mayors for Peace, an international organization for cities dedicated to the abolition of nuclear weapons. It also recognizes Aug. 6 as Hiroshima Day and Aug. 9 as Nagasaki Day to honor victims of nuclear weapons.

Proposed plans to build the Los Alamos-UM data center in Ypsilanti Township have prompted

backlash from community members, with some residents creating a group called Stop The Data Center.

The Ypsilanti City Council resolution calls on the township board to deny permits related to building the data center. It also calls on UM to terminate its partnership with Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Additionally, the resolution calls on the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners to take a formal position opposing the center and asks the Michigan Strategic Fund to revoke its previously announced \$100 million grant and cease future support.

DTE Energy, the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority and Michigan Economic Development Corporation are also asked to cease any support for the project in the resolution.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, 17 members of the public addressed the council members. Several speakers expressed opposition to the proposed data center and encouraged council members to support the resolution.

Logan Fortuno, a public commenter at the meeting, raised concerns about the utility cost to residents due to proposed data center project.

Environmental impact and ethical concerns were the main opposition to the data center for another public commenter, Aziza Ulabee.

“We as voters, taxpayers, did not consent to have this data center in our midst impacting us negatively,” Ulabee said.

Ulabee added that the City of Ypsilanti has a track record of being on the right side of history and should continue to do so by opposing the data center.

“This project has a whole lot of unanswered questions,” said Council Member Patrick McLean, who supported the resolution. “Just because you can do it, doesn’t mean you should.”



The Eastern Echo

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

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THE ECHO MISSION

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

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CORRECTIONS

In the Oct. 21, 2025 edition of *Roots*, the date of the event, WonderFest, was misstated. WonderFest is a single day event occurring Nov. 4, 2025, from 5-8 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

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



CALENDAR

OCT 28 Pumpkins on the Patio  
From 4-7 p.m.  
Student Center — Patio

OCT 29 Fall Job Fair  
From 3-6 p.m.  
Student Center — Ballroom

OCT 30 Navigating a Career in Media  
From 1-5 p.m.  
Halle Library — Room 300 & 320



NOV 02 EMU Orchestra Concerto / Aria Competition  
From 2-3:30 p.m.  
Pease Auditorium — 494 College Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

NOV 03 Voice Masterclass with Nathalie Doucet from Detroit Opera  
From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Alexander Music Building — Organ Recital Hall

WEATHER FORECAST

Tuesday, October 28

High: 57 | Low: 39  
Sunny / Partly cloudy



Wednesday, October 29

High: 54 | Low: 39  
\*Mostly sunny / Mostly cloudy



Thursday, October 30

High: 52 | Low: 36  
\*Partly sunny / Mostly cloudy



Friday, October 31

High: 52 | Low: 36  
\*Partly sunny / Mostly cloudy



Saturday, November 1

High: 52 | Low: N/A  
\*Partly sunny



\*Chance of showers

Source:  
The National Weather Service

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# Organizers, officials call for community amid federal cuts



Some protesters made custom flub drums out of buckets for Ypsilanti's No Kings protest on Saturday, Oct. 18. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo

**Lilly Kujawski**  
Managing Editor

Earlier this October, frustrated Americans across the country convened for the second No Kings protest, a national movement in opposition of the Donald Trump administration.

Protesters raised signs and shouted chants, voicing concerns about policies, such as deployment of the National Guard to US cities, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in communities and federal budget decisions.

In Ypsilanti, about 4,000 people gathered for the city’s first No Kings demonstration, said Gordon McAllister, founder of Ypsi Indivisible, the event organizer. Organizers called the event a success. But what’s next for creating an effective, sustained movement?

For Ypsi Indivisible, it looks like building and living in community, McAllister said. With the federal government still shut down, McAllister said he has concerns about the wellbeing of Ypsilanti residents who may be impacted by a disruption to services, such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits.

He said that Ann Arbor Indivisible, a group Ypsi Indivisible collaborates with, is organizing a food bank to help support residents facing food insecurity.

Already, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has been instructed to pause November SNAP benefits, said a letter issued by the department. Approximately 1.4 million households in Michigan receive SNAP benefits, said the letter.

Even without threats to SNAP benefits, Washtenaw County residents may experience hunger, with one in seven county residents reporting food insecurity, as stated in a fall 2025 report from Food Gatherers. Of those, about 45% are likely ineligible for SNAP benefits, the report stated.

“It’s a tough time, I know, for people, and they’ll have to look towards their community for support,” McAllister said. “Hopefully, we can help each other out, because we’re all in the same boat.”

Food insecurity is exasperated by federal cuts, said Annie Somerville, democratic Washtenaw County commissioner for district six.

“People don’t realize, I think, unless you’re facing food insecurity, how bad things are right now for people who are already struggling,” Somerville said. “If a regular, middle-class human being is feeling the pinch of the pocketbook when they’re grocery shopping, imagine what it’s like for somebody who is trying to squeeze every dollar of SNAP benefits.”

Organizations like Food Gatherers and Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels are working to try to fill the gaps caused by federal cuts, Somerville said. Housing is another concern Somerville has seen Ypsilanti and Washtenaw County residents face.

Democratic county commissioner Yousef Rabhi who attended the No Kings rally, said lack of health insurance is another major issue Americans face and cuts from the federal level will only worsen it.

“40,000 Americans already die every year from a lack of health insurance,” Rabhi said. “We’re gonna see even more who are going to face death or these difficult decisions of ‘Do I pay my bills or do I get my cancer treatment?’ That’s totally unacceptable and in our community, we can do a lot to support people here in Washtenaw County who are facing those direct pocketbook cuts that are coming from the Trump administration.”

Health For All Washtenaw estimates that 7% of Ypsilanti residents are uninsured, higher than surrounding cities, including Ann Arbor.

As program cuts come down from the federal level, Rabhi said county and local governments should respond by expanding their role and building back those services on a local level.

“That’s what we need to be organizing right now is, how do we create the support in our community and expand the role of our county and local governments in supporting people that are facing these massive cuts?” Rabhi said.

Local government has responded by fighting back against some federal demands, Somerville said. In April, Homeland Security demanded Washtenaw ID data from Washtenaw County officials to use to target undocumented individuals in the county, Somerville said.

“It’s not data we’ve ever been required to hand over to the feds, it’s not a federal program, and so we chose to hire really expensive attorneys and fight the Trump administration,” Somerville said.

The key to sustaining a movement is to empower organizers who are engaging with the community, Somerville said.

“Elected officials sometimes get too much credit and really, it’s the regular people sitting at home who are trying to find ways to keep communities engaged when, quite frankly, there’s a fascist takeover of our government right now,” Somerville said. “It’s really hard for all of us to figure out how to react but the best way, in my opinion, to react is in community with others, and letting other people feel empowered to react to all the unconstitutional things happening around us.”

As a community organizer, McAllister said it’s important to lean on others in order to build that sense of community. He recommended finding a group of like-minded people and giving everyone a chance to utilize their unique talents.

“You need a good support group around you,” McAllister said. “You gotta put a network together, of people who are like-minded, that are willing to help out in any way that they can and are willing to use their talents.”

Everyone has a strength that can be useful in supporting others, but it requires taking a risk and getting involved, he said.

“People make mistakes, we make mistakes when we do things, but we don’t give up, just go try something different and keep moving forward to help everybody else,” McAllister said.

“Who knows what will happen next month, or next week, that might affect even more people,” he added. “We’ve gotta be community; that’s what community is: helping each other out.”

# Campus markets reopen



Michigan Student Action members (left to right) Welby Seely, Luke Newman, Christian Alvarado and Daniela Walbridge gather outside the Oct. 23 Board of Regents meeting to protest recent dining changes. Ameera Salman / The Eastern Echo

**Ameera Salman**  
News Editor

Students and staff gathered with homemade posters and comments to present at Eastern Michigan University’s Board of Regents meeting Thursday, Oct. 23. Tensions were still high two months after multiple changes and closures to EMU’s dining services were announced.

As part of the changes, two campus markets were closed and converted to self-service vending areas. The new markets no longer accept student meal plans or Flex Dollars.

University Communications announced in an email the opening of the two locations starting Tuesday, Oct. 21. The email also announced the opening of a Little Caesars in the Student Center on the same day.

“We’re pleased to share several enhancements to campus dining options designed to better serve students and employees,” Vice President of Communications Walter Kraft said in the email sent Oct. 20.

EMU junior Jason Folk spoke during public comment at the Regents meeting.

“These changes do not benefit students,” Folk said.

After the initial announcement of the changes in an Aug. 18 email, Folk started a petition called “Restore Accessible Dining Options at EMU,” which has gathered 1,651 signatures as of Oct. 26.

“After receiving 1,400 signatures, I wrote an email to EIDining and EMU administrators explaining the problems and effects these changes have on students, including increased food insecurity,” Folk said. “But I did not receive a response.”

Folk voiced his concern that the new market locations do not accept meal swipes or Flex Dollars.



“If we need to get food to fuel our bodies, we need to pay out-of-pocket in addition to the thousands we pay every single semester,” Folk said.

Maya Garcia, a sophomore at EMU, also expressed frustration with the changes to services and the timing of the original announcement.

“These changes came as a shocking disappointment,” Garcia said. “Meal plans were selected and purchased based on information provided by the university about dining options that would be available.”

Garcia said decision-makers at the university should seek feedback from students who will be affected by potential changes.

“Changes like the ones made to dining services this year are not decisions that can be made quickly or lightly,” Garcia said. “A university responsible for providing adequate resources for a whole community should be considering how changes to dining services affect all the different members of the community.”



**WASHTENAW**

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**CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

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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  
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# Celebrate Halloween with these local campus, community events

*Katherine Tatomir,  
Gray Connor & Natalie Kyle*  
News Reporter,  
Podcast Editor & Editor-in-Chief

With Halloween right around the corner, Eastern Michigan University students and Ypsilanti community members have plenty of Halloween events to look forward to.

### Events for EMU students:

#### Pumpkins on the Patio

What do pumpkin carving, donuts and cider, costumes, contests and student organizations have in common? They can all be found at EMU Campus Life’s Pumpkins on the Patio event Tuesday, Oct. 28.

Pumpkins on the Patio will take place on the Student Center Patio from 4-7 p.m. EMU Registered Student Organizations will join ElDining in tabling at the event. Attendees can also enjoy live performances throughout the night.

#### Trick-or-Treat with The Eastern Echo

If you love free candy and Halloween, this is the event for you! On Thursday, Oct. 30, from 5-8 p.m., *The Eastern Echo* will be hosting a trick-or-treat at *The Echo*’s office, located on the ground floor of King Hall.

The event is free and open to everyone. Come meet our team, see the office, get free candy and hang out with friends.

Costumes are encouraged but not required.

#### Halloween Celestial Origins

Astronomy may not usually be your first thought when someone mentions Halloween, but the rich history of Halloween’s celestial origins can be explored in EMU’s planetarium show on Thursday, Oct. 30, at 8 p.m. The cost of this event is \$5, and tickets can



Students spread out on the Student Center lawn, hard at work carving their pumpkins during Pumpkins On the Patio at last year's event on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024. *Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo*

be found online at [emich.ludus.com](http://emich.ludus.com).

This event is not approved for LBC credit. For more information, visit the EMU Planetarium webpage.

#### Events in the Ypsilanti community:

#### Seventh Annual Halloween Fiesta at Maíz Mexican Cantina

Enjoy a Halloween fiesta at Depot Town’s Maíz Mexican Cantina, with food, drinks and a live DJ. A portion of the proceeds will go to support Ypsilanti Community Schools. A photo booth will be on site to capture the memories.

Those interested can join the pre-party at 7 p.m. for \$25. General admission access starts at 9 p.m. with tickets selling for \$10.

Tickets are available on eventbrite.com. The event is for ages 21 and above.

#### All Hallows Illumination of Frog Island

Bring your own jack-o’-lantern to Ypsilanti’s Frog Island Park on Saturday, Nov. 1, to share the Halloween magic with the community. LED lights will be provided, and there will be an artisan market to shop for spooky-themed homemade goods.

The event will run from 6-9 p.m. There is no fee to attend and all ages are welcome.

#### Othello at Riverside Arts Center

One of Shakespeare’s classic tragedies is getting an inclusive and accessible revamp in a collaboration between Petie the Dog Productions and Brevity Shakespeare, two theater

companies based in the Ypsilanti area. Performances will be located at the Riverside Arts Center in downtown Ypsilanti.

The production will run from Nov. 13-22. Those interested in attending can purchase tickets and learn more at [brevityshakes.org](http://brevityshakes.org).

#### Night Terrors at Wiard’s Orchards

Looking for a truly terrifying experience this Halloween? Visit Ypsilanti’s Wiard’s Orchards for its final weekend of Night Terrors. The event hosts five attractions, including The Asylum, Hayride of the Lost, The Ultimate Haunted Barn, Alien Caged Clowns in 3D and The Mindshaft.

Night Terrors will be open for three final nights Oct. 31 to Nov. 2. Those interested in buying tickets can visit [hauntedhousemichigan.com](http://hauntedhousemichigan.com).

# What's the Move? Oct. 28-Nov. 3

*Israel Shriki*  
Staff Writer

From trick-or-treating in Depot Town to swing dance classes at the Riverside Arts Center, several events are taking place this week in Ypsilanti.

#### Trick or Treat in Depot Town, Wednesday, Oct. 29

On Wednesday, Oct. 29, Depot Town will be dressed up for Halloween and trick-or-treating.

Everyone is welcome to visit Depot Town stores and venues for trick-or-treating from 4 to 6 p.m.

Depot Town merchants encourage everyone to wear costumes. Participation is free. Children must attend with an adult.

Details on the event and other Halloween happenings in Depot Town can be found on the Ypsi Real website.

#### U-Pick Pumpkins at Jacobs Farm, Tuesday-Friday, Oct. 28-31

Open seven days a week, Jacob’s Fresh Farm is specializing in u-pick pumpkins for Halloween.

The farm, located at 475 N. Fletcher Road in Dexter, Michigan, also has u-pick sunflowers and flower bouquets.

Moreover, on weekends, attendees can enjoy hayrides, apple cider at the farm stand, and a toddler town area.

The farm is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

#### Riverside Swings, Friday, Oct. 31

The Riverside Arts Center invites dance lovers to try out swing dancing.

Whether participants are beginners or advanced dancers, and whether they come with a partner or alone, all are invited to the Friday night dance events at Riverside.

From 8 to 9 p.m., dance instructors are available to get participants started in swing, and lessons are free. Then there will be open dance time until 11 p.m., with a \$5 admission fee.

After 11 p.m., the theme changes from Swing to Late Night Blues & Fusion.

General admission for the open dance and the Late Night Blues & Fusion costs \$5. The student price is \$4.

The Riverside Arts Center is located at 76 N. Huron St. in Ypsilanti.

More information is available on the Riverside Arts Center website.

#### All Hallows Illumination of Frog Island, Saturday, Nov. 1

Frog Island Park in Ypsilanti will be lit up and decorated with a fall theme for a community event Saturday, Nov. 1, from 6 to 9 p.m.

All are welcome to participate, including pets. Participation is free.

Participants are encouraged to wear costumes and bring carved pumpkins. LED lights will be provided to light up the pumpkins.

Frog Island Park is located at 699 Rice St. in Ypsilanti.

Additionally, the event includes an artist market with homemade goods for sale. For more details, visit the Ypsi Real website.

#### Haunts for Hunger, Friday-Sunday, Oct. 31-Nov. 2

Haunt at Roxbury Farm will bring the terror for a good cause with some of the scariest home haunts in Washtenaw County at this event.

The event will support Hope Clinic Pantry Ypsilanti. Admission to the event is any non-perishable food or hygiene item per person.

On Friday and Saturday, the event takes place 7-10 p.m. On Sunday, the event occurs 6:30-9 p.m. The haunted event will be held at 7410 Roxbury Drive in Ypsilanti Township.

This is an outdoor home haunt event that is subject to change due to weather. For updates, check the YpsiHaunts page on Facebook.

# Nov. 4 ballot proposes Career Technical Education millage



Voters exit the poll location at Ypsilanti International Elementary School on the Nov. 3, 2020, election day. *Echo Archive Photo*

*Lauren Holloway*  
News Reporter

On Nov. 4, Ypsilanti voters will be asked to cast a vote on a new proposal. The Washtenaw Intermediate School District is proposing a millage for the Career Technical Education programs.

#### What is CTE?

The CTE programs are year-long studies on career education done in 11th or 12th grade. There are also exploratory programs in middle school to help students find what they’re interested in. The programs cover many different areas like health sciences, culinary arts, automotive technology, marketing, computer programming,

accounting and many more. The full list can be found on the WISD website.

The purpose of these programs is to help students decide what they want to pursue as a career by getting hands-on experience in those fields.

Ashly Kryscynski, director of communications and public relations, emphasized the programs’ student first focus.

86% of high school graduates consider postsecondary education, like Eastern Michigan University, said the director of career and technical education, Ryan Rowe. The programs affirm what the students want to do for a career, Rowe said.

The programs also lead to industry-recognized credentials like certificates and licenses. They also help students go into postsecondary education with a focus and intent, instead of discovering they don’t like that field after spending thousands of dollars on tuition and classes, Rowe said.

There are direct ties from the CTE programs to EMU’s areas of study. The health sciences programs link to a degree in nursing; the business management program aligns with a marketing degree. Any CTE program can set up a student for a focused career track, Kryscynski said.

#### The current issues

Right now, CTE programs get money from the general fund, which contributes to many other things across the district. With so much competition for the funds, the CTE programs are being underfunded.

Currently there’s also disparities across the different communities. Students in smaller or economically disadvantaged districts and students of

color have much more limited access to these programs, University of Michigan Youth Policy Lab research found. There are currently four consortiums: Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Whitmore Lake and the South and West Washtenaw consortium which includes Chelsea, Dexter, Milan, Lincoln, Saline and Manchester. While Saline has 21 different CTE programs, Whitmore Lake only has four. Ypsilanti stands at five, meanwhile the average in the rest of the state is 30, the WISD website states.

While there has been a 69% increase in enrollment in the last four years, CTE doesn’t have the funds to expand or the space to accommodate all the students who want to be involved in the programs, Rowe said.

#### What the millage would do

The purpose of the millage proposal is to directly fund the CTE programs. It would make it more centralized so that each community in Washtenaw County can have equal access to the programs. It would expand the programs so every student has more choices. It would also mean that there would be funds for marketing and outreach so more students could hear about the opportunities available to them.

The CTE programs in Washtenaw County are falling behind and the millage would help the county catch up to others around the state, Rowe said.

#### Cost to taxpayers

A millage is a financial term used to describe property taxes. The millage is based on the taxable value of property, or about half of the property’s market value. The CTE millage would cost an annual \$100 on every \$100,000, or about \$8.33 each month.



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# Eastern Michigan football falls to Ohio 28-21



Eastern Michigan University football player #40 Bryce Eliuk tackles Ohio University's player #7 Chase Hendricks at Rynearson Stadium Oct. 25. Bradan Copeland / The Eastern Echo

**Caleb Henderson**  
*Sports Editor*

With their backs against the wall, season hanging in the balance and the Rynearson Stadium home crowd behind them, the Eastern Michigan football team gave Ohio University all they could handle through the opening 30 minutes of play.

The second half, however, was a vastly different story.

The reigning Mid-American Conference champion Bobcats trailed for the majority of the action, but tied the game up with a touchdown run from Sieh Bangura late in the third quarter. The Bobcats then took the lead with a touchdown pass from Parker Navarro to Chase Hendricks and put the game away with an additional Bangura touchdown with only 2:15 left on the clock.

From 5:01 remaining in the first

quarter until 1:39 was left in the fourth, Ohio outscored Eastern Michigan 21-0 and flipped an early 14-7 deficit into a 28-21 victory once the action had wrapped up on Crosby Field.

Career days from dynamic duo Navarro and Hendricks headlined the Bobcats' come from behind victory, with the sixth year senior Navarro posting career highs in completions and passing yards, and Hendricks achieving his through receptions and touchdowns.

As a team, Ohio put up 487 total yards of offense, overcoming a red zone interception and a Hail Mary touchdown to end the first half which was called back due to penalty. The Bobcats defense held the home team to seven points over the final three quarters.

Eastern Michigan's fast start was powered by Noah Kim and Nick Devereaux's flourishing connection, with the quarterback finding the speedy

wide receiver for a 38 yard opening drive touchdown, the first time the Eagles have reached paydirt on the opening possession all season.

Devereaux added another receiving touchdown late in the game, upping his tally to two for the second straight week. The graduate student also posted career highs with five catches and 121 yards on the day.

Kim continued to shine through the air and on the statsheet, putting up 259 yards and two touchdown passes and adding yet another rushing score in the red zone. The sixth year senior now leads all players on the team with five rushing touchdowns for 2025.

The ground game proved much more effective for the green and white at home this week compared to last week against Miami University. Dontae McMillan led the way with 49 yards on 10 carries, while Tavierre Dunlap added 33 yards of his own and Kim contributed 30 to the offense's 112 yard

rushing total.

Defensively, the Eagles picked off two Navarro passes. One interception came from Tyrelle Deener — the defensive back notably playing with a cast on his hand — with the other occurring when Juan Salas intercepted Navarro's attempted heave into the endzone before half.

With the win, Ohio improves its record to 5-3, now boasting a 3-1 record in the conference and likely controlling its destiny to return to the MAC championship game for a second straight year. Meanwhile, Eastern Michigan falls to 2-7, slipping to 1-4 in the MAC and seeing its bowl hopes become all but dashed.

Next week, Eastern Michigan takes its first bye week of the campaign after nine straight weeks of action — but will return to the gridiron at home against Bowling Green State University on Saturday, Nov. 8, with the time still to be determined.

# Eagle Sports Tips & Tales: Oct. 28 - Nov. 3

**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.

## Men's Basketball | Eastern Michigan opens season at home against Georgia State

Following a trip to the Mid-American Conference tournament last year for the first time since the 2019-20 season, the Eastern Michigan men's basketball program aims to improve on its strong finish to the campaign, opening the 2025-26 season at the George Gervin GameAbove Center against Georgia State University.

While having lost many of their top offensive scorers from a year ago, the Eagles bring in a bevy of new talents from the transfer portal; new names such as Carlos Hart, Mehki Ellison and Addison Patterson are expected to step up and lead the team entering the new year.

The Eagles have played the Georgia State Panthers twice. Both times were over a decade ago, and both were losses for the green and white. Most recently, the Eagles had a one-point loss to the Panthers on Dec. 19, 2009, 66-65.

Tipoff for the action is slated for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 3. Viewers can stream the matchup on ESPN+.

## Women's Basketball | Eastern Michigan opens season on road against Louisiana-Monroe

The women's basketball team hits the road on Nov. 3 to open its 2025-26 campaign against the University of Louisiana-Monroe.

With a completely overhauled roster featuring only two returning players and many new international faces, the team aims to improve from the 2-27 showing posted in Head Coach Sahar Nusseibeh's first season in Ypsilanti last year.

The Eagles have never played the Warhawks prior to this matchup, the first leg of the MAC-Sun Belt Challenge that will conclude for the green and white with a home matchup against the conference opponent yet to be determined on Feb. 7, 2026.

Viewers can catch the action live on Monday, Nov. 3 at 6:30 p.m. on ESPN+.

## Soccer | Eastern Michigan concludes season against Central Michigan

Sitting on the brink of a potential MAC Tournament appearance, Eastern Michigan wraps up its 2025 season with a critical road test against Central Michigan University that could make or break its playoff hopes.

The Eagles find themselves in a four-way fight for the sixth and final spot in the bracket, competing against the likes of Bowling Green State University, the University of Massachusetts, and Ohio University to receive entry into the dance for the first time since 2019.

Eastern Michigan boasts a 5-3-2 record against Central Michigan over their last 10 meetings, with the green and white having not lost to the Chippewas since a 2021 contest at Scicluna Field.

Viewers can catch all of the action on Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 3 p.m.

## Women's Golf | Jasmine Leovao takes MAC Golfer of the Week honors

For the third time in the program's five competitions this season, an Eastern Michigan women's golfer has received all-conference accolades.

Jasmine Leovao becomes the latest Eagle to earn these honors for her stellar performance in the Rainbow Wahine Invitational, finishing as a runner-up and posting a career best 210 (-6) score throughout the event.

Leovao joins her twin sister, Janae, and fellow teammate Baiyok Sukterm in taking home the MAC Golfer of the Week title throughout the course of the new campaign thus far.

# EMU women's volleyball stuns Buffalo in five-set thriller

**Ruby Brannon**  
*Sports Reporter*

The Eastern Michigan University volleyball team delivered a monumental comeback victory Friday night, prevailing over the Buffalo Bulls in a thrilling five-set contest (24-26, 18-25, 25-13, 25-20, 15-12) at the George Gervin GameAbove Center. The Eagles, who entered the match seeking Head Coach Kevin Foeman's first win against Buffalo in his tenure, overcame an early 0-2 deficit in the sets to secure the win.

**A dramatic turnaround**

The Eagles struggled through the opening two sets, falling 24-26 and 18-25, respectively, as Buffalo took a commanding lead. However, Eastern Michigan's mentality and competitive drive kicked in during the crucial third set.

The momentum shifted dramatically in the third frame, where EMU dominated with a massive 25-13 win. Eastern Michigan's offense found its rhythm, boasting a .455 hitting percentage in the set (12 kills on 22 attacks with only two errors). This surge was fueled by exceptional defensive effort, including a service ace by Layna Waselewsky, and key blocking by Kendal Bonney, Hatteras Welker, and Anna Guard.

With the crowd behind them, the Eagles maintained the intensity in the fourth set, winning 25-20 to force the decisive tiebreaker. During the fourth set, EMU saw a crucial serving run from Surabhi Srinivasan, who notched a service ace and helped the team go on a run that included kills by Kaylin Schroeder, Bri Struck, and Welker, pushing the score from 7-7 to 9-7.

**EMU's fifth-set firepower**

In the decisive fifth set, EMU continued its aggressive play, posting a .375 hitting percentage and outscoring



EMU Women's Volleyball players cheer after getting a point against Buffalo on Oct. 23. Bradan Copeland / The Eastern Echo

Buffalo 15-12 to secure the match. The tiebreaker win moves Eastern Michigan's season record to 11-13 overall and 3-8 in the MAC.

This five-set victory breaks a recent trend, as Buffalo had won five straight contests against Eastern Michigan leading into this series. EMU last won a match against the Bulls in 2020, also in five sets, inside the George Gervin GameAbove Center.

**Statistical leaders fuel the Eagles**

The win was a comprehensive team effort, demonstrating the value of collective contribution that Coach Foeman emphasizes.

Junior outside hitter Bri Struck led

the EMU attack with 16 kills. Struck proved instrumental in the crucial sets, landing multiple kills in the second and fourth sets.

Junior Ava Siefke contributed a stellar all-around performance, racking up 12 kills and leading the Eagles defensively with 18 digs. Siefke also contributed two service aces in the match. Siefke is a key offensive weapon for EMU, ranking among the conference leaders in points and kills per set coming into the contest.

Sophomore middle blocker Hatteras Welker was highly efficient, registering 11 kills on a strong .286 hitting percentage, alongside six total blocks. Welker is known for her defensive prowess, being the only player

nationally to post over 100 blocks and 27 aces this season, entering the match.

The EMU defense dominated the net, totaling 14.0 team blocks compared to Buffalo's 10.0. Wrigley Takats was an absolute force, leading all players with 10 total blocks (one solo, nine assisted).

Seniors Ella Voorhees (19 assists, nine digs) and Ashlynn Belcher (15 assists) shared the setting duties. Kaylin Schroeder also added 13 assists.

The Eagles will now prepare for their next match — completing the second half of a home-and-home series against Central Michigan on Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 6 p.m. at the George Gervin GameAbove Center. Viewers can stream all of the action live on ESPN+.



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# Cryptid festival brings monster madness to Ypsilanti



Wise Women Crafts sells handmade items at the Ypsilanti Cryptid Festival in the Ypsilanti Freighthouse on Oct. 24. Gray Connor / The Eastern Echo

**Gray Connor**  
Staff Writer

Bigfoot, Mothman and the Loch Ness Monster — these creepy creatures have haunted folklore and been the subject of scary stories told around campfires and at sleepovers for ages. Now, these beasts have come to life in Ypsilanti.

On Oct. 24, the Ypsilanti Freighthouse hosted the first-ever Ypsilanti Cryptid Festival, a collaboration of more than 12 horror-themed vendors,

musicians and filmmakers. The event ran from 4-10 p.m., including a showcase of horror films created by local creators to close out the event.

**How it all began**

EMU alum and previous reporter for *The Eastern Echo* Krista Kangas originally pitched the Ypsilanti Cryptid Festival as an effort to promote her short film “Nerd Series,” a collection of clips from a longer-form series she had created. The festival was also intended to be a chance to present the history of cryptids and local folktales

to Ypsi residents.

However, Krista’s outline of the event changed after a chance meeting with the music group Fangs and Twang while they performed at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse.

“I already knew vendors in the area through being a journalist. Then I met them [Fangs and Twang], and it all started coming together,” Kangas said.

Fangs and Twang, a musical trio based in Michigan, performed for the dressed-up attendees throughout the festival. Their newest album “You

Monster” released in 2025. Alongside this, their 2023 release “Seger Snowman” is accompanied by a friendly Yeti in its cover art.

**How it happened**

Alongside Kangas and the other filmmakers, over a dozen artisans participated in the festival, selling handmade goods, artwork and books.

Ken MacGregor, a speculative fiction and dark horror author who tabled the event, has been writing and selling his work for over a decade.

“I love cryptids and monsters. The

overall feel of the event was great, and I’d love to see an event like this happen again,” MacGregor said.

Horror and monster-themed art, while the highlight, was not the only type of handmade art at the festival. Bracelets for Bey, created by Virginia Luke, is a project that began in September 2024. After Bey, Luke’s pet dog, was diagnosed with her first cancerous spot on her stomach, Luke created the Bracelets for Bey Etsy shop with the goal of raising money to pay for Bey’s treatments. Since the creation of the shop, Bey has undergone three surgeries.

“She’s [Bey] doing really awesome now. She’s had a lot of veterinary appointments and procedures throughout the months. Everything I make goes directly towards paying off those steep bills,” said Luke.

Krista Kangas’ own film “Nerd Series” is a satirical portrayal of the film industry and has been shown in film festivals across the country, including ones in New York and Kentucky. While the film cannot be viewed by the public outside of admission to one of these festivals, it will be available in its entirety on YouTube once it is no longer eligible for festival consideration.

While the Ypsilanti Cryptid Festival is a one-time event, Kangas still recommends that members of the community who are passionate about the genre get involved. For those interested in collaborating with Kangas for potential events in the future, the filmmaker and journalist can be contacted through her LinkedIn at “Krista Kangas.”

# Intermedia Gallery Group announces two upcoming student shows

**Hannah Borders**  
Arts Reporter

Intermedia Gallery Group at Eastern Michigan University announced two upcoming student exhibitions selected from call for art put out earlier this month. Paige Funchion and Madison Cantrell will each feature their work in the Student Center Gallery operated by IGG.

Funchion’s work consists of mainly

3-dimensional pieces, while Cantrell’s focuses on photography. Both shows will occur before the end of the Fall 2025 semester.

IGG is a student-operated organization that has hosted galleries of student artwork since 1977. IGG strives to bring real world experiences to EMU students in an inclusive, hands-on environment. The supportive team allows all students to develop and improve skills in creating art, planning events and collaborating with peers.

IGG secretary Paris Stinson emphasized the positive impact an exhibition can have for students.

“Having a show is a catalyst for the rest of a student’s career,” Stinson said. “It brings exposure to their work and opens up opportunities for networking.”

The gallery is located on the second floor of the Student Center, with open hours typically from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday

during the academic year and the summer.

In its nearly 60-year history, IGG has hosted shows featuring a variety of mediums, including 2D art, 3D art and sculpture work, photography, magazines and more.

IGG is open to any student at EMU and aims to be a safe place for expression and learning more about art galleries. More information about IGG and updates on their upcoming shows can be found on their Instagram, @intermediaemu.


## Cellar Roots


Volume 52

An annual fine arts / literary magazine that highlights student artists and provides a platform to publish creative works. Features 2D & 3D artwork, written works, and more.


Students and EMU alumni can submit their own work to be featured in the upcoming edition of Cellar Roots, Volume 52.

**Submit Works Here:**





cellar.roots




cellarroots

Please email [cellarroots@easternecho.com](mailto:cellarroots@easternecho.com) for any questions or inquiries.

**Deadline**

**Dec. 13**





Students and faculty browse Intermedia Gallery Group's first show of the season titled "Mask Mandate" at its public reception earlier this semester on Sept. 18. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo



Pumpkin Carvers | Rylee Curley, Graphics Editor



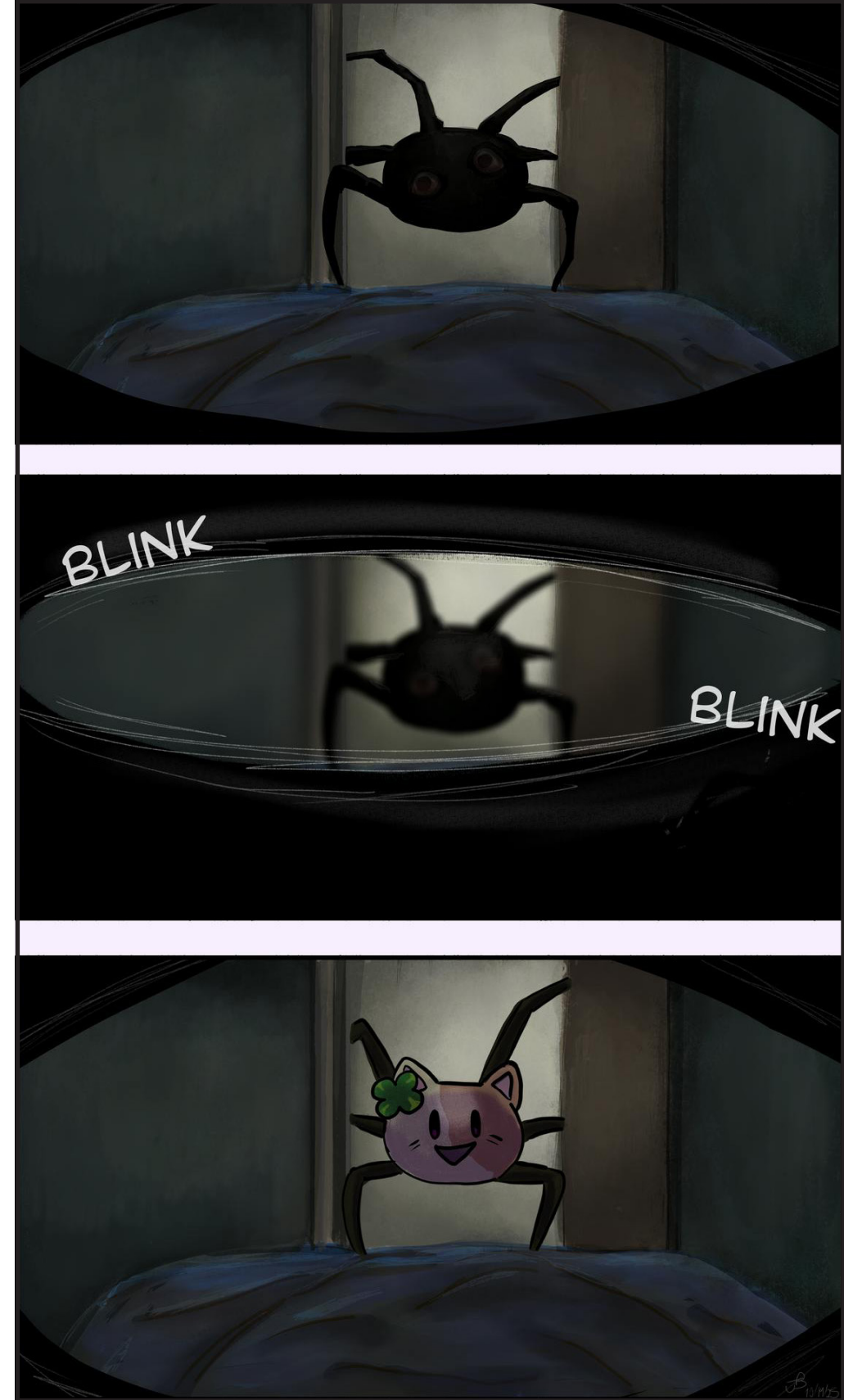
Simply Halloween | Yiri, Comics Artist



Something about a Freshie #2 | Isaiah Sanders, Comics Artist



Creepy Crawler | Julia Bartlett, Comics Artist



This is Halloween | Yiri, Comics Artist



Some Guy | FunkyL0af, Comics Artist





# LAST WEEK ON CAMPUS



Grimace, a McDonald's character, and Swoop, greet fans before the EMU football game against Ohio on Oct. 25. Bradan Copeland / The Eastern Echo



Participants play Jackbox Games at the Residence Housing Association's Halloween Game Night on Tuesday, Oct. 21, in the lounge of Lakeview Apartments. Bea Dingman / The Eastern Echo



EMU students play live music for attendees of the Mental Health and Wellness Fair on the first floor of the Student Center Wednesday, Oct. 22. Owen Cardenas / The Eastern Echo.



Students pose at the photo booth during the Cultural Expo in McKenny Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 22. Lee Hammock / The Eastern Echo



EMU women's volleyball players cheer after getting a point against Buffalo on Oct. 23. Bradan Copeland / The Eastern Echo



Students pet EMU's facility dog, Tinker, during the Mental Health and Wellness Fair on the first floor of the Student Center. Owen Cardenas / The Eastern Echo.



Hadiya Tanveer shows off Pakistani culture at the Cultural Expo. Lee Hammock / The Eastern Echo