

'Scarred Identity' showcases art from women in prison

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November marks 20 years of EMU Student Center

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A professor with the College of Arts and Sciences talks with a student at Registration Blitz on Nov. 12 at Bowen Field House. *Lee Hammock / The Eastern Echo*

Registration for winter classes is open: here's what to know

AnnaBelle Favre
Managing Editor - News

Registration for Eastern Michigan University's Winter 2027 semester opened for returning students last week. The 15-week winter semester runs from January 11, 2027 to April 30, 2027.

The Office of Records and Registration recommends undergraduate students take 15-18 credits each semester, but are eligible to take up to 19 credit hours at a time with permission from the University Advising and Career Development Center.

New students

Freshman and transfer students in their first year at EMU must meet with an adviser before registering for winter classes. Freshman can visit https://www.emich.edu/admit to schedule an appointment with their adviser. Transfer and second-bachelor students can visit the Office of Records and Registration website to schedule an appointment with their college advising center.

Registration qualifications

In order to register for winter classes, all returning students must be admitted to the University, have registered for classes in the last two years, and have completed their Title IX training.

Each year, all EMU students are required to complete an online Title IX training concerning sexual assault and gender-based discrimination awareness. Returning students who have not completed their mandatory training will have a hold on their account. Once the training is completed, it can take 1-2 business days to remove the hold.

How to register for classes

After meeting with an adviser, checking their degree audit or planning out classes, students can visit my.emich to register for their selected courses. EMU advises that is important to check for scheduling conflicts and verify prerequisites are accounted for before registering for classes.

To register for classes, students can visit "Student Registration Services," click "Registration," then select "Register for Classes." If applicable, students must complete any action items, such as the Title IX Training or Financial Responsibility Statement to continue. Next, students can select "Winter 2027" as the term. From there, students can type in course reference numbers in the "Enter CRNs" tab or search under "Find Classes" and click "Add to Summary." After adding the class, students can select "Submit," then confirm courses are classified as "Web Registered" under "Status."

2026 Washtenaw County midterms upended decades of voting norms

Laura Meriweather
Managing Editor - Operations

Nov. 3, 2026, was a dream come true for some, a nightmare made manifest for others, and, in general, an upheaval of electoral norms across the country.

In Washtenaw County, this year's midterm election had some unique shifts of its own. The percentage of registered voters that cast ballots was higher than the presidential election in 2024, and more total ballots were cast than in any other midterm election in county history, according to election results published on the county's website.

On the partisan side, the results were unusual, even in a county that has not swung for a Republican gubernatorial candidate in this century. Democrats enjoyed their highest number of straight-ticket votes in county history, while Republicans had their worst vote percentages for governor, attorney general and U.S. senator since at least 1980, when the historical results on the county website end. Democrats triumphed by the highest margins of victory in the races for governor, U.S. Senate, state Senate and contested state representative since at least 1980.

Governor-elect Jocelyn Benson also received the most votes in county history for a gubernatorial candidate of any party, totaling 151,110, as of the unofficial tally on Nov. 13. She also had the highest winning vote margin since at least 1980, a stat that also applies to U.S. Senator-elect Abdul El-Sayed, who has a personal and political history in the county. Statewide, Benson also managed to break Michigan's so-called incumbent curse for the governor's seat, marking the first time since 1969 that the outgoing party kept hold of the state's executive office.

Paul Brown, a regent of the University of Michigan, won re-election with the second-highest number of votes in county history for a U-M regent. During his campaign, Brown ran on a platform that was critical of the university's computing center project that has drawn heavy, sustained scrutiny from residents in Ypsilanti Township, where it is slotted to be built. Brown lost the endorsement of U-M's student newspaper, The Michigan Daily, after actions in office that included voting to purchase the Textile Road site that has now been chosen for the center's development near South Hydro Park.

On the local level, state Senator-elect Democrat Felicia Brabec won by the highest vote percentage since the redrawing of Ypsilanti's district following the 2020 census. Democrat Jimmie Wilson Jr. won a third term as state representative by a higher margin than either of his previous races.

Registered voters in Washtenaw County dropped by 55,927 since 2024, while ballots cast dropped by 20,691. The Michigan Department of State website says that voter registrations are cancelled when a voter moves away, dies, is identified as a duplicate or requests to be removed. The site also states that "roughly 310,000 registrations [in the state of Michigan] were canceled in April 2025 because the voter no longer lives at the registration address."



Signs outside the Honors College polling location welcome voters on Nov. 3
Kate Stephenson / The Eastern Echo

EMU psychology master's becomes first program in Michigan to be APA-accredited

Lelaina MacDonald
News Reporter

Announced in the Eastern Michigan University College of Arts and Sciences newsletter, the department of psychology's Master of Science in Clinical Behavioral Psychology program has become the fifth master's program in the country, as well as the first in Michigan, to obtain accreditation status from the American Psychological Association Commission on Accreditation.

According to the official APA Accreditation website, the APA-CoA can be defined as, "the primary programmatic accreditor in the United States for professional education and training in psychology. APA accredits master's and doctoral programs in clinical psychology, counseling psychology, school psychology, and combinations of those areas as well as internships in health service psychology, and postdoctoral residencies in clinical psychology and specialty areas of professional psychology."

Out of 14 other programs, the Master of Science in Clinical Behavioral Psychology program was also chosen to apply for this new accreditation opportunity. This program targets health service psychology competencies for Michigan's master's limited license in psychology, and the behavioral science competencies required for eligibility for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst credential.

Tom Waltz, EMU professor and coordinator for the MS in Clinical Behavioral Psychology program, spoke with *The Echo* about this accreditation.

"The American Psychological Association, up until about 2018, only supported doctoral level licensure in psychology," Waltz said. "Michigan, since the 1970s, has been one of about 19 states that have included master's level practice of clinical psychology, and like most of those states, a master's level practitioner is required to get supervision from a doctoral level supervisor several hours a month. So, that has been kind of like the practice environment where most states only had doctoral level psychology practice, and some states had some supervised master's psychology practice."

Waltz explained that it takes more time to train doctoral-level students in comparison to master's psychology level of practice students.

"The academic programs weren't producing enough psychologists to meet the needs. Other professionals, such as the professional counseling and social work, which did have [a] master's level, practitioners started filling, kind of like, the gaps and people providing care. Even though those different professions don't get training and the foundation for the evidence-based psychotherapies that are developed and researched by clinical psychology," Waltz said.

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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

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

Where to purchase *Cellar Roots Vol. 52*, EMU's Fine Arts and Literary Magazine:





Scoop Says...

Artists, have you submitted to *Cellar Roots*, EMU's Fine Arts magazine yet? Submissions across all art disciplines are welcome by Dec. 16. Visit EMUCellarRoots.com to submit and find out more.





Where to find *The Echo:*

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Alexander Music Building
Boone Hall
Downing Hall
Counseling and Psychological Services
EMU Department of Public Safety
EMU Rec/IM
Ford Hall
Halle Library
Judy Sturgis Hill Building
King Hall
Lakeview Apartments
Mark Jefferson Science Complex
Marshall Building
McKenny Hall
Phelps and Sellers Halls
Pierce Hall
Porter Building
Pray-Harrold Building
Rackham Hall
Roosevelt Hall
Sherzer Observatory
Sill Hall
Strong Physical Sciences Building
Student Center
The Commons
The Eastern Eateries
The Honors College
The Village
Trinity Health IHA Urgent Care
Walton and Putnam Halls
Welch Hall
Westview Apartments
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Off-Campus:

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Bank of Ann Arbor
Barber-Me-Locz
Basil Babe
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BIGGBY Coffee
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Northern Grind
Peninsular Place
Plant Based Coneys
Sidetrack Bar and Grill
SPARK East Innovation Center
Speedys Big Burger
Standard Printing+Design Co.
Subway (Eastern Plaza)
Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea
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Trinity Health Ann Arbor Hospital
U-M Health Ypsilanti Health Center
Washtenaw Auto Care Center
Wild Side Smoke Shop
Ypsi Real
Ypsilanti City Hall
Ypsilanti District Library
Ypsilanti Food Co-op

2026 midterm election brings diversity to U.S. Senate



Students and community members celebrate election results at the Eastern Votes and Engage@EMU Election Watch Party at the Eastern Michigan University Student Center on Nov. 3. *Courtney Prielipp / The Eastern Echo*

Hannah Borders
News Reporter

In the early hours of Nov. 4, Democratic Senator-elect Abdul El-Sayed delivered his victory speech, closing his long-standing campaign against Republican opponent Mike Rogers. Michigan's U.S. Senate race was a highly contested race this election. In his speech, El-Sayed pointed at the America he hopes to create: an inclusive, diverse America that is big enough for everyone.

"They hate the idea of an America big enough for anyone who looks a little different, or prays a little different or whose family comes from a different part of the world," El-Sayed said during his victory speech. "They turned this into a simple choice. They want an America that is too small for some of us. We know that America is big enough for all of us."

El-Sayed reflected on his win and the efforts made to prevent him from winning.

"Rather than try to unite us to contend with the price of gas or groceries, the opposition decided to try to divide us. At first they pointed to my name and my faith as if to say, you know, he's a little different, and when it didn't work, they tried to guilt me by association. And when that didn't work, they went all-in on one of the ugliest campaigns we've seen in our lifetimes," El-Sayed said.

El-Sayed's individual win, keeping Michigan's Democratic seat in the U.S. Senate, was not the only win for Democrats to come out of this midterm election. Having flipped eight seats, Democrats hold a 55-44 majority in the Senate, ending a two-year Republican majority, Associated Press reported. Alaska's race has yet to be called.

El-Sayed, the first Muslim elected to the senate, was just one of many diverse candidates to win a seat in the U.S. Senate. Several newly elected democratic candidates hold diverse backgrounds. Senators-elect Peggy Flanagan (D-MN), the first Native American person elected to the senate; Chris Pappas (D-NH), the first openly gay man elected to the senate; Josh Turek (D-IA), the first Paralympic gold medalist and person with spina bifida elected to senate, and others expanded descriptive representation within Congress.

United States senators are tasked with writing, debating on and passing legislation, confirming presidential appointments and overseeing the executive branch of government.

Political science professor Joshua Koss said senators can make a significant impact on presidential appointments, especially when it comes to the Supreme Court.

"With the Senate controlled by Democrats, what's probably the bigger consequence is when it comes to Trump's appointees — particularly the Supreme Court," Koss said. "Democrats are not necessarily bound to actually hear nominations to the Supreme Court. They can really shape who Trump can actually appoint to his cabinet. They can hold up appointments, they can create vacancies. That's really one of the big things with the Senate."

Koss explained that there is significance in electing diverse candidates to office.

"There's a lot of historic firsts in this new congress. The first Muslim senator — that made a big deal for a lot of people across the nation, especially if they identify with that group. Seeing as there's a lot of research that shows that descriptive representation makes people feel empowered and seen in the process, I think that's significant," Koss said.

Michael Cagigas, treasurer of EMU College Democrats, shared that having diverse senators can make people feel more represented and allows for more diverse ideas to be considered.

"We want to represent the widest portion [of people]. We want our legislators to represent us, and when I say 'us,' I mean as a country, as a state, as a whole. And the best way to do that is to have people who [look] like the country," Cagigas said. "We need a more diverse legislature to represent everyone who is [impacted] by it."



Pray-Harrold on Eastern Michigan University's campus houses the College of Arts and Sciences. *Caroline Murrel / The Eastern Echo*

Psychology

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At a certain point, Waltz added, there were a lot more master's-level practitioners in the world than there were doctoral-level ones. These master's-level practitioners were not being trained in clinical psychology. The APA eventually realized that there were people with master's degrees in social work and professional counseling who were taking work from doctoral-level psychologists.

"So in 2018, they finally got the political will within the American Psychological Association to say: We're going to explore the accreditation of the master's level training model for what we believe is going to be a responsible way to train master's level clinicians to provide health services psychology," Waltz said.

Eventually, the APA came up with the standards for accreditation. Because it was a new program, the organization sent out an announcement containing application information for master's programs. Waltz said he had been eagerly looking forward to that announcement. Once he received the announcement, he wrote a description of the master's program, the program's training mission and the overall success EMU have had with training people in Michigan for almost 50 years.

The Master's of Science in Clinical Behavioral Psychology program was selected to be part of the initial group of programs to get evaluated for APA accreditation.

"Because this is brand new, the American Psychological Association has decided they need to completely modernize the health service psychology workforce," Waltz stated. "This accreditation is part of that process."

In October 2026, Michigan Senate Bill 413 passed, a bill that adds independent licensure for clinical psychology at the master's level. In a press release published Oct. 9, 2026, on Governor Gretchen Whitmer's michigan.gov page, Senate Bill 413 is explained as expanding "access to mental health care by modernizing licensing requirements for limited license psychologists to help increase access to mental health care."

Waltz said that since this bill has passed, there will be about a year or two of rule-making that occurs. But going forward, he said people with master's degrees in clinical psychology are going to need to have graduated from accredited programs.

"With our enhanced training model, folks are going to be prepared for that independent licensure and be able to take more jobs and more leadership positions around the state," Waltz said.

Waltz said that one of the unique things about this master's program is that there has been training for people in general and specialty practice since 1983. Over the course of that time, the training standards have been continuously updated.

"We did curriculum changes in 2015, in 2018 and 2020. So, we already, as a program, had a lot of experience with doing a lot of curriculum evaluation and updating our curriculum for professional licensure standards," Waltz said. "We're very much prepared to do the heavy lift of shifting over to APA accreditation because we went from having a 41 credit master's degree to a 60 credit master's degree. It went from being a two-year program to a three-year program."

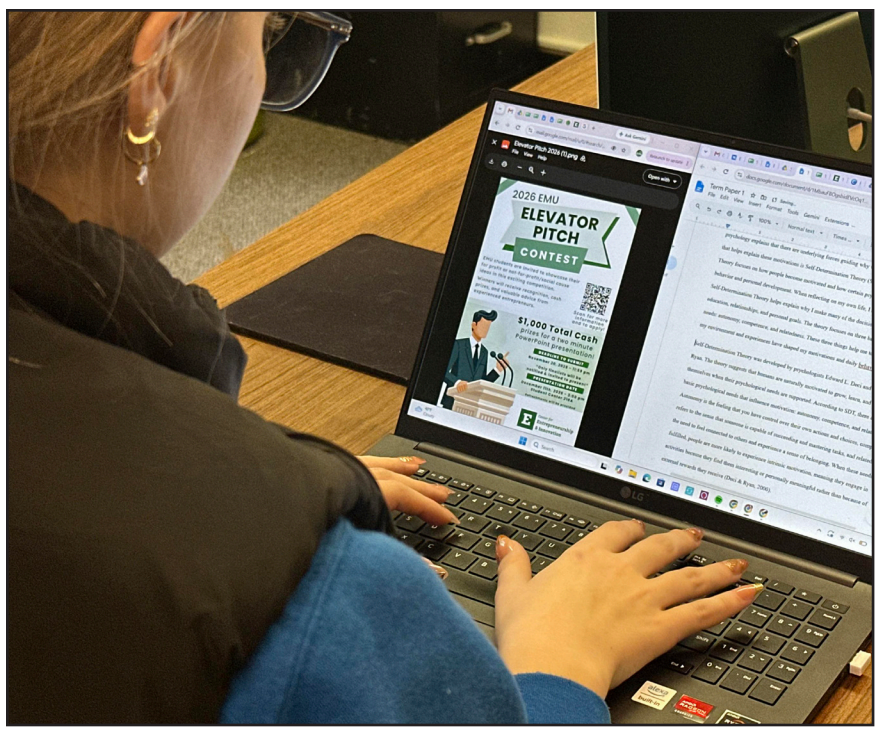
The doctoral psychology program that EMU started in 2001 got APA-accredited a couple of years later, Waltz said.

"Because we had the APA accredited doctoral program, we had all of the additional courses that our master's program needs to become compliant with APA accreditation at the master's level," Waltz said. "We already had them on the books."

Because of this, Waltz did not need to propose many new courses, because some of the courses that are required for accreditation were already part of EMU's doctoral psychology program.

"Now with master's students involved, it creates more opportunities and an easier training timeline for our doctoral program, as well," Waltz added.

EMU to host elevator pitch and essay competition



Eastern Michigan University's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation is hosting an essay and elevator pitch competition with presentations on Dec. 11. *Zeinab Agbaria / The Eastern Echo*

Lelaina MacDonald
News Reporter

The Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation will hold two competitions in the coming weeks. There will be an elevator pitch competition, which the CFEI holds annualy for all EMU students. This year will also feature a student essay competition.

Elevator pitch competition

Students have the opportunity to pitch their ideas to leaders of the local entrepreneurial community. Entries for the Elevator Pitch Competition can be submitted by one student or a small group of students. Each entry is required to include a PowerPoint or PDF file of their two-minute presentation, with four to five slides, the information page states.

The two-minute presentation must meet the following criteria:

- Description of the idea
- Emphasize the innovation/ uniqueness of the idea
- What sets your product/service apart from currently available solutions?
- Description of potential market/ customers/beneficiaries, its size and potential growth
- How you will make money/ receive funding (for non-profit) and projected numbers
- Founder's/founding team's capabilities

Students may also include an optional short executive summary, with a maximum of two paragraphs submitted as a Word or PDF file.

All entries must be submitted through a Google Form by Friday, Nov. 20, at 11:59 p.m. The Google Form can be found on the Elevator Pitch Competition webpage on the College of Business site. The actual competition will be held in-person Friday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. in Student Center Room 310A.

Winners will receive recognition, cash awards and advice from experts in the entrepreneurship community.

Student essay competition

Students will have the chance to submit a 250-word proposal essay that answers some questions about innovation and/or entrepreneurship.

Examples of topics a student can choose are:

- What makes an innovation successful in the marketplace/ society?
- Critical problems in launching and growing a venture
- How does AI change the way entrepreneurs identify and develop new business opportunities?
- Why do some innovative ideas fail even when the underlying technology is promising?

The essay must include some primary and secondary research to support students' arguments, according to the rules. Secondary research can be evidence from published journals, magazines and newspaper reports. Primary research can be interviews or surveys of entrepreneurs.

The 250-word essay must also meet the following criteria:

- Title of the document must be formatted as "First Name Last Name Student Entrepreneurship Essay Proposal"
- Title page must feature the essay title, name, EID, major and student standing (Freshman-Graduate)
- Topic description must be 100 words and answer the question: What core question or problem are you addressing?
- Significance must be 100 words and answer the question: Why does this matter for sustainable entrepreneurship?
- Research and Timeline must be 50 words and answer the following: What primary/secondary sources the student will use and their timeline

Winning essays may be featured on the EMU CFEI social media pages.

All entries must be submitted by Friday, Nov. 20, at 11:59 p.m. by emailing the Word Document or PDF to cfei@emich.edu. The selected winning participants will present their essay proposals Friday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. in Student Center Room 310A. Presentations can be no longer than five minutes.

These two competitions for students totals $2,000 in cash prizes.

For the elevator pitch competition, first place will be awarded $500, second place will be awarded $300 and third place will be awarded $200.

For the student essay competition, $350 will be disbursed after the December 2026 proposal presentation and $650 will be disbursed after submitting the completed essay and presenting in fall 2027.

'Scarred Identity' spotlights creative expressions of women in prison



Shirikiana Draper poses next to student Angela Fisher's writing piece at the opening of Scarred Identity, the creative writing exhibition of EMU's College in Prison program. *Courtesy of Christine Hume*

Katherine Tatomir
Arts Reporter

The voices of the incarcerated is often diminished, but that voice was magnified when Eastern Michigan University's College in Prison program, in partnership with IHM Sisters in Monroe, MI, and with support from YpsiWrites, opened its creative writing exhibition Scarred Identity.

Posters, zines, booklets and audio recordings were all created by students of the program, and soon their art will be displayed on EMU's campus.

The College in Prison program offers those incarcerated at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility, or WHV, to pursue a Bachelor of General Studies degree from EMU. Students of the program have the opportunity to take courses in a wide variety of subjects, from creative writing and economics to Africology and biology.

Two years ago, EMU English Language and Literature professor Christine Hume started the College in Prison Writing Club with a student. Hume, who has been teaching at EMU for 25 years, has served as the club's faculty advisor since its creation.

"Scarred Identity" first came to life in early May 2026, when members of the writing club were offered the chance to manifest their work in a way they hadn't before: a gallery exhibition.

Hume jumped at the idea of a gallery even though she had little experience in visual arts. Her students were just as excited about the idea.

"It was really exciting for everybody to have this immediate goal and a way to get their voices out into the community in which they live," Hume said.

In the early days of the writing club, meetings started with Hume giving prompts to students to kick-start the creative process. Over time, students began to make and share their own prompts with each other, highlighting a pattern of student leadership and growth. Hume told *The Echo* each piece was created entirely by students, as was the exhibit's title, "Scarred Identity."

According to Hume, halfway through creating the gallery, a beloved friend and writing club member Zella Hoath passed away. Hoath's passing marked the beginning of a greater sense of purpose and direction for the members, who created chapbooks and writing pieces in remembrance of her. A close friend put together a book of Hoath's writing and letters, as well as other members' writings to her, as a tribute to her life.

"Scarred Identity" is dedicated to Hoath.

The opening of the gallery was Sept. 22 at IHM Sisters in Monroe, and saw warm receptions from the community. Five recent graduates from the College in Prison program have since been released from WHV and were in attendance at the gallery. One of those graduates includes the former student that started the writing club with Hume. That student, who was released in July, was a powerful and symbolic presence at the gallery, Hume said. She was there to see her writing hung on the walls next to her peers who couldn't attend.

"It is powerful and profound," Hume said. "Students are eager and interested: curious, asking questions, connecting material to their experiences. They want to learn ... they've read the material two times before class ... It's pretty amazing."

Those involved in the College in Prison program are always looking for ways to spread awareness about its existence. The program is just four years old, but its enrollment has jumped from 20 to 70 students in that time. The most unique quality of the program is its location; WHV is the only women's prison in Michigan. The bond that has been created between students and staff is nothing to overlook, Hume said.

"It's a special program because of the tight-knit community, which is hard to create, in some ways, in a prison," Hume said.

According to Hume, there are plans for the gallery to come to EMU, although the details have yet to be ironed out. Currently, two gallery spaces on campus are being considered: the Intermedia Gallery Group and Halle Library.

EMU's sensory-friendly show invites neurodivergent audiences to 'Tiny Town'

Bilal Ahmed
News Reporter

Eastern Michigan University is bringing a unique, sensory-friendly show to local communities this fall. Created by EMU alumni Olivia Allen and Sam Carter, "Jumpin' Jamboree: A Sensory Theatre Adventure for Neurodivergent Audiences" is an interactive musical designed to engage the senses through music, art and movement.

Unlike traditional theatre, where audiences sit quietly, "Jumpin' Jamboree" encourages young attendees to express themselves. Participants become trainees, earning badges to unlock entry to Tiny Town's annual celebration through hands-on crafts, music-making and city-design projects.

In written responses, co-creator Allen explained that "Jumpin' Jamboree" is the third sensory musical she and Carter have created, following shows set in the ocean and space.

"That sparked the idea to set the show in a country/woods environment," Allen wrote. "From there, the idea evolved into centering the story around bugs! Since bugs are much smaller than us humans, we decided to name their community 'Tiny Town.'"

The show adapts to every child's sensory needs, welcoming both sensory-seeking and sensory-avoidant individuals.

"In each activity, we've planned for moments of free play and volume, and moments where we bring the volume down and center everyone with a deep breath," Allen shared in writing. "Activities are led by actors, which ensures a balance of fun without being overwhelmed!"

That impact is already visible on tour. In her written comments, Allen recalled a student repeatedly telling her, "I love them!" about every character, and another writing their very first letter during a drawing activity.

"Watching students play, enjoy, and participate is the best," Allen wrote.

Part of EMU's Theatre for the Young Tour, the show visits Southeast Michigan special education classrooms through Dec. 11. Public performances run Nov. 20 and 21 at EMU's Sponberg Theatre at 1031 E. Circle Drive. Tickets are $6 on the Ludus website and can be purchased by calling 734-487-2282, or at the EMU Ticket Office.

To learn more about the tour or EMU's theatre season, those interested can visit emich.edu/emutheatre.



Cast and crew members on the set of touring performances of "Jumpin' Jamboree," an original play presented by Eastern Michigan University's Theatre for the Young Tour. *Courtesy of EMU Theatre*



Cast and crew members on the set of touring performances of "Jumpin' Jamboree," an original play presented by Eastern Michigan University's Theatre for the Young Tour. *Courtesy of EMU Theatre*

What's the Move?
Nov. 17 - 23

Lelaina MacDonald
News Reporter

Looking for something new to try this week? Maybe you want to get out of the house before Thanksgiving comes around? Here are some events and activities for you to enjoy.

Paranormal Club — Nov. 18

People who are interested in the paranormal and things that can not be explained can attend the Ypsilanti District Library's Paranormal Club.

Attendees will discuss intriguing topics, share personal experiences and engage with expert guest speakers, the website says. Ranging from UFO sightings and ghost stories, there will be lots to explore and discuss.

The club will meet at the YDL Michigan Ave. location in Meeting Room 1 from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

No registration is required for this free event.

Murder Mystery Dinner — Nov. 18

Students can join a night of interactive mystery where they will become a character, uncover clues and solve a crime. This year's theme is Y2K vampires, and participants are encouraged to come dressed to theme.

The Murder Mystery Dinner will be held in the Student Center Room 310 from 7-9 p.m. and students can register on Campus Life's website.

"Narrative of War in Life, Literature, and Film" — Nov. 19

The Journal of Narrative Theory presents "Narrative of War in Life, Literature, and Film." This will be an evening full of dialogue with U.S. Marine Corps veteran, National Book Award-winning author Phil Klay and distinguished scholar Dr. Stacey Peebles.

The speakers will explore the narrative strategies, tensions and disruptions that veterans, artists and people of the public use to make sense of the conflicts of the 21st century.

The event will be held in the Student Center Auditorium from 6:30-8 p.m. More information on this event can be found on the Journal of Narrative Theory website.

This event is free and is LBC approved.

Gerome Kamrowski Exhibition and Sale — Nov. 20-22

The Michigan Art Gallery at Schmidt's Antiques, located at 5138 West Michigan Ave., is presenting an exhibition and sale of work made by Gerome Kamrowski. The exhibition will feature canvas paintings, works on paper, collages and constructions dating from 1938 to 2003.

Kamrowski was a first generation New York School artist who experimented with surrealism and automatism, the information packet about the exhibit says. He also explored new approaches to abstraction in the late 1930s.

This is a free event with opening reception Friday, Nov. 20 from 6-9 p.m., and opening weekend Saturday, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 22 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Holiday Art Fair — Nov. 21-22

The Riverside Arts Center, at 76 N Huron St., is having its holiday art fair for the fourth year. There will be more than 60 vendors, all local artisans selling their homemade pieces, vintage goods, self-care products and more.

Corned Beef Queen and Rite Spice will serve food in the plaza and Putt-R-Round will offer mini golf for those interested in the theater lobby. Ypsilanti Mayor Nicole Brown is this year's vendor juror who will select Best in Show and Runner-Up. Guests are encouraged to vote for the People's Choice award. Vendors who win will receive a monetary prize and will be announced by 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22.

There is a suggested donation of $1 for an entry fee to the art fair. The fair will be held Saturday, Nov. 21 from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 22 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Eagles honored: EMU celebrates senior night in regular season finale against Ball State



Eastern Michigan University's No. 18 Azra Eriç spikes the ball towards University of Akron earning the 11th point in the fourth set during match Oct. 31 at the George Gervin GameAbove Center. *Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo*

Ruby Brannon
Sports Editor

On Saturday, Nov. 14, the Eastern Michigan University volleyball team closed out its regular season at the George Gervin GameAbove Center in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Following the match, the program held a special career celebration ceremony to recognize the dedication, leadership, and contributions of three graduating senior student-athletes: Surabhi Srinivasan, Julia Johnson and Azra Eriç. Competing in front of home supporters, the ceremony served as a tribute to the trio's collegiate journeys and lasting impact on the program. Head coach Kevin Foeman and the Eagles community gathered on the court to honor the veteran leaders who guided the squad throughout the 2026 campaign.

Surabhi Srinivasan's milestone defensive career

Senior libero Surabhi Srinivasan of Dublin, Ohio capped off her collegiate career with an outstanding defensive performance. Leading all players on the floor, Srinivasan tallied a match-high 29 digs while adding four assists and a service ace. This effort marked her second-highest single-match dig output of the 2026 season, trailing only her 31-dig performance against Miami on Oct. 15.

With her stellar finale, Srinivasan raised her career dig total at Eastern Michigan to 1,118. That impressive milestone places her fifth all-time in program history during the box-score era (since 2012), solidifying her legacy among Eastern Michigan's premier defensive leaders alongside Corynne Smith (2,119), Alyssa Laface (1,673), Franki Strefling (1,292) and Mallory Rajewski (1,175).

Julia Johnson and Azra Eriç anchor veteran leadership

Joining Srinivasan in the post-match honors were fellow seniors Julia Johnson of Champaign, Ill. and Azra Eriç of Istanbul, Turkey.

Johnson, a versatile setter who transferred to EMU from High Point, played an integral role in directing Eastern Michigan's offensive rhythm throughout the year. In the season finale against Ball State, Johnson contributed 11 assists, building on a strong 16-assist performance the previous evening against Bowling Green.

Middle blocker Azra Eriç, who previously played at Robert Morris, provided vital front-row net defense and leadership during her tenure with the Green and White. Eriç recorded three blocks in Friday's road battle at Bowling Green before taking the court for her final home appearance in Ypsilanti. Together, Johnson and Eriç brought invaluable experience, composure, and grit to the team's rotation.

Set-by-set action on the court

While Senior Night provided emotional highlights off the court, the Eagles faced a formidable opponent on the floor in Ball State University, falling in a 3-1 decision (18-25, 25-23, 15-25, 11-25).

Ball State claimed the opening frame 25-18 behind a strong .271 hitting percentage. Eastern Michigan answered decisively in Set Two, pulling out a thrilling 25-23 win to tie the match 1-1. The second set featured eight tie scores and two lead changes as Eastern hit .188 while holding Ball State to .109. However, Ball State retook the lead with a 25-15 victory in Set Three and hit a blistering .471 in Set Four (25-11) to secure the match.

Key performers and statistical leaders

Despite the outcome, Eastern Michigan displayed impressive defensive determination, out-digging Ball State 77 to 66. Taeley Mahler and Nattie Slusher co-led the Eagles attack with 10 kills each. Mahler brought her career total to 480 kills, while Slusher capped her standout freshman season with 277 total kills.

Setter Lina Govoni registered her 13th double-double of the season with 24 assists and 13 digs. Madelyn Sipe posted a career-high three service aces with five digs, and Olivia Beaudrie added seven kills and 10 digs. For Ball State, Ava Smith led all attackers with 14 kills, Audrey Geer contributed 11 kills and five blocks, and Sophie Ledbetter collected 20 digs.

Looking ahead and program legacy

After Saturday's match, Eastern Michigan finished the 2026 season at 10-18 overall and 4-12 in the MAC, while Ball State moved to 20-7 overall and 11-5 in the MAC. Although the season has ended, the dedication and performance of seniors Srinivasan, Johnson, and Eriç leave a lasting foundation for the program as Coach Foeman's squad looks to build for the future.

EMU swim and dive sweeps boards, edges Calvin University 158-130 to remain undefeated

Amari Bhogle
Sports Reporter

The Eastern Michigan University swim and dive team extended its undefeated start Friday night, Nov. 13, triumphing over Calvin University 158-130 at Jones Natatorium in Ypsilanti.

Eastern Michigan improved to 5-0 on the season after winning 11 of the 16 scored events and recording 25 top-three finishes. The Friday dual meet marked the first official competition between the two programs.

Early lead and freestyle dominance

The Eagles established an early rhythm in the opening swimming events. Nehir Oz opened the swimming portion of the meet with a victory in the 200-yard event, touching the wall in a personal-best time of 2:07.63. Teammate Morgan Hofmeister followed with a second-place finish in 2:14.78, giving EMU an early advantage.

Eastern Michigan continued to build momentum across the distance and middle-distance freestyle races. Azra Umut led the team with two individual victories, winning the 200-yard freestyle in 1:52.19 before later taking first in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:58.45. Umut finished the meet as the team's top scorer with 18 points.

In the sprint freestyle, Marianna Fardella won the 50-yard freestyle in 23.99 seconds. Marlee Christie secured second place in 24.06, while Siporah Sang completed an EMU podium sweep with a third-place finish in 24.40.

Stroke event success

The Eagles also dominated across the backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly events:

Backstroke: Lucy Noble claimed first place in the 50-yard backstroke with a personal-best time of 25.32 seconds. Addy Burrough added another victory in the 100-yard backstroke, recording a time of 1:01.98.

Breaststroke: Nina LaRose won the 50-yard breaststroke in 28.67 seconds. Emma Jönsson placed second in 30.00, and Lauren Carlson finished third in 30.33, securing a 1-2-3 sweep for EMU.

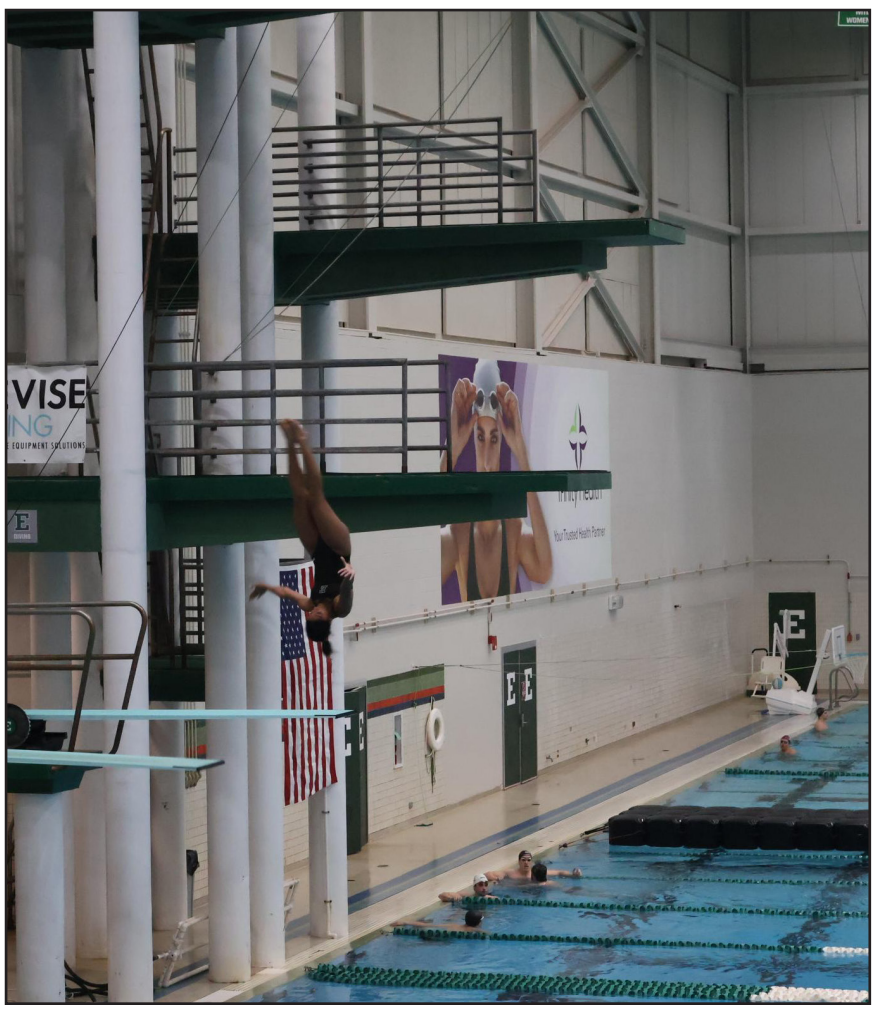
Butterfly: Shayne Patrick earned first place in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 58.79 seconds. Tristen Mina later captured victory with a time of 24.67 seconds, followed by Nehir Guven in second with a personal best of 25.68 and Gabia Gelumbickas in third at 25.91.

Divers sweep both boards

The diving portion of the meet proved equally successful for Eastern Michigan, as the Eagles swept the top three scoring positions in both the 1-meter and 3-meter board competitions.

In the 1-meter event, Meg Lupa led the field with a personal-best score of 268.95 points. Silvana Pomar finished second with a personal-best 262.88 points, and Rose Kendrick took third with 255.53 points.

Kendrick returned to the boards in the 3-meter event to take first place with 334.28 points, ranking fifth in Eastern Michigan program history. Aisling Gutierrez placed second with 296.63 points, while Lupa finished third with 292.35 points.



Eastern Michigan University diver Pari Surana performs a flip off the high board at Jones Natatorium in a match against Calvin University on Nov. 13. *Lee Hammock / The Eastern Echo*

Looking ahead

The team's depth throughout the meet helped secure the 28-point victory over Calvin University. Multiple swimmers contributed points across events, while the diving team delivered two complete podium sweeps.

Now 5-0, Eastern Michigan returns to Jones Natatorium on Thursday, Nov. 19, to host Oakland University at 3 p.m. as the Eagles look to maintain their undefeated streak.

Eagle Sports Tips & Tales: Nov. 15 - 21

Jeffrey Ellingsworth
Sports Reporter

Eastern Michigan athletics faces a pivotal week across athletics. Here is a preview of the action, storylines and tactical keys for the week ahead.

Nov. 17: Football at Western Michigan

The Tale: Eastern Michigan travels to Kalamazoo Tuesday night for the 58th meeting against in-state rival Western Michigan. The Eagles enter the matchup looking to keep their bowl eligibility hopes alive while facing a Broncos team that has established itself near the top of the MAC standings. Western Michigan has won the last three meetings between the programs, including a 31-21 victory last season. With the regular season nearing its conclusion, this rivalry matchup carries significant importance.

The Tip: Eastern needs to establish its offense early and avoid putting itself in difficult third-down situations. Winning the turnover battle and limiting explosive plays will be especially important against a strong Western Michigan team.

Nov. 18: Men's Basketball vs. Detroit Mercy

The Tale: Eastern Michigan men's basketball returns to the George Gervin GameAbove Center Wednesday for an in-state matchup against Detroit Mercy. The Eagles look to continue building momentum after opening their home schedule with a dominant 108-44 victory over Great Lakes Christian.

The Tip: Eastern needs to control the pace and take care of the basketball. Strong defensive pressure, limiting second-chance opportunities, and getting contributions from across the lineup will help the Eagles protect their home court.

Nov. 18: Women's Basketball at Oakland

The Tale: Eastern Michigan women's basketball travels to Rochester on Wednesday for a midweek matchup against Oakland. The Eagles are looking to turn around a difficult start after opening against Appalachian State, Purdue, and Robert Morris. The matchup against the Golden Grizzlies offers another chance for Eastern to find its rhythm and build confidence before continuing its road schedule against Butler on Sunday.

The Tip: Rebounding and defensive communication will be key for the Eagles. Eastern needs to limit Oakland's second-chance points, stay disciplined defensively, and turn defensive stops into transition opportunities.

Nov. 19: Swimming and Diving vs. Oakland

The Tale: Eastern Michigan swimming and diving returns to Jones Natatorium Thursday to welcome Oakland for a midweek meet. The Eagles are coming off a strong performance against Calvin, where they won multiple swimming events and delivered impressive dives. Eastern will look to carry that momentum into another in-state matchup.

The Tip: The Eagles should focus on maintaining their consistency across all events. Strong starts, efficient turns and finishes will matter for the swimming team, while continued execution on the diving boards can help Eastern earn valuable points.

Nov. 21: Men's Basketball vs. Denver

The Tale: Eastern Michigan men's basketball continues its home schedule Saturday afternoon against Denver at the George Gervin GameAbove Center. The matchup also features Dad's Day and Alumni Day, bringing former Eagles and families together. Eastern will look to build on its early-season success and continue developing its chemistry before heading to the Cancun Challenge later in the month.

The Tip: Controlling the glass and maintaining offensive balance will be important for Eastern. The Eagles need to create quality shots, limit turnovers, and use their home-court advantage to dictate the tempo. Getting production from multiple players and maintaining defensive intensity throughout the game will give Eastern a chance to earn another home win.

A look into the past: EMU's Student Center



People enter and leave the Eastern Michigan University Student Center on Oct. 26. *Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo*

Kate Stephenson
News Reporter

November 2026 marks the 20th anniversary of Eastern Michigan University's Student Center.

The center opened Nov. 5, 2006, and was created with students in mind, said emeritus faculty Glenna Frank Miller, co-chairperson of the planning team for the construction of the center.

Prior to then, the university Student Center was located in McKenny Hall.

In 1999, the university added the renovation and expansion of McKenny to its Capital Projects priority list.

Later, in March 2000, the first of a three-year series of customer satisfaction surveys was conducted, according to an archived issue of *The Eastern Echo*. Soon after, it was determined that McKenny did not meet campus needs as a student center, Miller said.

In February 2002, the university contracted Burt Hill Associates and Hobbs and Black Architects to develop a program statement for the construction of a new student union. Nearly a year later, in January 2003, the project was authorized by the Board of Regents.

In her role as co-chairperson of the building committee, Miller said she wanted to fully represent the people and students who would be using the Student Center through the designing process.

Miller said that in April 2002 she worked directly with focus groups made up of students, faculty, staff, alumni and community leaders to find out what the groups wanted and needed from the new center. There were 17 groups with over 200 participants.

"It was a very thoughtful process," Miller said of the planning. "It wasn't just some bricks that went up."

In the summer of 2004, the construction company selected for the job, Turner Construction, began clearing grounds and mobilizing for the project.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Sep. 21, 2004, and in early 2005, construction of the new center began.

Miller said that when the center opened in November 2006, student reactions were very positive.

"All of the sudden, people were everywhere," she said.

For the following year, she said the center was very busy most of the time. She said the university conducted student surveys every few years to get a sense of what was and wasn't working. Overall, she said students were pleased with the center.

In 2017, the EMU Student Center was named the best in the country by CollegeRank, according to an article from EMU Today. CollegeRank attributed the center's beauty and functionality as its most appealing factors.

Miller said the team faced some challenges in moving approximately seven campus departments into one location, but were ultimately successful. She said she wanted the center to be a true representation of the entire campus.

The second floor of the Student Center currently houses the admissions office, the International Students and Scholars office, the Academic Programs Abroad office, the International and Graduate Admissions office, the Disability Resource Center, the office of Student Conduct and Community Standards and Service EMU.

The third floor of the center is also home to student government offices, the center for student involvement, diversity and community involvement offices and campus life offices.

Miller emphasized the large impact the project had on the school.

"It was a different kind of project," she said. "It had implications for all different places on campus."

Miller said she also played a role in selecting the food options that would be available when the center opened. She said she worked with student focus groups to get input on what food options they would like to have. She explained that there is a specific contractual process that the university must go through to become licensed to sell certain food brands.

In November 2006, the Student Center offered Taco Bell, KFC, Sbarro's, Panda Express, Wendy's and Sweet Success, according to an archived issue of Focus EMU.

Today, students have three food options at the Student Center: Chick-Fil-A, Little Caesar's and Starbucks.

Kelsey Perry, a senior at EMU, said she wishes the center had more food options.

"This year, there's not as much as students would like," she said, explaining there were more food options when she was a student in 2024.

She said she would like to see a healthier food option be added to the center in the future. However, she said she is pleased with the new location of Chick-Fil-A, which was previously at McKenny Hall. She said it is now much easier to get to.

Perry said she goes to the Student Center nearly every day for a variety of purposes, naming socialization, studying and food as her primary reasons.

Overall, she said she's happy with the amount of study spaces and social events that are available in the center.

Although some aspects have changed, today, the Student Center still serves many of the same functions it did 20 years ago.

The Echo Q&A Series: EMU Police Chief Matthew Lige discusses parking reforms

Jan Hernandez
News Reporter

For more than a decade, parking at Eastern Michigan University was managed by a private contractor, LAZ, but that changed October 23, 2025, once the university dissolved its contract and took direct control of campus parking under a new system called Eagle Parking.

The change allowed the university to lower standard permit costs by 5%, introduce additional reserved parking spots and create a new, lower-priced Green Lot option to help students save money and skip the daily search for a parking spot.

Several weeks into the new semester, *The Echo* sat down with EMU Police Chief Matthew Lige to talk about how the new system is working, how students' ideas are changing campus rules and what will happen to the closed parking structure.

Q: How have EMU Police and Eagle Parking responded to the new parking changes since the university took control of parking?

A: Students have had a tremendous influence, from availability of parking on campus to pricing and enforcement. Almost immediately after the university took back control of parking, those conversations were happening because I felt strongly that the customer had a voice. We reduced pricing across all categories because students said they needed it. We also created the Green Lot pricing option. It's farther away from most academic buildings, but on any given day, you're always going to find a parking spot there. The trade-off is a longer walk, but you're never going to have to search for parking or drive in circles.

Q: How do the new Green Lot and the reserved parking spaces actually work?

A: The Green Lot is the more affordable option, located north of campus, farther away from academic buildings. You have a longer walk, but you are guaranteed a spot instantly without driving in circles. On the other hand, reserved parking features individually numbered, premium spots right next to academic buildings. Students pay a higher price to secure that specific spot for the entire semester.

Q: What are the biggest parking issues EMU is seeing right now, and how is Eagle Parking handling them?

A: Eagle Parking is still enforcing parking across campus. We're issuing warning tickets instead of standard parking citations. The two most common frustrations we're having are unauthorized handicap parking and unauthorized reserved parking. If you park in a designated handicap spot without the appropriate indicator, you run the risk of getting a citation. We're also seeing students park in reserved spots that they have not paid for. We have been issuing warning violations, and repeat offenders receive normal parking citations.

Q: At the start of the semester, the online permitting process labeled students as waitlisted. What does this actually mean?

A: To students, a waitlist makes you worry that you might not get a parking spot at all. In reality, it was just a manual verification process where we checked students' IDs and names to ensure the information was correct before issuing the permit. We heard the frustration and are eliminating that word from the permit process and replacing it with a new one.

Q: How should students avoid violations?

A: Park in the parking lots that you are eligible to park in. We went through this summer remapping the parking lots, putting brand-new signage up and relining the parking spots. If you've got a commuter parking permit, do not park in the staff lot. When you park in a lot that you do not have a permit for, you run the risk of getting a parking citation. The Green Lot has hundreds of unused, available parking spots for students that they may not even realize exist.



Matthew Lige, standing outside an Eastern Michigan University Department of Public Safety patrol car, is the chief of police for the campus, a role he's held since August 2021. *Jan Hernandez / The Eastern Echo*

Q: How can students and staff communicate their concerns to you?

A: Any member of the EMU community who wants to share an idea should reach out. Some of the best things we have done this semester came directly from student input, and that feedback really matters to us. Students can email the EMU Police Department or come directly to the Public Safety office for a conversation. Our goal is to keep improving parking, and we want to hear from you.

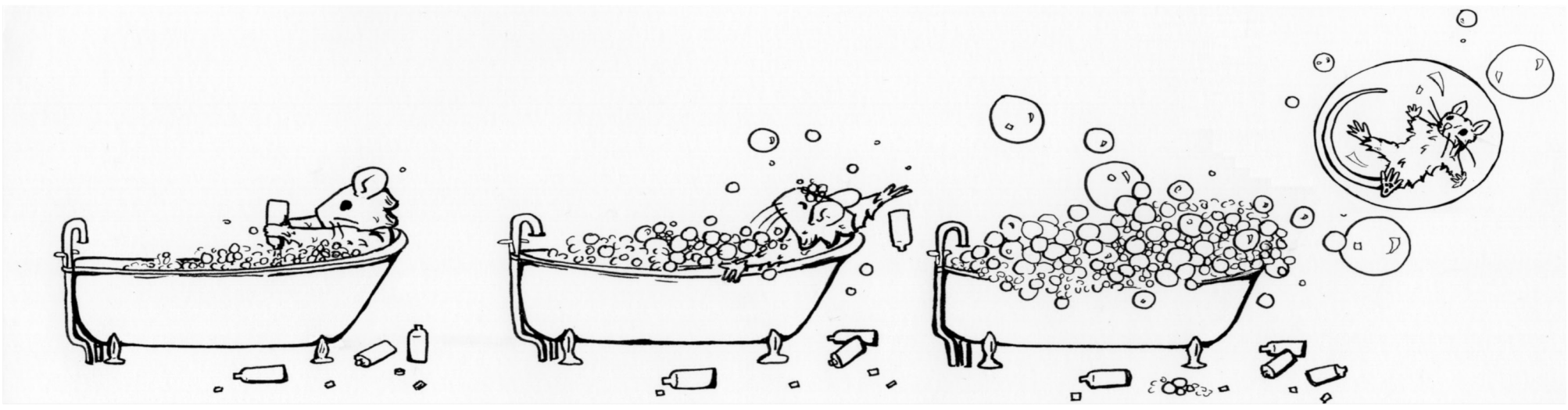
Q: Will the parking garage ever be used again?

A: The parking structure is currently unusable because of a structural issue. We have engineers on campus who have evaluated it, and we're waiting for a report to determine whether the university can repair the structure or create additional surface parking. We are actively assessing the site, and once the assessment is complete, there will be a leadership meeting with stakeholders on campus to determine the next course of action.

To avoid tickets, Lige advises that all drivers check lot signs, and that students should avoid staff areas and use the Green Lot.

Most importantly, the department remains open to new ideas. Students and staff can share feedback, ask questions or voice frustrations by emailing the EMU Police Department or visiting the Public Safety office.

Bubbles | *Jamie Owens*



Migraine | *Jamie Owens*



City Angel: Part 6 | *AJ Grams*



Cookie Despair | *Katelyn Hollis*



We Forgot Authoria! | *Isaiah Sanders*



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EMU at a glance: Nov. 11-14



No. 5 Braelon Green dribbles the ball for Eastern Michigan University's men's basketball team during the game against Great Lakes Christian College on Nov. 11 at the George Gervin GameAbove Center. *Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo*



Students meet with advisors from the College of Education to set up their schedules for the next semester at Registration Blitz on Nov. 12 2026 at Bowen Field House. *Lee Hammock / The Eastern Echo*



No. 30 Jaiden Martin hangs from the hoop after successfully completing a slam dunk at the Eastern Michigan University's men's basketball game against Great Lakes Christian College on Nov. 11 at the George Gervin GameAbove Center. *Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo*



Hack the Nest team Cyber Trenches members James Grant and Isaac Mullison set up Nov. 14 for a long weekend inside Eastern Michigan University's Halle Library. *Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo*



Members of Hack the Nest team SRN focus on their work inside Eastern Michigan University's Halle Library on Nov. 14. *Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo*



Diya Gawande and Ascah D'mello inside Halle Library at Eastern Michigan University represent the Crypto Knights Hack the Nest team, Nov. 14. *Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo*



Students build their schedules and register for classes at Registration Blitz on Nov. 12 at Bowen Field House. *Lee Hammock / The Eastern Echo*