

The Eastern Echo

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EMU reorganizes College of Arts and Sciences New model focuses on student opportunities, majors unchanged

AnnaBelle Favre
Managing Editor - News

Formerly 18 departments, EMU’s College of Arts and Sciences has now reorganized into eight schools. During the summer of 2026, CAS had a complete remodel, although majors and programs will not see changes.

In an interview with *The Eastern Echo*, College of Arts and Sciences Dean Carol Bishop Mills talked about how these changes were made.

“We did so by really thinking more into what are the ways that students might be navigating their own careers

and what might interest them. We then cluster those things together,” she said.

Mills used the example of performing arts. Many students interested in music and dance may also be interested in musical theater. These programs used to be separate, but all share one school so that student interests can overlap easily.

She also explained that each school will host lectures and events that will show students the intersections of the majors in their school.

In an email, Mills assured students that these changes were made to benefit them.

“Why make the change? Because your education should be about more than completing a list of courses. We want it to be easier for you to see the connections between fields, discover opportunities outside your major, and connect what you are learning at EMU with internships, careers, graduate school, and what comes next,” Mills wrote in the email.

Each new school received an interim director.

Mills explained in an interview with *The Echo* that this remodeling has been in the works for as long as five years. Under the former dean, Dana Heller,

the College of Arts and Sciences had a reorganization committee that brainstormed ideas and then put forward proposals, Mills said. The committee had sketched out a possible plan for the reorganization but decided to wait and really think on if it would be the right decision.

Mills told *The Echo* that when she became dean a year ago, she was told by former Provost Rhonda Longworth that her one task for the year was to finish the reorganization.

“With the way higher ed is going today, we needed a (reorganization). We have 13,000 students: we don’t

need 18 departments in just the College of Arts and Sciences,” Mills said.

Some of Mills’ goals with the reorganization were to give students more opportunities to experience similar fields and to ensure students can graduate within four years.

Mills looked at the previous plan and spent the year working with committees and CAS faculty to build a system that would work for administration, faculty, and most importantly, students.

“All of us want to do what is in the best interest of students,” Mills said.

Read the full story at easternecho.com

EMU students cheer on the Eagles



Eastern Michigan University student Jonathan Broder cheers on the Eagles as they face the San Jose State Spartans at Rynearson Stadium, Sept. 4. During the game, three EMU students competed in a doughnut-eating contest hosted by competitive eater Joey Chestnut. The game also featured Cruise Night, bringing classic cars to the stadium. The Eagles fell to the Spartans, 27-21, before the game closed out with a fireworks show. Lilly Kujawski / The Eastern Echo

Ypsi Council pauses new data center permits

Lelaina MacDonald
News Reporter

At the Sept. 1 Ypsilanti City Council meeting, council members discussed an ordinance to impose an emergency moratorium on issuance of new zoning permits for data centers in the City of Ypsilanti for 60 days.

The council passed the first reading of the ordinance to impose an emergency moratorium with amendments.

“This is similar to emergency ordinance done in the past,” Andrew Hellenga, the city manager, said. “This will provide 60 days to allow council and the planning commission to finish their work on the zoning update.”

In March of this year, City Council voted to approve a moratorium that would temporarily halt new zoning permits for data centers within city limits. Since then, Councilor Amber Fellows, Ward 3, stated that the city has is able to continue extending the moratorium until March of 2027 if the council wishes.

Many Ypsilanti residents who attended the meeting emphasized the importance of the council voting yes on this ordinance and encouraged council to extend the moratorium.

“I do think that for the sake of not only the council, the community of Ypsilanti as a whole, that you guys say yes to the moratorium and also extend it to maybe 80 or 120 days. It really doesn’t matter to me. Just make sure that we do not have a data center,” Quanzelle Wyatt, an Ypsilanti resident, stated.

Fellows mentioned later in the meeting that she hopes that the Council can continue to renew this moratorium.

“I hope that we continue renewing this until we are confident as a community that we have a really good legislative strategy to approach this topic,” she said.

One resident requested that City Council ask for a statewide moratorium against data centers. Other residents at the meeting agreed with this statement. Fellows said this was a good idea.

Councilor Patrick McLean, Ward 2,

also contemplated on whether or not what Council was doing was causing an impact or if they should push their efforts to the state.

Fellows said that the proposed zoning tax amendment that would create allowances for data centers in the city is scheduled for Sept. 15, 2026.

There has been a lot of worry about the legal risks of not making allowances for data centers as fast as possible, Fellows said, and not enough worry about the risks to the community, as far as the environment and the long-term impact.

“I agree with the public that we need to do the best legislation we could possibly do,” Fellows stated. She said that developing legislative strategies should be more of a democratic process. She suggested a task force or a committee to allow public input.

Desirae Simmons, Ward 3, stated that she would like more engagement with the Ypsilanti community prior to the Sept. 15 City Council meeting to discuss with the public the proposed tax amendment.

In particular, Simmons hopes to communicate and connect with people in the community who have been focused on the issue.

“I think we could actually put something together that could be more strong when it comes to us, so that then people can see how we’re working alongside them as opposed to kind of trying to impose something when they have been really clear,” she said.

Fellows mentioned that she has gotten nonstop messages from the Ypsilanti community concerning the tax amendment. There is not a lack of talent and interest in the community to improve upon what has been offered, she added.

Ypsilanti City Council members developed and approved a motion to make the tax amendment for the next meeting a discussion topic. The discussion topic would include an informational presentation with no action attached, where the Council can ask questions and have a conversation.



Washtenaw County Sheriff cars in front of the Superior/Salem Township Community Station at 3040 N. Prospect Road in Superior Township, Michigan. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo

County Sheriff investigates use of force in arrest

Sam Peterson
News Reporter

The Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Office has opened a formal internal affairs investigation into an Aug. 28 arrest after video of the encounter circulated online and raised concerns among community members.

Sheriff Alyshia M. Dyer wrote in a news release that the investigation will examine the force used, statements made at the scene, tactics and overall conduct of the deputies involved.

The incident began as deputies responded to a reported felonious domestic assault involving a potentially armed and barricaded suspect.

According to the sheriff’s office, a vehicle entered the secured perimeter and failed to stop when directed by deputies. Deputies deployed a tire-deflation device before approaching the driver.

Body camera footage showed a deputy ordering the driver to the ground before physical contact occurred. The driver fell forward and was handcuffed. The sheriff’s office acknowledged video appearing to show the driver’s head striking a curb, but said its review of the available footage does not clearly establish contact with the curb.

Deputies later determined the driver was not the suspect they were seeking and the driver was arrested on suspicion of operating while intoxicated and other conduct related to entering the secured scene and failing to stop.

Dyer said the department will not reach conclusions about the deputies until the investigation is complete.

This is an ongoing investigation.

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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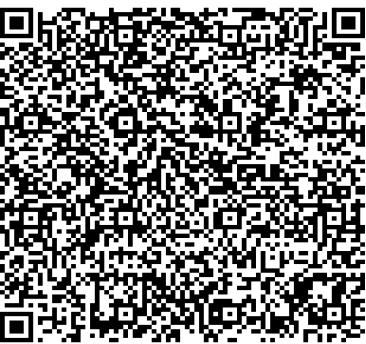
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CORRECTIONS

The Sept. 1 print edition of *The Eastern Echo* misstated the name of our comics editor. Our comics editor is Yiri Thompson.

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.

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- Ypsilanti City Hall
- Ypsilanti District Library
- Ypsilanti Food Co-op



RAD self defense class for women returns

Lelaina MacDonald
News Reporter

The EMU Department of Public Safety, or DPS, typically holds a women’s self defense class each school year. For the fall 2026 semester, the Rape Aggression Defense, or RAD, women’s self defense class will take place Sept. 9 in McKenny Hall.

RAD is a program that demonstrates and teaches realistic self-defense tactics and techniques. The class is taught by certified RAD instructors and the class offers a workbook/reference manual that includes the entire physical defense program for reference and continuous personal growth.

“This comprehensive course for women begins with awareness, prevention and risk reduction and avoidance while progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training,” the RAD page on the DPS website said.

RAD is dedicated to teaching women defensive concepts and techniques against various types of assault, the website said. The course

will teach women easy, effective and proven self-defense/martial arts tactics.

The RAD class aims to provide women with the knowledge to make an educated decision about resistance. They will be provided with effective options during the class, giving women the chance to take an active role in their own self-defense and psychological well-being.

“It is recommended that participants wear comfortable clothing, such as a t-shirt and sweatpants or workout wear, and gym shoes,” Officer Andrea Elliott, the community engagement officer for DPS, wrote in a statement. She emphasized that students should not wear flip-flops, hard shoes or sandals because they may cause a safety hazard.

“Please plan to attend all classes,” Elliott wrote. “The information and techniques build upon themselves. If a class is missed due to illness or an emergency, make-up sessions can be arranged prior to the next class.”

If a student misses a class, it jeopardizes their ability to participate in the week six simulation. The



RAD classes teach students self defense skills they can use in the real world. *Photo courtesy of Cathy Wilman*

simulation is optional, but strongly encouraged because students will be able to use the techniques that they learned during the first five weeks of the class in dynamic scenarios.

Additionally, RAD is being taught at many other universities and colleges. The widespread acceptance of this system is primarily due to the ease, simplicity and effectiveness

of their tactics, solid research, legal defensibility and unique teaching methodology.

Registration for the upcoming September class is currently open.

“This six-week class is open to any individual who identifies as female or non-binary and is age 16 and up,” the DPS website said. “A parent or legal guardian must sign a consent form for

students who are under the age of 18.”

RAD is approved for LBC credit.

For those who have questions, would like more information or to be notified when future classes are available, they can contact Officer Elliott by email at aelliott@emich.edu or by phone number 734-487-0987.

Together Walk to bring mental health awareness to campus on National Suicide Prevention Day

Lelaina MacDonald
News Reporter

Sept. 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day. Eastern Michigan University’s Disability Resource Center is holding an event called the Together Walk on Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026, to support suicide prevention and raise mental health awareness.

Liz Shawl, the interim director of the DRC, said that last year within the first couple of weeks of class, students came to the DRC office with concerns about suicidal ideation. Instead of

waiting until later in the year to bring awareness events to students, Shawl decided the need couldn’t wait.

Shawl shared that the highest instances of suicide are in September, when school comes back and students face pressure related to their education.

“Suicide prevention isn’t just a day, it is not a month — it is an everyday thing,” Shawl said. “I really felt strongly that we needed to bring attention to it at the beginning of the school year because so many students face so many challenges and transitions during those first couple of weeks. We, as a campus community, want to

ensure that they understand that we are here and that there are resources and supports available.”

To allow students access to resources and to raise awareness, Shawl came up with the Together Walk. While the event contains the word “walk” in the title, there are ways for people of all abilities to participate, she said.

Students can walk around the University Park pond if they choose. If students walk around the pond six times — a mile in total — they will receive a t-shirt that they can decorate. The EMU Foundation is partnering with some donors to make a donation to a suicide

prevention organization depending on how many students complete the six laps, Shawl said.

“If there is a disability related barrier to them completing those six laps, then we will have other ways to participate to get a t-shirt. We don’t want anyone to feel like they can’t participate because of access,” Shawl added.

In addition to the walk, there will be community partners, university resources, crafts, meditation practices and other activities. CAPS, Community Mental Health and the National Alliance on Mental Illness are some of the local groups that will be attending.

“We’re going to have a playlist that everybody can contribute to that we’re calling ‘the hopeful playlist,’” Shawl said. “Everybody will be able to contribute their music to the playlist that will be played during the event. We want students to share their songs of hope and reassurance.”

Students who would like to participate in the Together Walk can go to University Park, Thursday, Sept. 10, from 3 to 6 p.m. For further information or for those who have questions, contact Shawl at eshawl@emich.edu.

EMU professor enters Saline mayoral race



Michael McVey. *Courtesy of Michael McVey*

Hannah Borders
News Reporter

Michael McVey, a professor of teacher education at Eastern Michigan University, is hoping to apply his experience in education and public service by running in Saline’s 2026 mayoral election.

At EMU, McVey’s work is largely centered around teaching future educators how to navigate technology in the classroom. The importance of his work is growing with the emergence of artificial intelligence, he said. He works not only with students, but also with EMU faculty members by hosting workshops in educational technology. He also has experience working in K-12 classrooms.

“Educational technology is extremely important, especially today, because so many new teachers are going to experience it and encounter it. They need to know how to deal with it. First of all, just the mechanics of it, and how to use the various tools in the classroom,” McVey said. “Now ... AI is in every classroom, so I feel like I have a lot of work to do in getting our new teachers prepared for that.”

Alongside his work at EMU,

McVey serves as the elected treasurer of the Saline Area Schools Board of Education, and previously served as president-elect of the school board.

McVey has won many awards including the Ronald Collins Award for Service from EMU in 2020, EMU’s College of Education Outstanding Faculty Award in 2021 and the Michigan Association of School Boards Presidential Award of Recognition in 2024, according to emich.edu.

Additionally, McVey holds three professional memberships in the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, the International Society for Technology in Education and the Michigan Association of School Boards, emich.edu says.

McVey is running for mayor of Saline because the current mayor, Brian Marl, has served for 14 years and McVey believes it is time for a new person to hold office, he said. Marl is currently running for re-election.

Having served on the school board for ten years, McVey has closely watched the Saline City Council and wants to make changes.

McVey’s campaign focuses on making the city more appealing for businesses to open there, and handling the city’s budget and infrastructure issues by encouraging preventative maintenance. He hopes to encourage transparency and communication within the community and pare down the mayor’s tasks..

Yukari Amos, associate dean for programs and operations for the College of Education, said that McVey is a very community-driven educator. Amos highlighted that McVey is focused on improving the wellbeing of the communities around him and that he carries a very service-oriented mindset. She also mentioned his dedication to the Saline Area Board of Education.

Read the full story at easternecho.com

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EMU LGBTQ resource center to welcome students back to campus with BBQueer



Students cheer and wave pride flags at BBQueer on Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo

Hannah Borders
Arts Reporter

BBQueer, annually hosted by Eastern Michigan University’s Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Resource Center, welcomes students back to campus by creating community connections and celebrating LGBTQ+ joy.

This year’s event will take place Thursday, Sept. 10, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Student Center patio. Everyone is invited to BBQueer regardless of identity and sexuality, including community members that are not EMU students, says the LGBTRC.

“The biggest goal is to start off the year with a sense of community. I know I have always felt almost relieved to see so many queer people, but also such a queer friendly space,” said Elliot Gray,

a student intern for the LGBTRC.

There will be barbecue, including vegetarian options, music, drag performances and drag bingo. There is no specific schedule to the event, Gray said. People can grab a plate of food then enjoy socializing with others for the first section of the event. Once people are settled, drag bingo will begin. Drag performances will happen between bingo games, and prizes will be given out to those who win bingo. Drag bingo will be hosted by local performer Jadein Black.

Black wrote that drag bingo takes the traditional bingo game and transforms it into opportunity for interaction, entertainment and community building. The game has much more personality and gives everyone a fun game to participate in, she said.

“I think events like BBQueer are especially powerful because they

bring people together in a way that feels joyful and accessible. We get to celebrate LGBTQ+ identities while also inviting allies and people who may not have much experience with the drag community to come, have fun, and learn,” Black wrote. “I also think it’s important to recognize that LGBTQ+ students aren’t all having the same college experience. Some students may arrive at EMU already confident and connected to the LGBTQ+ community, while others may be questioning, closeted, new to the area, or simply looking for people they can relate to. Events like BBQueer can provide that first point of connection.”

Wendy Pulido Rodriguez, a senior majoring in Spanish and teaching English as a second language, has gone to BBQueer every year she has attended EMU.

“I come from an incredibly rural

community where it is not common to celebrate diversity or anything that might make you different. When I first attended BBQueer and saw how many people were there from all different walks of life, and everyone was being celebrated and enjoying themselves, it made Eastern feel more like home and a place where people can find belonging. I recommend BBQueer to all of my friends and coworkers because I feel like this event is just full of joy and confidence,” Pulido Rodriguez said.

BBQueer is a chance for students and community members to meet each other and build meaningful connections and friendships. Attendees can also learn about the resources the LGBTRC has to offer

The LGBTRC is a resource center on campus, located in room 354 of the Student Center. The LGBTRC provides a safe space for students. The center has games, puzzles, an LGBTQ+-centered library and free gender expressive clothing. It also offers free STI testing with Get Yourself Tested every week, as well as a free binder and bra exchange. It hosts clubs within the center that meet regularly to establish a greater sense of community.

Gray emphasized the importance of celebrating joy at BBQueer.

“The event is centered so deeply in queer joy,” Gray said. “Queerness often focuses on struggle, and what you don’t have access to, and all of the forces (that) are working against you and trying to minimize your freedom of expression. So, to highlight queer joy and to highlight the resources that are available, and other queer people living their best lives is an important reminder that queerness shouldn’t be and doesn’t have to be centered on that struggle. It can be centered on our community, on love, on joy, and self expression and not being alone.”

Ypsilanti farmers and gardeners share their stories through YDL oral history project

Laleh Walker
News Reporter

The Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners: An Enduring Legacy exhibit, is currently on display at the Ypsilanti District Library’s Superior Township branch, showcasing stories from its latest narrators.

The Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project is a digital archive through the Ypsilanti District Library that highlights the oral histories of Black, Indigenous and people of color gardeners and working-class farmers. The exhibit will run until Sept. 26. Visitors can scan the QR code on each narrator’s portrait and hear their stories.

The project began in 2013 when project lead Finn Bell was conducting research for his dissertation at the University of Michigan.

After interviewing BIPOC gardeners and working-class farmers in Ypsilanti, Bell recognized the importance of sharing their stories beyond his dissertation and perspective.

“I was interviewing farmers and gardeners, especially BIPOC working-class folks, and they told me amazing stories that really needed to be shared beyond just my dissertation,” Bell said. “I wanted everyone who wanted to hear their stories to be able to.”

In 2023, Bell invited the people who had shared their stories as part of his dissertation to the same library to discuss what should come next. Together, they decided to expand the work into an oral history project that would allow community members to share their stories in their own words, without editing or filtering. With support from the library, the project was created as a resource open to the community.

At an Aug. 17 reception for the exhibit, Bell thanked everyone for attending and those who helped make



Community members attend the Aug. 17 reception of the Ypsi Farmers and Gardeners: An Enduring Legacy oral history exhibit at the Superior Township branch of the Ypsilanti District Library. Photo by Nick Azzaro; courtesy of Finn Bell

the project possible, including late community leaders Melvin Parson and Linda Mealing, both prominent figures in the local gardening and farming community.

Jean Winborn, a genealogy professor and longtime participant in the project, was one of Bell’s professors and part of the first group of narrators in 2023. She also served as an interviewer for the project.

During the reception, Winborn shared her personal connection to growing food, recalling her childhood in Ann Arbor in the 1950s, when her father had a garden plot across the street from their home in what is now Kerrytown, where anyone could come and get food grown from the garden.

Next, participants and contributors of the project joined in a panel discussion, answering audience questions and reflecting on their lives, legacies and experiences growing food, as well as its importance to their cultures and communities.

The panel featured story narrators Julius Buzzard and Kyunghie Kim, community advisory board member Akaiia Hill, and project interviewer P. Deisha Myles.

Buzzard emphasized the importance of sharing stories and the impact they can have on others.

“Our stories are so, so powerful, and when we get in rooms and we share our stories with one another, they move people. And it doesn’t matter how much money they have, it doesn’t matter what the color of their skin is. When you connect with somebody with a story, you build community, and it really does create the ability for us to move with one another,” said Buzzard.

After an audience member asked the panelists if they had a mentor who inspired them, Kim said hers was her mother, someone she feels she has little in common with.

“For this context — gardening, growing — definitely my mom,” she said.

“And I’m surprised by that because her and I are very different,” Kim said,

laughing, as the audience laughed along. “I always think we have nothing in common. Somehow, we both love food. Through that, it has been the source of getting to know each other because it can break barriers.”

As the audience’s applause faded, attendees mingled with panel members, continued conversations sparked during the discussion, grabbed food, and listened to the oral histories presented in the exhibit.

One of the latest narrators of the Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project, Shalina Rankin, reflected on how she enjoyed the project and how it has helped her with her memory.

“I enjoyed it. It was actually really uplifting to talk about my experience,” Rankin said. “It has helped me. It is so funny ... as you go through life, you kind of forget things. So when someone’s asking you questions, you start remembering what you learned, what you have done, and how important something is.”

What's the Move? Sept. 8 - 14

Lelaina MacDonald
News Reporter

Now that the fall semester has begun, students may be wondering what events and activities they can attend. Here are some upcoming events on and near campus.

RAD Zines! — Sept. 8

On Sept. 8, Ypsi Art Supply will host the RAD Zines! event, which will include zine reading and zine creating. This event is presented as part of Radical Artists and Designers, or RAD, which is a group of artists, designers, illustrators and creatives based in Ypsilanti.

People of all ages and skill levels are welcome to attend and are encouraged to bring paper, drawing supplies and their favorite zines to show-and-tell, the website states. There will also be materials provided at the event.

This event will run from 6:30-9 p.m. at Ypsi Art Supply which is located at 42 N. Huron Street. It is free to attend and no registration is required.

36th Annual Meet the Firms Job Fair — Sept. 11

On Sept. 11, EMU students and alumni are invited to the Meet the Firms Job Fair. The fair is designed for employers to seek candidates for internships and permanent positions for those who are interested in pursuing careers in accounting or finance.

The job fair will run from 1-3:30 p.m. and will be in the McKenny Hall Ballroom. Students and alumni do not need to pay or register for this event.

Those who want more information can contact Temii Tellis at 734-487-4106 or ttellis@emich.edu.

Ladies Night Pajama Party — Sept. 12

On Sept. 12, Family 734 is hosting a pajama party. Attendees are encouraged to wear their favorite pajamas and enjoy a night of music, games, prizes and good vibes. The Family 734 webpage states that this is an opportunity for people to relax, have fun and make memories.

The Ladies Night Pajama Party will be at Ziggy’s, which is located at 206 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Doors open at 8 p.m. Advance tickets for the pajama party can be purchased on the Family 734 website for \$5 or can be bought for \$10 at the door the day of.

Yoga Eagle X — Sept. 13

On Sept. 13, students at EMU can participate in a guided yoga class. Participants can increase their flexibility and strength while exploring a self-connection of the body, breath and mind. This class will allow students to strengthen and stretch their muscles. No prior skill is needed for the class; students will leave class feeling relaxed and restored.

Those who wish to attend the class must have a REC/IM membership and must sign up on the REC/IM website. The class will be in room 127 in the REC/IM building.

To learn more about the yoga class, contact Morgan Losey at 734-487-2317 or mlosey@emich.edu.

Downtown Queer Crafting Group — Sept. 14

On Sept. 14, the Michigan Avenue branch of the Ypsilanti District Library will host its monthly bring-your-own-materials program. The program offers the space and time for people to connect over a mutual love of crafting and creating, the YDL website states. Those who are interested can bring paints, fiber arts (sewing, knitting, etc.), paper crafts, drawing, writing, digital arts and more. People in the LGBTQ+ community that are 18 years or older are invited to bring projects and art supplies to this event.

The Downtown Queer Crafting Group will meet at the YDL Michigan Avenue location at 229 W. Michigan Ave., in the Program Room from 6-8 p.m. This is a free event and no registration is required.



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Fourth-quarter woes doom Eagles in 27-21 loss to San Jose Spartans



The Eastern Michigan University Eagles take on the San Jose State Spartans during a Sept. 4 football game at Rynearson Stadium. *Laura Meriweather / The Eastern Echo*

Ruby Brannon
Sports Editor

Under the bright Friday night lights of Rynearson Stadium, Eastern Michigan University was unable to protect “The Factory” in a historic matchup. In the first-ever regular-season meeting between EMU and San Jose State, a crowd of 5,646 witnessed a grueling battle that ended in a 27-21 defeat for the Eagles. The loss splits the Eagles’ season record to 1-1 (1-0 MAC), while the Spartans bounce back to 1-1.

EMU entered looking to secure their first 2-0 start in eight years. However, the Eagles’ offense stalled in key moments, while San Jose State’s high-octane modern attack found its rhythm behind a career night from quarterback Luke Weaver and wideout Cooper Hoch.

A defensive opening gives way to big plays

Following a scoreless first quarter dominated by both defenses, Eastern Michigan struck first. Early in the second, EMU quarterback Noah Kim engineered a scoring drive, capped by a five-yard touchdown pass to give the Eagles a 7-0 lead.

However, the Spartans’ spread offense, under head coach Ken Niumatalolo, refused to stay quiet. Late in the period, Luke Weaver orchestrated a response. With just 1:19 left before halftime, Weaver found Jase Nix for a 27-yard touchdown reception, the first catch of Nix’s career. The momentum swung further toward the visitors when, as time expired in the first half, SJSU kicker Trajan Sinatra drilled a 45-yard field goal to send the Eagles into the locker room trailing 10-7.

Third quarter fireworks and defensive scores

Early in the third quarter, Eastern Michigan’s running game broke through with a stunning 50-yard touchdown run to reclaim a 14-10 lead.

The Spartans answered with a 13-play, 75-yard drive finished by Weaver’s 10-yard touchdown pass to Cooper Hoch, regaining a 17-14 advantage.

But with 53 seconds left in the third, the Eagles’ physical defense stepped up. EMU forced a Weaver fumble, returning it one yard for a touchdown to carry a 21-17 lead into the fourth.

Fourth quarter woes seal the Eagles’ fate

The final quarter, however, belonged entirely to San Jose State. Trailing by four, Weaver connected with Hoch once again, this time for a spectacular 40-yard touchdown with 11:19 left. Hoch finished his breakout night with five receptions for a career-high 115 yards and two touchdowns.

EMU’s offense fell flat in the fourth quarter, generating a meager 25 total yards of offense and going 0-for-5 on third downs. Trying to mount a comeback, Kim was intercepted on a critical fourth-and-2 by Dylan Lee with 1:59 remaining. The turnover allowed Sinatra to boot a 49-yard field goal, stretching the Spartan lead to 27-21.

With one last chance, the Eagles’ final drive ended when the Spartans forced four consecutive incompletions to run out the clock.

Statistical breakdown

The stat sheet highlighted a stark disparity in offensive production. San Jose State outgained Eastern Michigan in total yardage, 453 to 281. The Spartans executed 77 plays, averaging 5.88 yards per play, whereas the Eagles averaged just 4.13 yards across 68 plays.

EMU’s third-down execution was a primary pain point, finishing the game a dismal 3-of-16. The Spartans’

defense also shut down three of EMU’s four fourth-down conversion attempts. Along with Weaver’s 316 passing yards and Cooper Hoch’s career night, SJSU’s ground game was powered by Jabari Bates, who rushed for 119 yards on 20 carries.

The post-game press conference

In a somber post-game press conference, Eastern Michigan head coach Chris Creighton expressed deep frustration over controllable, self-inflicted mistakes. Creighton emphasized that the Eagles’ crippling offensive stagnation on late downs stemmed from a failure to gain yards on first down, noting that establishing a consistent running game is a “group project” involving the offensive line, tight ends, and backs. This struggle was further compounded by relentless pressure on quarterback Noah Kim, which intensified after starting offensive lineman Cole Powell left due to an injury. The team’s boiling frustration was captured by a late-game unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on Jason Marshall; while Creighton revealed the defender reacted because an opponent allegedly “spit on him,” he offered no leeway, stating there is “absolutely no excuse” for such costly penalties. Ultimately, Creighton framed the game as a frustrating teaching moment of controllable errors, urging his players that regardless of how they feel, they must “start over” and rebuild their preparation process for the weeks ahead.

Looking ahead

Head coach Chris Creighton and the Eagles must regroup quickly as they search for answers on offense and look to clean up execution errors. Protecting “The Factory” remains a primary goal, but this historic first regular-season meeting will serve as a tough teaching moment.

Eagle Sports Tips & Tales: Sept. 7 - 13

Ruby Brannon
Sports Editor

Sept. 7-8: Men’s golf at Chandler, Arizona

The tale: The Eagles officially open their season in Chandler, Arizona, competing in the Bombs Darts Birds Collegiate. Last season, playing on this very same Whirlwind Golf Course, Eastern Michigan shot an exceptional 19-under-par 845 to finish seventh overall, a mark that stands as the seventh-lowest 54-hole score in program history. Head coach Andy Walker enters his third year following a thrilling summer where he captured the Michigan Senior Open title in a dramatic playoff.

The tip: The dry desert air in Chandler causes golf balls to fly significantly farther than in the humid Midwest. Golfers must carefully adjust their club yardage calculations and prioritize intense hydration to battle the Arizona heat.

Sept. 10: Women’s soccer at Milwaukee

The tale: This matchup represents a rare showdown. Historically, Eastern Michigan has only faced the Milwaukee Panthers once on the pitch: a 2-0 loss back on October 17, 1997. Under third-year head coach Taylor Clarke, the Eagles look to balance the scales.

The tip: Playing on the road at Milwaukee’s historic Engelmann Stadium requires the same defensive masterclass that recently earned redshirt senior goalkeeper Ella Holland and senior defender Reese Carpenter honors as the MAC Goalkeeper and Defensive Players of the Week on Sept. 1.

Sept. 11: Men’s and women’s cross country at the Spartan Invitational

The tale: Eastern Michigan has a long history in East Lansing. At the 1940 NCAA national meet hosted by Michigan State, the EMU men’s cross country team finished as the national runner-up behind Indiana. Decades later in 1983, under legendary coach Bob Parks, the Eagles defeated Michigan State (23-35) in head-to-head competition despite overcoming severe mid-season roster depth issues.

The tip: The course at Forest Akers is notorious for its rolling, deceptively tough hills. Runners should stay patient during the first mile, avoiding the temptation to sprint out too early, and utilize pack running to keep the team score low.

Sept. 11-12: Volleyball at the Golden Grizzly Invitational

The tale: Eastern Michigan has historically dominated local rival Oakland, holding a commanding 27-9 series lead, including a flawless 3-0 sweep in their last meeting on Sept. 19, 2025. The Eagles also have a winning history against Friday opponent UAB, claiming a 3-0 victory in their last matchup on Sept. 16, 2000.

The tip: Friday’s doubleheader against Montana (12 p.m.) and UAB (5 p.m.) will test physical endurance. Managing player rotations early and establishing a strong out-of-system block defense will keep rallies short and legs fresh for Saturday’s clash against Oakland.

Sept. 12: Football at Michigan State

The tale: The green and white return to Spartan Stadium looking to turn the tide. Previous trips to East Lansing have been challenging, including a 20-52 loss on September 9, 2006, and a 7-51 road defeat on September 11, 1999.

The tip: If you aren’t making the trip to East Lansing, you can watch the Eagles take on the Spartans live on the Big Ten Network (BTN), with kickoff set for 3:30 p.m. ET or visit Aubree’s Pizzeria in Depot Town for its watch party.

Holland and Carpenter sweep MAC weekly honors after historic clean sheets

Ruby Brannon
Sports Editor

During the third week of the 2026 Mid-American Conference (MAC) soccer season, the Eastern Michigan University Eagles delivered a defensive masterclass. Behind this effort were two standout senior leaders: defender Reese Carpenter and goalkeeper Ella Holland. Both athletes were named MAC Players of the Week, Carpenter as Defensive Player of the Week and Holland as Goalkeeper of the Week. Together, they formed an impenetrable wall, leading the Eagles through a gauntlet of challenging road matches to secure back-to-back scoreless draws.

For senior defender Reese Carpenter, a native of Terrace Park, Ohio, and an alumnus of Mount Notre Dame High School, the weekly conference honor is a testament to her commanding presence on the backline. Over the course of the week, EMU faced 24 shots from opposing offenses. Yet, under Carpenter’s leadership, the backline kept its shape beautifully, allowing only seven of those shots to actually find their target on frame. Furthermore, Eastern Michigan’s defensive unit was forced to defend against a staggering 16 corner kicks. Carpenter was instrumental in neutralizing these set pieces, ensuring that not a single corner resulted in an opponent finding the back of the net. Her composure under duress provided the vital foundation EMU needed to survive their grueling road stretch.

Operating directly behind Carpenter was redshirt senior goalkeeper Ella Holland. Hailing from Dunwoody, Georgia, where she attended high school, Holland proved to be the ultimate safety net for the Eagles.



Redshirt sophomore goalkeeper Ella Holland is a critical defensive force for the Eastern Michigan Eagles, hailing from Dunwoody, Georgia. *Photo courtesy of EMU Athletics.*

Facing 24 total shots across two intense matches, Holland was a model of focus and athletic prowess. She registered seven crucial saves, turning away every on-target effort she faced to keep opponents entirely off the scoreboard. Like her defensive partner, Holland’s commanding presence in the penalty box during the 16 corner kicks kept the Eagles safe from harm. By recording clean sheets against both Robert Morris University and the highly touted Michigan State University Spartans, Holland demonstrated why she is regarded as one of the premier netminders in the Mid-American Conference. Her shot-stopping ability and flawless aerial control were central to EMU’s success.

The crowning achievement of the week for Carpenter, Holland, and the

Eagles was their historic scoreless draw on the road against No. 4 nationally ranked MSU in East Lansing. Before this match, the Spartans had been a dominant force, particularly on their home turf. EMU’s clean sheet against Michigan State marked only the fourth time in 50 historical matches against MAC opponents that the Spartans have been held scoreless in East Lansing, with the last occurrence dating all the way back to 2005. Even more impressively, Eastern Michigan’s resilient defensive stand represents the first known shutout by a mid-major program on the road against a top-three nationally ranked team since Sept. 18, 2016. Following their legendary performance in Lansing, the EMU duo traveled to Robert Morris University, where they fought to another gritty 0-0

draw on Aug. 30.

As the Mid-American Conference season progresses, the performances of Reese Carpenter and Ella Holland have set a remarkably high standard for defensive excellence. Their historic achievements have not only earned them individual weekly honors but have also sent a clear message to the rest of the conference that Eastern Michigan’s defense is a force to be feared.

With these two leaders organizing the backline and protecting the goal, the Eastern Michigan women’s soccer program is well-positioned to compete for a conference championship as they carry this defensive momentum into their upcoming matches.



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ELECTION 2026

Find more election coverage on easternecho.com

El-Sayed talks Ypsi, EMU

Laura Meriweather
Managing Editor - Operations

Abdul El-Sayed is two months away from the verdict on his campaign for U.S. Senate that, over the last 17 months, has made him a recurring topic on primetime national news, within high-profile internet discourse and to even U.S. President Donald Trump. An epidemiologist by trade, he started his own higher education journey at the University of Michigan in 2003. Now, he's the Democratic candidate facing Republican Mike Rogers for a highly-competitive seat in congress.

El-Sayed's father, Mohamed El Sayed, is an engineering professor at Eastern Michigan University and served as the president of EMU's chapter of the American Association of University Professors during the 2023 faculty strike.

Abdul El-Sayed spoke with *The Eastern Echo* at the Detroit Jazz Festival on Sept. 5 about some of the issues impacting Ypsilanti residents.

Q: What is your stance on the University of Michigan's proposed data center for Ypsilanti?

A: I've been really clear. If there's

going to be a data center built, it better follow a certain set of terms. Number one, all union labor; number two, no increasing our utility rates; number three, no touching our water; number four, some of the revenue needs to be invested in improving reliability, and number five, there's got to be a clear community benefits agreement on top of that. Until we get that — and I want that in federal legislation — I do think we need state and local moratorium. I think people are really worried about what the long range of this looks like, and we've got to make sure that there's full transparency across the board.

Q: What would be your approach to addressing struggles public universities like EMU are facing when it comes to enrollment and affordability?

A: Number one, we've got to make sure that we don't have spiraling overhead costs. Number two, we should be investing in debt-free and tuition-free higher ed, and universities like Eastern, which my dad works at, by the way, those universities serve one of the most important roles in our higher ed infrastructure, and if they're becoming unaffordable, the real question is, where do we go with higher education,

generally? So, we've really got to be investing in schools like Eastern that are such an important part of educating our future.

Q: How do you think we could get to a tuition-free model for public universities?

A: It's just got to be a lot more of an investment, right? This has got to be a goal that we make. We got to invest there instead of sending our money abroad to drop bombs on other people or fighting wars we don't need to fight. We've got to be taxing billionaires so we have money to do that and so many other things.

Q: How would you address housing access and affordability in a community like Ypsilanti where a lot of people rely on renting?

A: I think we need a renters bill of rights so everybody knows exactly what to expect, and then we've just got to be investing a lot more in affordable housing. That's just got to be up and down in communities, like Ypsi and communities all over our state, and we've got to be making it easier for developers who want to build affordable housing to build.

Q: We covered your visit to EMU



Michigan's 2026 democratic candidate for U.S. Senate Abdul El-Sayed at the Detroit Jazz Festival on Sept. 5, 2026. *The Eastern Echo / Laura Meriweather*

in 2017 when you were running for governor. Do you have any plans to visit again in the near future?

A: I sure do hope so.

Editor's note: The Eastern Echo will reach out to all Michigan candidates for senate for their thoughts on these issues. For more information about the midterm elections, visit *The Echo's* voter guide page.

Meet the candidates running for Michigan's U.S. House of Representatives District 6

Hannah Borders
News Reporter

Michigan's 6th Congressional District represents all of Washtenaw County, most of Wayne County, and parts of Monroe County and Oakland County.

Debbie Dingell (D)

Debbie Dingell currently represents Michigan's 6th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives and has served in Congress since 2015. Prior to her work in politics, Dingell was an executive at General Motors before becoming president of the GM Foundation. Dingell successfully advocated for women to be included in federally funded health research and pushed for greater awareness of women's health issues, such as breast cancer and women's heart health. She is a founder and previous chairperson of the National Women's Health Resource Center and the Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health. She previously served as the chair of the Michigan Infant Mortality Task Force and co-chair of the Children's Leadership Council. Additionally, she was elected to the Wayne State Board of Governors and served as the chairperson of the board before being elected to Congress.

According to her website, "Debbie Dingell is a tireless fighter for working families in Michigan. She knows that we can accomplish more by working together on critical issues like protecting our Great Lakes, lowering the costs of healthcare, improving our infrastructure, and creating jobs by

supporting manufacturing and leveling the playing field for our workers. A noted leader in improving civility in our public discourse, she strongly believes that we can disagree with one another without being disagreeable."

Campaign issues

Dingell's campaign highlights nine issues: affordability, healthcare, economy, immigration, environment, education, seniors, veterans and equality.

Dingell wants to ensure tax dollars are being used to lower the overall costs of living, expand healthcare coverage and lower the cost of prescription drugs. She aims to protect jobs in the U.S. by supporting the domestic manufacturing and auto industries in Southeast Michigan. Dingell's campaign promises to make an effort at reforming Immigration and Customs Enforcement by ensuring that ICE follows the same regulations as all other law enforcement agencies. She says she will protect the Great Lakes and reinvest in education after the Department of Government Efficiency decimated the Department of Education. Dingell also hopes to strengthen social security and increase access to medical and long-term care for seniors as well as mental healthcare, education and job training for veterans. Finally, Dingell's campaign promises to fight for equal protection under the law for all people regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Heather Smiley (R)

Heather Smiley is a business professional and former auto industry worker. She previously ran for Congress in 2024 but was not elected. Smiley

is a first-generation college student who has earned both a bachelor's and master's degree from Central Michigan University. Prior to her work in politics, she worked at Ford for 32 years. While working at Ford, Smiley's roles included product development, strategy and planning, business reengineering and transformation, customer service and analytics. Smiley says she can apply her "real-world experiences involving multi-million-dollar projects, leveraging data and analytics to make strategic, data-driven decisions to improve our government."

Smiley states on her website, "I am a life-long problem solver who applies my real-world experience, common sense, and understanding of cause & effect nuances to work smarter, save money, and overcome issues. With my unique qualifications and the support of my family, it was agreed that I should step-up and help restore the America that we know and love."

Campaign issues

Smiley's campaign focuses on 19 issues: budget, civil rights, education, elections, energy, environment, government, health, immigration, jobs/economy, law, legislation, Michigan, military, religion, safety, self-defense, sovereignty and speech.

Smiley hopes to eliminate wasteful spending, balance the budget and encourage transparency on spending decisions. She wants to practice unbiased education by ensuring that education focuses only on academics, global competitiveness and American excellence. Her campaign promises to enforce voter integrity by making sure only U.S. citizens are able to

vote and setting term limits for all elected officials. She aims to restore energy independence by improving the infrastructure, and protect and restore the environment and wildlife. She hopes to be able to stop illegal drug production and importation as well as what she describes as closing the borders. She also hopes to enable and support law enforcement and individuals' rights to arm and defend themselves. Finally, she aims to protect and ensure original, impartial and unrestricted creation and distribution of speech amongst all media platforms.

Timothy A. Teagan (Libertarian)

Timothy A. Teagan is the current chair of the Michigan Libertarian party and is running to represent Michigan's 6th district in the US House of Representatives.

According to the Libertarian Party of Michigan, Teagan has a strong background in militia and activism.

"I consider myself a neutral Libertarian who only wishes to put the party and its principles first," Teagan said in a quote on the Michigan Libertarian Party website.

Michael Mickevicius (U.S. Taxpayers)

Michael Mickevicius is running for US House of Representatives to represent Michigan's 6th district as a member of the U.S. Taxpayers Party.

Clyde Shabazz (Green)

Clyde Shabazz is running for US House of Representatives Michigan District 6 as a member of the Green Party.

According to a campaign video

posted on posted on Green Party of Michigan U.S.'s verified Facebook account, Shabazz's campaign is centered around two major ideas: "You can never make America great again" and protecting the environment.

Shabazz said in the video that Americans can never bring the country back to the way its founding fathers first experienced it because many of America's forests have been cut down and many of its wildlife has died.

"This loss of nature has put our society under ever increasing stress. Environmentally, due to the pollution and socially, due to the toxic interactions," Shabazz said. "Human degradation is ruining human health and cognitive brain function. Global warming has gone beyond human control."

Linda Rayburn (Working Class)

Linda Rayburn is a Working Class Party candidate for U.S. House of Representatives to represent Michigan's 6th district. She previously ran for Michigan State Senate District 4 in 2022, according to workingclassfight.com.

According to her prior campaign statement, Rayburn recognizes that racism, poverty and an unjust criminal justice system can break communities apart and believes the U.S. government and education system continuously fails families.

Rayburn attended Henry Ford Community College and maintained a 3.5 GPA while working as a home health aid and being in the HFCC Honors Society.

WEEKLY VOTER TIP

September 15 is National Voter Registration Day!

LWV WC and Delta Sigma Theta alumnae

are at these Ypsilanti District Library locations:

11am - 2pm Whittaker Road | 2:30 - 4:00 Michigan Avenue | 4:30 - 6:00 Superior



VISIT VOTE411.ORG



Check your registration and get personalized ballot information at VOTE411.org



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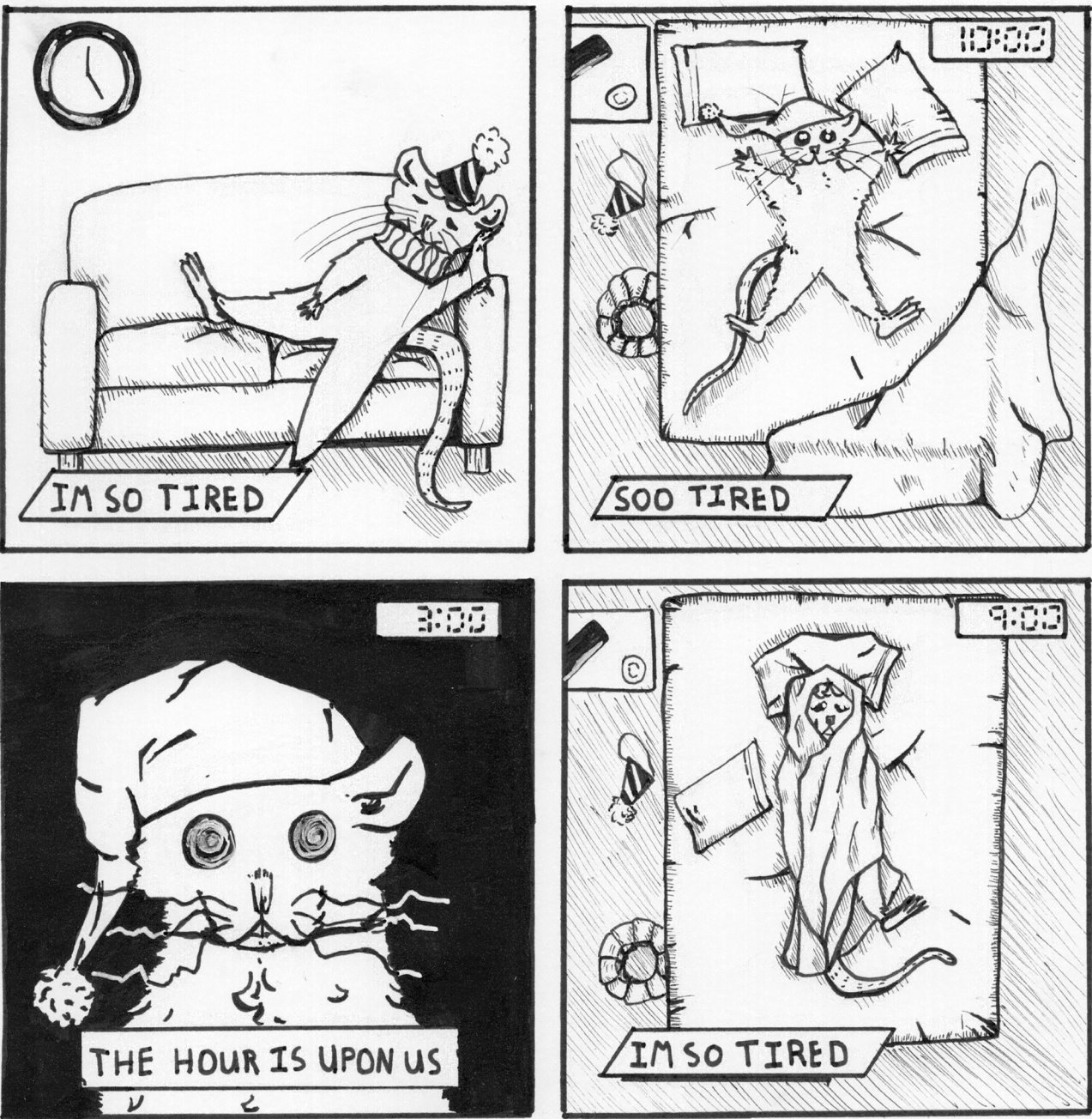
City Angel: THE COVER - AJ Grams



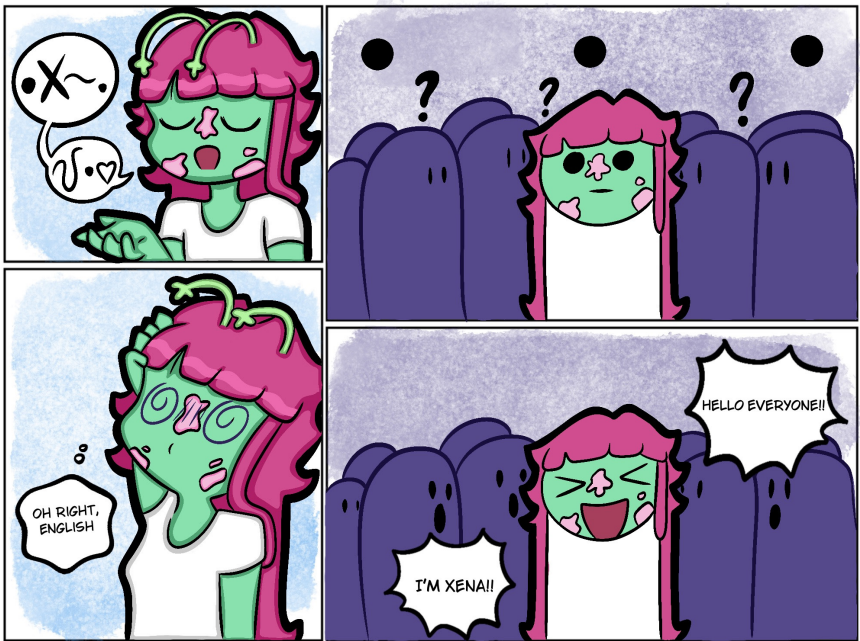
City Angel: Part 2 - The Search - AJ Grams



Insomnia - Jamie Owens



Xena: Heartfelt Greeting! - Katelyn Hollis



Scan to read more comics!

Eagles soar home to Ypsilanti, Aug. 30-Sept. 4



In a clutch fourth quarter moment, EMU fans huddled together to wish the team a successful play on Sept. 4, 2026, at Rynearson Stadium. AnnaBelle Favre / The Eastern Echo



From left, Juniper Bamrick, coordinator of engagement and activities for Campus Life, and President of Student Organization Leadership Council Neveah Ford kick off an impromptu karaoke night which occurred due to the last minute cancellation of the RSO Kickstart event, Sept. 3 in the Student Center Ballroom. AnnaBelle Favre / The Eastern Echo



Eastern Michigan University students fill up their carts at Kroger's second annual Back to College Night at the Kroger on Carpenter Road in Ypsilanti, Aug. 31. Lee Hammock / The Eastern Echo



Velvet Harris and Mera Mekkaoui greet students at the Eastern Michigan University Student Part-Time Fair, Sept. 2. Harris and Mekkaoui are representing Eastern's graduate education programs including divisions focusing on research and innovation. Jan Hernandez / The Eastern Echo



Eastern Michigan University student Gabriel Muro shows his pride at Ypsi Pride on August 30, 2026 in Depot Town. AnnaBelle Favre / The Eastern Echo



Organizers pass out meals to students attending the Commuter Cookout, Sept. 2 at the Student Center patio. The Commuter Cookout was part of the Eastern Michigan University Weeks of Welcome program. Hannah Borders / The Eastern Echo



Fireworks explode over Rynearson Stadium to close out the Sept. 4 football game between the Eastern Michigan Eagles and the San Jose State Spartans. AnnaBelle Favre / The Eastern Echo



Students gather between the Alexander Music Building and Judy Sturgis Hill, Sept. 2 to celebrate the combination of the two schools into the newly formed School of Performing Arts. Hannah Borders / The Eastern Echo