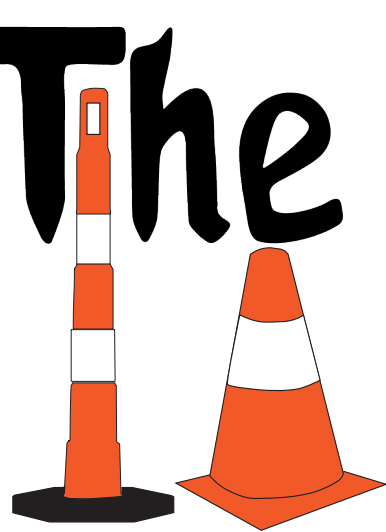


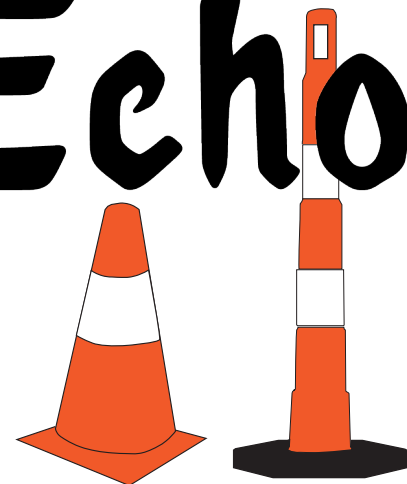


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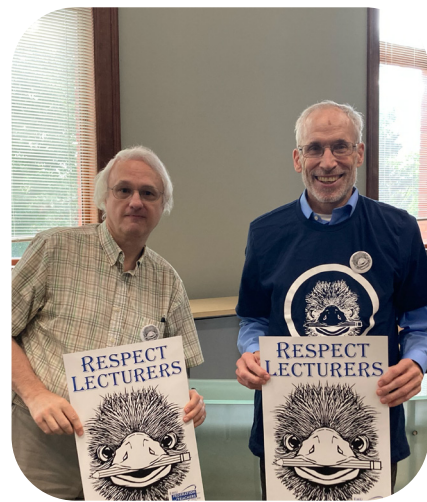
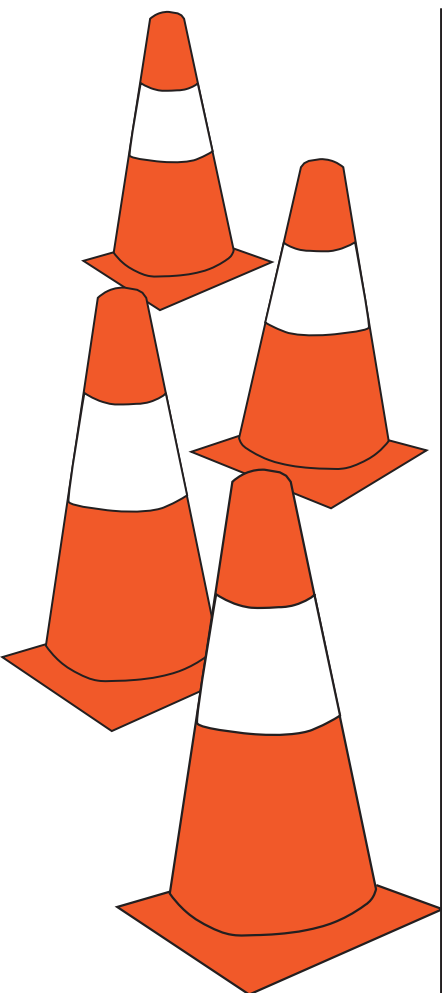


The Eastern Echo

Change around the
community



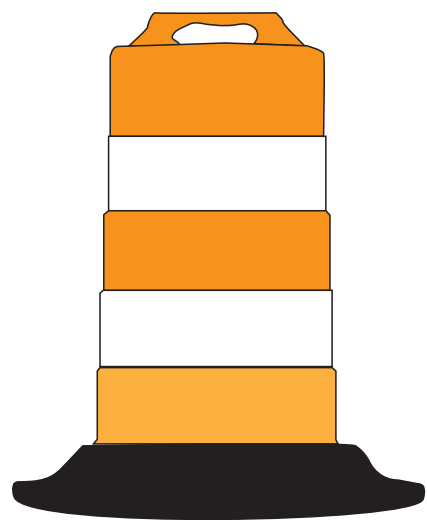
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 | VOLUME 138, ISSUE 22 • SERVING EMU AND YPSILANTI SINCE 1881



NEWS:
Lecturers,
university discover
common ground in
labor talks



SPORTS:
EMU's Hamze
El-Zayat scores
winning touchdown
against UMass



Plumbing issues cloud fall move-in

ALEX KREPS
PODCAST EDITOR

Move-in day didn't go as expected for Shalya Mostyn, a sophomore who was among those taking up residence in Eastern Michigan University's newly renovated Downing Hall just before classes started.

Mostyn opened the door to her new home Aug. 25 to find a puddle of water and a hole in the wall.

First-year student Lydia Edwards moved into Hoyt Hall several days earlier, on Aug. 19, but as she and her roommate settled in, they discovered a problem in their bathroom sink.

"It was the ... drain," Edwards said. "The drain started coming up, and it would leave, like, dirt and sludge, and it would, like, slightly flood our bathroom."



PHOTO CREDIT: LYDIA EDWARDS
LYDIA EDWARDS'S SINK IN HOYT HALL DORM ROOM.

In both cases, the students filed maintenance requests and university service teams arrived to solve the problems or move the students to other rooms. University officials, when asked, couldn't report the number of maintenance requests filed in the first weeks of the fall semester.

Melissa Thrasher, the university's executive director of media relations, said many of the water issues discovered during move-in and the first week of class were in part due to interference by Mother Nature.

"The night before move-in started, several areas of the state experienced 500-year storms with a tremendous amount of rainfall that caused widespread damage," Thrasher said. "Unfortunately, EMU wasn't immune, and like other areas, the high volume of rain caused drains outside of Downing Hall to be clogged with debris. Facilities teams immediately worked to unclog drains and quickly resolved the issues."

The National Weather Service reported that the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area received

nearly 3 inches of rain in a 24-hour period Aug. 25. Average rainfall for the area for the whole month of August is just above 3 inches.

Thrasher said plumbing issues also contributed to the flooding.

"Downing Hall has experienced a handful of plumbing issues linked to the inappropriate flushing of wet wipes, which clogged sewer lines," Thrasher said. "Work crews have responded quickly to rectify and clear those lines. It's important we're diligent with keeping our systems free from inappropriate objects flushed down toilets."

The record-breaking rain also caused flooding in the basement of McKenny Hall, forcing those who worked in the offices on that level to work from home and move to other campus buildings as repairs were made. Work has continued in McKenny's basement as of Sept. 15.

Downing is one of three residence halls on campus that saw extensive renovations over the past year, promising fall 2023 residents a host of upgrades, from central air conditioning to new electronic door locks, LED lighting and updated bathrooms.

"Downing Hall has been thoughtfully reimagined to offer contemporary, state-of-the-art amenities that cater to the needs of today's students," Thrasher said. "The modernized living spaces now provide a comfortable and engaging environment, fostering a sense of community, and belonging."

The renovations are part of Eastern Michigan University's Welcome Home plan, an effort to upgrade existing and build new residential living spaces for students. The centerpiece of the plan is a new residence hall complex under construction near University Pond and across from the Student Center. The new complex is scheduled to be ready for occupation in 2024.

This fall, the focus was on the renovations at Downing, Putnam and Walton Halls.

Thrasher said there have been some normal adjustments.

"Engineers are working to regulate temperature controls in Downing, but air conditioning in each room is not hindered," Thrasher said. "There aren't any ongoing maintenance issues other than the room-specific cases that typically go through the work order process."

Mostyn said she was excited to be moving in, but instead of turnkey ready, she found her new digs to be closer to still under construction. First, the keycard lock on the door didn't work, she said. Then when she gained entrance, she was greeted by the damage: the stagnant water and the hole in the wall.

"Walking in, there was immediately like a smell of extremely harsh chemicals in the air," Mostyn said.

While she was a little shocked at the discovery, Mostyn said, she took it in good spirits as the campus housing team found her a new room.

"They [campus housing] checked everything. They checked the lock on the door, they checked the walls for holes, they checked the floor for puddles, they checked the water pressure," Mostyn said. "And so it was all perfect."

That is until around 11 p.m. when Mostyn said she and her mother heard the resident directly above her flush a toilet.

"We heard two gushes of water inside my wall," Mostyn said. "Imagine someone was just inside your wall and poured a bucket of water in your wall. That's what we heard."

Moments later, she said, they saw water seeping onto the floor.

"We noticed that the ... water was different colors," Mostyn said. "So, it is not just toilet water; it was toilet water and content."

So, she called the resident advisor who was on duty.

After sticking around to submit an emergency work order, Mostyn was forced to take her important possessions and leave campus. She went back home for the night. It was several days, however, before she was able to return to a residence on campus, and by then classes had started. But six days later, on Aug. 31, Mostyn moved into a new room for the third time.

"Honestly, although it was stressful, housing at EMU has been amazing," Mostyn said. "They've really been on top of this, and they really went ... the extra mile to make sure not only my new room would suit my accommodations, but to make sure that I wouldn't have to move again."

Jaida Turner, who lives in the Brown apartments, spent the second week of class without a shower.

"On Sept. 5, the water from our tub wouldn't drain. The lever to drain the water was stuck. ... My roommates tried many hacks to get the water down."

Turner said maintenance crews came to help but couldn't solve the problem.

Eventually, campus housing brought in some plumbers who corrected the problem.

Over at Hoyt Hall, Edwards said she filed several maintenance requests on her room.

"So that Monday, it had like flooded really bad, and I put in the work order. But nobody came for the entire week," she said. "And I was putting in multiple work orders. I had the DA [desk assistant] put in work orders. I had the RA [resident advisor] put in work orders."

While she and her roommate waited, more rooms began to flood, she said.

"The final stage was, of course, the last few rooms flooding," Edwards said. "And even when we made ... an emergency ... work order, multiple of them, nobody came out until the day after. And that was ... the official move-in day I believe."

The rooms that flooded included Edwards' room, Edwards' suitemate's room, and a room two doors down from them, she said.

The "suitemates ... had to move in that same day as it was still wet, sopping wet, and terribly, terribly smelling ... which wasn't too great," Edwards said.



PHOTO CREDIT: LYDIA EDWARDS
LYDIA EDWARDS'S ACCOUNT OF HOYT HALL DURING MOVE-IN.

Hoyt is one of the older halls on campus that are targeted for eventual demolition in the Welcome Home plan. Also on that list, the university reports on its website, are Best, Brown-Munson Apartments, Buell, Hill, Pittman, and the old Westview Apartments.

Edwards is still living in the same room in Hoyt, and the sink is draining properly, she said. Now, she'll be filing a new maintenance request on the cold wet drip from the ceiling in her shower.

Editor's note: News editor Erin Flynn contributed to this report. Shalya Mostyn is a reporter for The Eastern Echo.

Construction taking place around Ypsilanti

MARIE WHITE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ypsilanti continues construction as part of a multi-year plan to rehabilitate roads and sidewalks for residents.

The current construction projects for this year include Forest Ave. Bridge Deck, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) water infrastructure, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Pavement Rehabilitation and Pedestrian Crossing of I-94, Huron River Drive and Parkridge Park all as major sites for

construction efforts. All these projects have the main goal of making roadways more accessible for residents by implementing bike lanes and improving sidewalks conditions.

"The primary goal of any road project is generally pavement restoration- but with all of the current projects, we're also making significant improvements to pedestrian and bicyclist safety and mobility," Bonnie Wessler, Ypsilanti director of public services, said.

Within many locations of these downtown projects, they are adding bicycle lanes, bus pull offs and, in many places, upgrading

ADA crosswalk ramps. On Forest St., they are making improvements to the Border to Border Trail, which is a project throughout Washtenaw County that is dedicated to non-motorized transportation.

"Generally, people get pretty frustrated during construction, but are happy to have the added bicycle and pedestrian facilities, repaired utilities, and the fresh pavement," Wessler said.

All of these projects are a part of a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that coordinates the planning process of the city's expenditures, which is updated annually. The CIP is seen as the link between budget and planning

for the capital expenditures to make sure everything aligns with the city's goals and objectives.

"Roads projects cover more than just the pavement- they include the utilities and facilities for all legal road users," Wessler said. "They also take years to plan and fund, and a consistent and adequate stream of funding for maintenance is every bit as important as funding for replacement."

Construction will continue over the coming years as infrastructure is repaired and improved throughout the community. Taking construction delays into your daily planning is recommended by the city.

Five construction projects taking place on EMU's campus

AARON HUGHES
MANAGING EDITOR

Since the 2022-23 school year, Eastern Michigan University's campus has been home to multiple construction projects. Ranging from renovation to demolition, here are five projects under development.

1. Lakeview Apartments

Included in the \$200 million Welcome Home 2025 Plan, Lakeview Apartments will be one of two new student housing developments. The apartments will overlook Big Bob's lakehouse and include 700 beds. The apartments are expected to be open to students in the fall of 2024.

2. Westview Apartments

Similar to Lakeview Apartments, Westview Apartments will be the second addition to student housing. Located by Ryneerson Stadium and the George Gervin GamAbove

Center, Westview Apartments will feature 120 units and 300 beds. The apartments will also open fall 2024.

3. Downing Hall

The Welcome Home Plan also included the renovation of five student housing buildings, one of them being Downing Hall. Some of the new additions to the building included central air conditioning, electronic key door locks, a prayer room, and updated communal spaces. The home of the Honors College finished renovations and opened to students this semester.

4. First-Year Halls

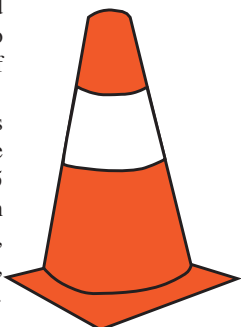
The renovations also addressed the first-year housing complex. Walton and Putnam closed down during the 2022-23 school year as part of the Welcome Home Plan. After finishing renovations, the two buildings opened for the 2023-24 school year. The changes included central air conditioning, improved Wi-Fi coverage, electronic key door locks, and updated communal spaces. Sellers and Phelps in turn have

now closed for the year and will open in the fall of 2024.

5. Jones-Goddard Hall

The school will tear down older buildings to open space for new additions. Jones-Goddard Hall, which was used as student housing from 1955 to 2005, will be removed and replaced with a green space. Located by Sill Hall, the demolition of Jones-Goddard is part of a \$40 million plan to grow the GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology.

The University also has plans to close down and demolish the following halls by the 2024-25 school year: Best Hall, Brown Hall, Munson Hall, Buell Hall, Hill Hall, Hoyt Hall, Pittman Hall, and the old Westview Apartments.



What's the move at EMU? Sept. 18-24

JA-NAE LEHMAN
NEWS REPORTER

Red Cross Blood Drive
On **Monday, Sept. 18**, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the university Student Center is hosting the annual blood drive for the American Red Cross. If interested in donating, students and staff can schedule an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org, and inserting the sponsor code EMU. This blood drive will be held in the ballroom of the student center.

ALICE - Active Assailant Response Training for Civilians

On **Tuesday, Sept. 19**, EMU is hosting a active assailant training in room 352 of the Student Center from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. This is an event for anyone who is interested on getting advice and skills on how to protect themselves and others if there were to ever be a dangerous situation on campus or outside of campus. Attendees have the option on whether or not they'd want to participate in a scenario.

Macramé & Mocktails

A fund night for LGBTRC students is set for **Tuesday, Sept. 19**, in room 352 of the Student Center. By instruction, or individually, students will have the opportunity to make their own macramé earring while enjoying mocktails that will be served. The event runs from 5 to 7 p.m.

EMU Marchathon

Join the EMU's Marching Band for its annual parade **Saturday, Sept. 23**, from 9 a.m. to noon. The parade will be held through the streets of downtown Ypsilanti. This event is a fundraiser for the band. Donations will support band members with their instruments, equipment, and other things they might need. The parade begins on EMU's campus, at Alexander.

Ypsilanti Farmers Market

Fresh produce and more will be available **Saturday, Sept. 23**, on Rice Street in Depot Town as the seasonal Ypsilanti Farmers Market sets up from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Each market vendor provides their own seasonal produce, such as eggs, meat, jam, honey, flowers, and more. The Farmers Market takes cash, credit cards, Market Dollars, SNAP/EBT Bridge Cards, Double Up Food Bucks, Prescription for Health, WIC Project FRESH, and Senior Market FRESH.

Fall River Day

On **Sunday, Sept. 24**, Frog Island Park is the home to Ypsilanti's Fall River Day, a family friendly event along the Huron River. Running from noon to 3 p.m., the fun includes kayak trips and instructional programs revolving around river wildlife. For those interested in kayaking, it's a matter of first-come, first-served. Those interested must register on site. Paddlers will travel the river as it winds through Ypsilanti into Ford Lake. Single and two-person kayaks and transportation will be provided. The event is sponsored by the Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation Commission.

Lecturers, university discover common ground in labor talks

JOSH CORDONERO
NEWS REPORTER
AMEERA SALMAN
CELLAR ROOTS EIC

The Eastern Michigan University Federation of Teachers signed a second contract extension with Eastern Michigan University as the parties close in on a deal.

The extension will last until Sept. 28, giving both sides two more weeks to finish negotiations.

Contract bargaining for the union has been ongoing since March. The contracts under which fulltime and part-time lecturers have been working expired Aug. 31.

When the contract expired, a 15-day contract extension was signed between the union and university administration to continue working under the same agreement.

The new contract being negotiated will cover both fulltime and part-time lecturers.

Bargaining continued with American Federation of Teachers President Terrence Martin joining EMUFT for a day.

In a Sept. 9 news statement from the EMUFT, union Vice President Anke Wolbert said, "It is time that EMU finally understands the message that lecturers are not alone."

"A lot of people have no idea that professors are struggling," Wolbert said.

The union has worked to gain support from EMU students and community members.

One student, social work major Colton Ray said, "I plan to support the lecturers in their protests and hope the bargaining goes well so that a strike is averted."

Union members have worked to raise awareness for students and community members alike, holding events such as rallies, sit-ins and informational events for students.

The union held a sit-in Sept. 12 while bargaining occurred. Members of the union and supporters occupied Welch Hall, which houses the offices of EMU President James Smith and Provost Rhonda Longworth, among others

The university responded in a brief statement.

"Eastern Michigan University respects the desire for lecturers to demonstrate their concerns. We support their freedom of speech and continue negotiating in good faith and remain available to meet daily if they choose to do so," said Melissa Thrasher, EMU's director of media relations.

EMUFT leaders said they have made progress in many important areas, including compensation, but have yet to come to final agreements. Other issues include promotional structure and a professional development fund for lecturers.

This contract, the first for the union that includes both fulltime and part-time lecturers, was more tedious to negotiate, said EMUFT grievance officer Jeremy Proulx.

"This is a brand new contract... We had to do this from scratch," Proulx said.

Both sides have expressed an overall regard for student interest.

"The administration values the university's full and part-time lecturers and their overall work to support our students

and their success," Thrasher said.

"The mission is education for the students, and we want to do the best for the students," part-time lecturer Maria Goodrich said.



PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE WHITE
EMUFT PICKET SUPPLIES OUTSIDE PRAY HAROLD BUILDING ON AUGUST 28, 2023.

Ypsilanti to host annual YpsiTasty Grub Crawl

VALENCIA GULLEY
NEWS REPORTER

The time is here for food lovers to indulge in the best food and beverages Ypsilanti has to offer. On Sept. 20, the city will have its YpsiTasty Grub Crawl event. Hosted by A2Y Chamber, the food celebration will begin at 4 p.m. and will end at 8 p.m.

Attendees have the opportunity to explore and taste foods from several restaurants and shops on Cross Street, in Depot Town, and downtown Ypsilanti. This event also gives the participating restaurants the opportunity to be showcased and celebrated. It is \$25 per adult and \$10 for children under 18.

Once guests arrive, they will get an assigned location to receive their tickets. Guests will take their ticket around to each of the participating restaurants and try different food samples.

This is not the first YpsiTasty Grub Crawl the city has hosted. Since 2011, it has been building a name for itself amongst the community.

"In 2011, the first 'Grub Crawl' event was planned and executed," Rosalind Vaughn, head coordinator of YpsiTasty, said. "The name was changed to 'YpsiTasty' in 2018 because of its catchiness. In 2019, however, I believe we hit our peak. Just a year after changing the event's



PHOTO CREDIT: ERIN FLYNN
STUFD IS A LOCAL BURRITO JOINT LOCATED ON CROSS STREET PARTICIPATING IN YPSITASTY GRUB CRAWL EVENT.

name, YpsiTasty reached its highest number of attendees, not including merchants."

The 16 restaurants featured in this event include Bobcat Bonnie's, Bridge Community Café, Dos Hermanos, Encuentro Latino, Gora's Grill, MAIZ Mexican Cantina, Mama Pizza, Speedy's Big Burgers, STUFD, Sweetwaters Ypsilanti, Tap Room, Thompson & Co, The Wurst Bar, Ypsi Alehouse, Ypsi Cocktail Club, and Ypsilanti Food Co-op.

Along with these restaurants, there are three participating shops; Black Stone Bookstore & Cultural Center, Puffer Reds, and This, That & The Odder Things. While walking is an option, the YpsiTasty offers a free hop-on-hop-off ride from Golden Limousine's trolly throughout the event.

Shops were not included in YpsiTasty until 2021, but when they were asked to be included, they were glad to be a part of it.

"They were very excited to participate and more than willing," Vaughn said.

This year, the YpsiTasty will also include Ypsilanti downtown and neighboring area retail merchants to support their Chamber's Shop Local initiative.

Through this family and community-based event, Vaughn hopes to give the restaurants and shops opportunities to showcase their products and services and provide the community with fun.

All profits go towards the Chamber to support them in planning more events like this.

Over The Edge brings rappelling to Ypsilanti for fundraising event

CHARLES BOYKINS
NEWS REPORTER

After three long years in Ann Arbor, the Over The Edge fundraiser is moving to Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. Participants will be able to rappel down EMU's Hill tower 11 stories high.

Over the Edge is a fundraiser developed by Friends in Deed, a nonprofit assistance based in Ypsilanti. They have put on hundreds of these events across the nation. The fundraiser gives people a way to contribute to their community by fundraising for a cause. In addition, they have the opportunity to rappel down the side of a skyscraper. Rappelling is the act of descending a slope while holding onto a rope at a fixed higher point.

The fundraiser has many contributors. One of those contributors is Antheyst Floyd. Floyd is the Development Associate for Over The Edge. Their connections to the event have professionally and personally spanned roughly three years.

"Over The Edge was originally started in Canada," Floyd said. "The founder of Over The Edge, Paul Griffith, decided to make it a national nonprofit after the amount of success and attention it generated during that first event."

A previous Director for Development and Communication for Friends in Deed heard about Over The Edge through the organization Grapevine and immediately took a liking to the cause.

"Her determination to bring this event to Friends In Deed has helped us raise over \$340,000 since 2020, taking the Over The Edge fundraiser from local to national," Floyd said. "It has proven to be quite an impressive endeavor."

Nonprofits are, by definition, not in it for the money. So understandably, it could be hard to garner attention from the public. But Floyd realizes Over the Hedge has allowed Friends in Deed to garner many supporters and gain the public's attention.

"Since we primarily focus on individual donations and grants, a large fundraiser like this helps us not only bring in large donations, but also new supporters who may not have heard us otherwise," Floyd said. "It's all about creating a strong donor base so we can continue, and hopefully grow, in supporting our community members".

Coming up with ideas over the course of years can be a daunting task. An extreme idea such as Over The Edge did not come from out of nowhere.

"This idea was actually thought up by the Over The Edge crew," Floyd said. "However,



PHOTO CREDIT: JORDAN BOYD
PARTICIPANTS WILL SCALE HILL HALL IN FUNDRAISING EVENT.

we're constantly reminding our supporters that they're able to fundraise in support of someone else. We also understand that there are plenty of people who would rather fundraise than rappel, and just as many who would rather rappel than to fundraise".

Friends In Deed are doing everything in their power to help people around the nation. Continuous support of them means continued support for your neighbors ,Ai familiar and foreign.

"The support and money we raise helps to contribute to the organization and its programs," Floyd said. "We like to say that it helps keep the lights on so that we can help others do the same. More funding means we're able to help more and increase the amount of help we are able to offer to counter rising costs of living".

EMU marketing experts host AI discussion panel

AARON HUGHES
MANAGING EDITOR

From Sept. 14 to Sept. 21 the annual A2Tech360 is celebrating and showcasing advances in technology. Included in this celebration is a panel discussion lead by Digital Summer Clinic founder and EMU marketing professor, Bud Gibson. The panel will take place Thursday, Sept. 21 at the Spark East Innovation Center in Ypsilanti.

Titled "The Age of AI," the event will discuss how to use artificial intelligence in marketing strategies.

One of the goals for this discussion, according to Gibson, is to dispel people's fear of artificial intelligence.

"I hope that we demystify AI a little bit because people tend to think of something called the singularity," Gibson said. "It's sort of like the machine is going to become intelligent, it's going to take over, and then we're going to be in the land of Terminator. And no, we're not anywhere near that."

Gibson hopes local businesses and startups learn to leverage AI and understand its benefits. To help speak on this topic, marketing expert Ian Sherk, TechStak and My Unleashed Life founder, and Nicol Pasuit, will join the panel alongside Gibson. In addition, Pasuit will bring four interns from her Digital Summer Clinic team.

The Digital Summer Clinic is a paid internship for students interested in digital marketing. It is offered by Ann Arbor SPARK

and The Center for Digital Engagement.

During their internship, these interns worked for Pasuit's companies and used AI to help grow the businesses. She and the other panelists hope that others learn from these interns and their personal experience.

"I'm really interested in hearing their [the interns] thoughts and experience from their perspective with their background in marketing," Pasuit said. "How are they looking at this and using AI tools, how they are looking at AI, and how does that impact them as they actually move forward in their careers."

Pasuit and Gibson note just how important the interns are for the work they are doing.

"The interns play an integral role. They are really the people who do the work and then we have various folks to guide them. A[dditionally] we try to bring everybody together," Gibson said.

Charles Borus is one of EMU's student and marketing interns for Techstak. Pasuit notes that he was instrumental in expanding her company. She hopes, like Borus, those with interest in AI will come and learn about all its capabilities.

"When people leave this event, I hope they have a new perspective on AI," Pasuit said. "If they came in with doubts about it, I hope that their questions will be answered."

Following this discussion panel will be a six hour workshop on Nov. 17. Hosted by the EMU Center for Digital Engagement, it will dive deeper into the topics discussed at Thursday's event.



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EMU’s Hamze El-Zayat scores winning touchdown against UMass

MACKENZIE THOMPSON
SPORTS WRITER

The Eastern Michigan University football team (2-1) returned to Rynearson Stadium Sept. 16 for a match up against the University of Massachusetts (1-3) after a 6-25 loss on the road against Minnesota Sept. 9. After a hard fought four quarters, a 50 yard pass from quarterback Austin Smith to Hamze El-Zayat with 01:20 remaining in the ball game would seal the deal for an Eagles victory, 19-17.

“It’s hard to win football games,” Chris Creighton, head coach, said in a post-game press conference.

The win against UMass marks the first time the Eagles have beat the same non-conference competitor in three-straight seasons since going on a five game streak against Youngstown State from 1985 to 1989.

The Eagles were able to take the lead early in the game, putting points on the board first after a 40-yard field goal by Jesus Gomez with 2:31 remaining

in the first quarter.

Eastern Michigan continued to widen its lead after a 55-yard rush by Jaylon Jackson tacking on six more points for the green and white.

A 48-yard field goal by Cameron Carson would put UMass on the board to give the Minutemen their first score of the game right before halftime, changing the score to 3-10.

UMass temporarily took the lead over EMU late in the fourth quarter, 17-13 until Smith connected with El-Zayat with 1:20 left in the game.

After scrambling to find a man in gray, Smith launched a 50-yard pass down the field for an EMU touchdown, securing a win over the Minutemen 19-17.

“It felt good to have my first [receiving] touchdown here at Eastern, but more so it feels good for the game because we got the win,” El-Zayat said.

Eastern’s defense dominated against the Minutemen recording five turnovers which hasn’t been done since 2016.

“Defensively we’ll find things that we can get better at,” Creighton said.

“When you take the ball away three times in the air, cause a fumble, hold

them to field goals for the vast majority of the game. They did a really good job.”

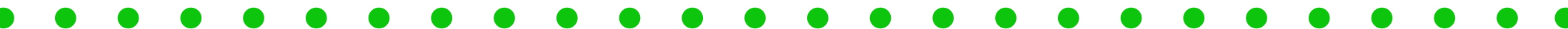
Quentavius Scandrett recorded his second career pick and first of the season on Saturday. Newcomer Bennett Walker tallied two interceptions for the green and white and sits at the top of the MAC standings with three interceptions in three games.

After picking up the fumble forced by Joe Sparacio in the first quarter, Justin Jefferson became the first player representing the Block E to collect a turnover in consecutive games since the last season.

Jefferson and Walker are the first players in EMU program history to record turnovers in back-to-back games since 2018.

Additionally, Chase Kline had 11 tackles, two sacks, and one forced fumble against UMass.

Up next, the Eagles will travel to Jacksonville, Ala. to face off against the Jacksonville State Gamecocks. Kickoff is set for 4 p.m. CT (5 p.m. ET), Sept. 23.



EMU vs UMass Sept.16



PHOTO CREDIT: JORDAN BOYD
CHEER TEAM FORMS A TOWER DURING UMASS VS EMU SEPT.16 2023.



THE CROWD AT THE UMASS VS EMU GAME SEPT.16 2023.



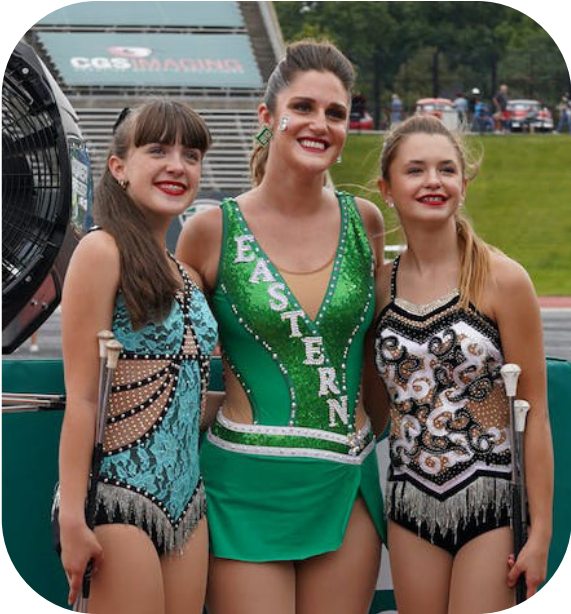
EMU FOOTBALL KICKER JESÚS GÓMEZ PRACTICING HIS FORM AS HE GETS READY TO KICK A FIELD GOAL AGAINST UMASS.



THE EMU FOOTBALL DEFENSE IN COVERAGE AS UMASS TRIES TO MAKE A PLAY ON OFFENSE IN THEIR MATCH-UP ON SEPT. 16, 2023.



EMU FOOTBALL'S LONDYN CRAFT BATTLES WITH A UMASS PLAYER IN THEIR MATCH-UP AGAINST THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS.



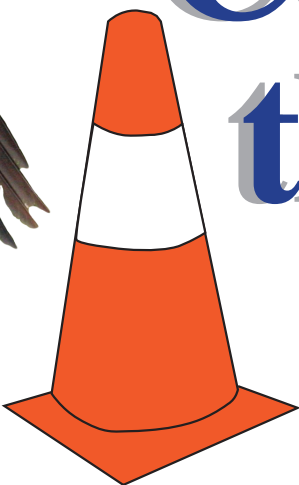
EMU TWIRLER MACKENON TYRRELL POSING WITH HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND STUDENTS.



EMU DEFENSIVE LINEMAN TIM GRANT-RANDALL GETTING READY AHEAD OF THEIR MATCH-UP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS ON SEPT. 16 2023.



THE EMU CHEER TEAM PERFORMS DURING THE UMASS VS EMU FOOTBALL GAME.



Construction throughout Ypsilanti

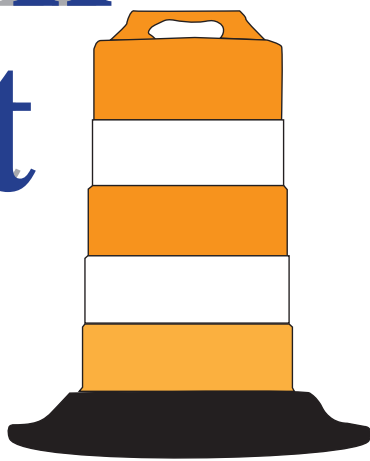


PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE WHITE
ROAD WORK SIGN IN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT OF YPSILANTI NEAR CATHERINE STREET ALERTING DRIVERS OF ROAD WORK.



PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE WHITE
JONES- GODDARD BUILDING BEING PREPARED FOR DEMOLITION.



PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE WHITE
REDUCE SPEED SIGN IN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT OF YPSILANTI NEAR CATHERINE STREET ALERTING DRIVERS OF ROAD WORK.



PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE WHITE
DETOUR SIGN ACROSS FROM PEASE PARKING LOT ON EMU'S CAMPUS.



PHOTO CREDIT: KASEY DESCHLER
SIGNS BLOCKING THE RIGHT-HAND TURN LANE AT THE CORNER OF N. HURON RIVER DRIVE AND LEFORGE ROAD.



PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE WHITE
DETOUR SIGN OUTSIDE PEASE PARKING LOT ON EMU'S CAMPUS.



PHOTO CREDIT: ERIN FLYNN
CONSTRUCTION OF THE LAKEVIEW APARTMENTS TAKEN SEPT. 17, 2023.

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