

EMU fans cruise car show

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'It has broken my heart': Community members speak at U-M, Los Alamos data center town hall

Sam Peterson
News Reporter

Community members and University of Michigan officials gathered Wednesday, Sept. 9, to discuss concerns regarding the U-M and Los Alamos National Laboratory $1.2 billion data center project plotted for Ypsilanti Township.

The project is a joint venture between U-M and Los Alamos: a high-performance computing facility that would house both classified federal research and non-classified university research spanning medicine, clean energy and other sciences. University officials have said they plan to build on only a fraction of the 144-acre site, leaving the facility smaller than other industrial buildings already in the area.

The project's site, situated adjacent to the Huron River, is positioned on Textile Road near Bridge Road in Ypsilanti Township. The project is set to be positioned near multiple residential areas.

Dozens of residents spoke at Sept. 9 town hall, held at the Marriott Ypsilanti at Eagle Crest and livestreamed on the university's YouTube channel, to oppose the project and voice their concerns to the project's leaders.

The panel taking questions consisted of project head Steven Ceccio, project director Bob Green, Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation Patricia Hern, Interim Vice President for Finance Drew Smith, Vice President for Government Relations Chris Kolb, and DTE Director of Economic Development Khalil Rahal.

The event was moderated by Paul Corliss, who serves as the associate vice president for public affairs and information at U-M.

Several attendees expressed their frustration with the project.

"It [U-M] has broken my heart," Lindsey Passmore, a community member and graduate of U-M, said during public comment.

Passmore said that the university had "long been a guardian of integrity and a leader for social justice," which made the alum even more disappointed in the university's initiative. Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo, who has been a fierce opponent of the project, took the mic last.

"We don't deserve this; our people don't deserve this," Stumbo said. "The emotion and the rage is fear. We don't — they don't — deserve this. Please, change your mind."

Many community members expressed their issue with the Textile Road location.

Ceccio said that the space had drawn interest from Amazon for a last-mile distribution that, he said, would have brought roughly 1,000 delivery trucks each day up and down Textile Road before the company instead chose a site elsewhere. He contended that the university's plan presents a less intrusive alternative, noting that the expansive plot provides room for landscaped mounds and dense tree barriers that a more confined parcel could not accommodate.



Attendees address members of the panel at the University of Michigan and Los Alamos National Laboratory town hall about the proposed data center for Ypsilanti Township on Sept. 9. *Sam Peterson | The Eastern Echo*

Much of the town hall's anger was directed toward Ceccio, who is leading the project.

"I think that this event is necessary, and I think more of them will be necessary," Ceccio said. "I think many of the issues and questions that were raised are legitimate questions."

Ceccio said he understood the crowd's frustrations, adding that if he were in the audience, he might be angry and fearful as well.

Los Alamos officials maintain no weapons would be manufactured on site. Thom Mason, director of Los Alamos, clarified in writing that the complex "would not be a military installation or weapons production site," explicitly noting that plutonium alongside other hazardous or nuclear materials would neither be stored, utilized, nor generated at the location.

Nevertheless, Mason said that a portion of the computer modeling performed at the center "could relate to nuclear modernization."

The site would also use a 90-10 funding structure where Los Alamos would occupy the bulk of the facility and pay rent to cover both operating costs and construction, Ceccio said.

The university has scheduled its next town hall for Oct. 1 with more detailed findings promised in the weeks after.

Health Department report shows 12% decrease in suicide deaths in Washtenaw County

Seeking Help?

Call 911 if you or someone you know is in danger.

24/7 assistance from Community Mental Health is available at 734-544-3050.

Text 988 or visit 988lifeline.org/chat to reach a suicide and crisis lifeline.

AnnaBelle Favre
Managing Editor - News

Content warning: *This article contains discussion of suicide.*

The Washtenaw County Health Department released its annual suicide report in September 2026, just in time for National Suicide Prevention Month. Suicide deaths decreased by 12% from 2024 to 2025. This is the lowest rate of suicide deaths in the county since 2018.

"Washtenaw County's suicide rate remains below both the Michigan and national suicide completion rates," Patty Krause, a community health analyst with the Washtenaw County Health Department, said in a statement. "Our hope is that this report can inform prevention efforts and raise awareness of the importance of local mental health resources."

The annual suicide report is released each September, which is National Suicide Prevention Month, and Sept. 10 is observed globally as World Suicide Prevention Day. Many organizations hold events and share information about mental wellness and suicide prevention during this time.

Eastern Michigan University's Disability Resource Center hosted a Together Walk in honor of World Suicide Prevention Day on Sept. 10.

Local suicide prevention

The Washtenaw County Health Department offered community resources for those in need of help.

"Suicide is preventable and help is available," department officials said a statement.

The Wish You Knew campaign has goals in reducing stigma related to mental health and helping youth who might be struggling. This campaign is run by the county health department and "aims to spark honest and supportive conversations about mental health between youth and adults, reduce stigma, and share resources," as described on the department website.

Washtenaw County holds an annual Community Needs Assessment, and mental health was identified as a top issue by residents in the most recent assessment. The county holds a Mental Health Workgroup and has implemented mental health into its Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan and hosts Washtenaw Alive, a suicide prevention coalition.

The department also offers free gun locks to help prevent firearm-related death and injury. Residents can visit the Washtenaw County Health Department at 555 Towner St. in Ypsilanti and stop at the clinic desk to receive a lock.

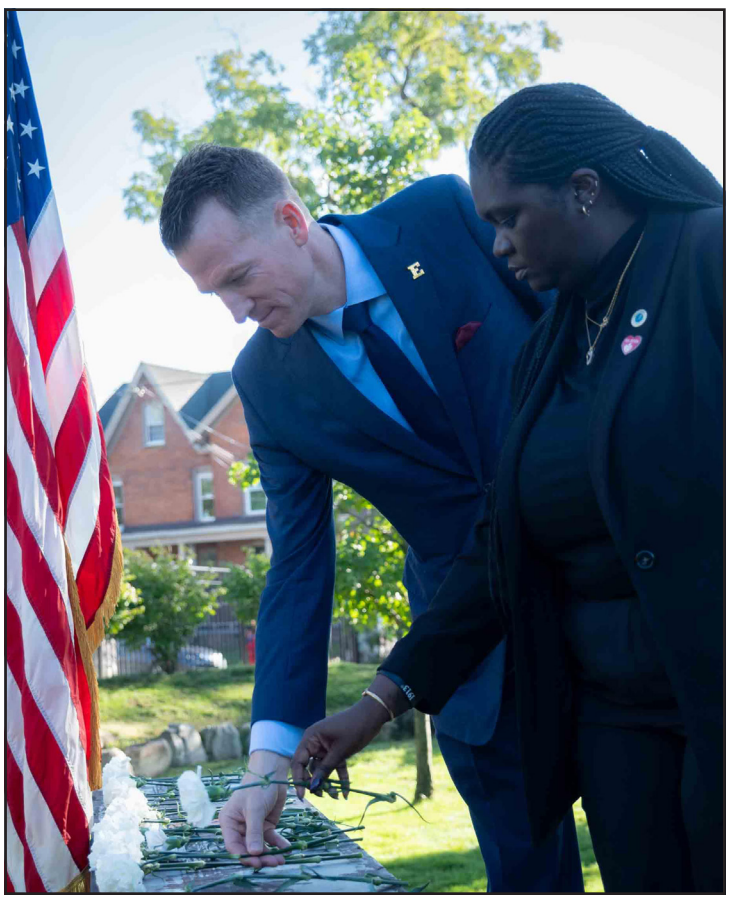
EMU's Counseling and Psychological Services offers students 10 free counseling appointments each year and can be contacted on its website or at 734-487-1118. Support is available after hours by calling the phone number.

"September is National Suicide Prevention Month, and mental health treatment and support can save lives," Susan Ringler Cerniglia, the health department's communications and community health promotion administrator, said in a statement. "There are actions we can all take to look out for each other. Learn the warning signs of suicide, familiarize yourself with supportive resources, and reach out for help if you need it or if you are concerned for someone else.

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Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti remember 9/11

Courtney Prielipp
Photojournalist



President Dr Kelly of Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti Mayor Nicole Brown setting down flowers at the 9/11 memorial on Sept. 11. *Courtney Prielipp | The Eastern Echo*

25 years ago, with a clear blue sky as the backdrop, the United States witnessed a day that would never be forgotten.

On Sept. 11, 2001, four planes were hijacked. Two of the planes were deliberately flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and the third plane was flown into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.. The final plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania after a counter attack from the passengers and crew members diverted the plane from its intended target in Washington. Nearly 3,000 lives were lost that day. For many, the world was never the same.

On Sept. 11, 2026, on the 25th anniversary of 9/11, Eastern Michigan University hosted a Day of Remembrance at Pease Park that community members and elected officials attended.

U.S. Debbie Dingell, D-District 6, spoke during the service saying, "9/11 is a day that I will never forget."

Dingell mentioned the fear that she felt in friends and loved ones, but said she also observed how Americans came together across lines of race, faith and backgrounds.

"We had been attacked but we pulled together. ... We comforted strangers. We checked on our neighbors," Dingell said.

EMU houses a portion of a steel beam from the South Tower of the World Trade Center, displayed on a memorial on campus honoring 9/11 victims and first responders. EMU President Brendan Kelly spoke at the Day of Remembrance, explaining the memorial's significance.

"It is more than a piece of steel. It is a physical reminder of what happened that morning and how it changed America," Kelly said.

Kelly encouraged the community to remember the lives that were lost on 9/11, including the passengers and crew on airplanes, the workers in the North and South Towers, and the first responders who rushed to the scene to offer aid.

SEE REMEMBRANCE, PAGE 7

The Eastern Echo

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

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THE ECHO MISSION

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

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CORRECTIONS

In the Sept. 8 print of *The Eastern Echo*, the language used in an article about an arrest made by the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office was updated online to better reflect the accuracy of the physical contact seen in the body camera footage. Upon further review by *The Eastern Echo* of the body camera footage, the language was updated to say that the video appeared to show the man arrested being pushed to the ground. The story was also updated to include a statement heard from a deputy in the body camera footage.

In the Sept. 8 print of The Eastern Echo, an article about EMU Professor Michael McVey's Saline mayoral candidacy misstated his position on the Saline Area Schools Board of Education. Mcvey previously served as president of the board.

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 find *The Echo:*

On-Campus:

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
Wise Hall

Off-Campus:

Aubree's Pizzeria & Grill
Bank of Ann Arbor
Barber-Me-Locz
Basil Babe
Benito's Pizza
BIGGBY Coffee
Black Stone Bookstore & Cultural Center
Book Love Bar
Bridge Community Café
Café Liv
Candy Coated Creamery
Chef Restaurant Mediterranean Grill
Cottage Inn Pizza
David's Books
Domino's Pizza
Eagle Crest Golf Club
EMU Credit Union
Insomnia Cookies
Jet's Pizza
Jimmy John's
Laundry Pro
Luca's Coney Island
Lucky Garden
Ma Lou's Fried Chicken
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Miny's Mexican Restaurant
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
The Golden Egg
Thompson & Co.
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

EMU Theatre welcomes new faculty

Hannah Borders
Arts Reporter

Eastern Michigan University Theatre is welcoming two new professors this semester: Heather Brown, a visiting professor of lighting design, and Nikki Green, an assistant professor of costume design, joined the College of Arts and Sciences.

Heather Brown has over 25 years of experience working in lighting design in both theatrical and corporate settings. Brown has done lighting design in a wide range of different settings. She has worked on theater productions with months to design and work on shows, and in corporate settings like galas, concerts and conferences with as little time as one day to design, set-up and follow through with an event.

"Heather will bridge the gap between commercial event production and collegiate theatre instruction. She is also a true Michigander, starting her journey with an Associate's degree in theatre from a Michigan community college, working as a lighting intern with Williamston Theatre, and ultimately earning her MFA in Production Design from Michigan State University in 2018," Pam Cardell, assistant managing directorin the former School of Communication, Media and Theatre Arts, wrote in an email about Brown. The department is now under the School of Performing Arts.

Brown also has background working with the non-profit organization United States Institute for Theatre Technology. USITT is an organization dedicated to connecting performing arts design and technology communities and encouraging dialogue between educators, students and practitioners, its website said.

Brown was inspired to become an educator when she discovered her passion for teaching people lighting design while working on projects. She enjoys teaching students the wide range of career choice and opportunities that come with pursuing lighting design.

"I have really enjoyed teaching people on the job and I ... just started enjoying it that way. It is also nice to see new young designers coming into the field, because I think we really need to make sure that everybody who's coming into the field has sufficient training. And I have seen some areas where there are some gaps, especially because there's a million lighting-type jobs out there," Brown said.

Brown hopes to expand EMU's lighting design program to accommodate students' interest in lighting design outside of the theater setting.

"I hope to expand the theater lighting design teachings into more of that corporate setting, so that you can be prepared not only in theater, but also if somebody wants to join a production event company, or they want to join manufacturing, or vendors, because there's a whole other complex system there, too. And you've got to learn how to talk to all those different people when you're out there, so expanding that theater knowledge set," Brown said.

Nikki Green has worked in costume design in different settings, including costuming at Disney World before pursuing a career in education. During her time at Disney World, Green designed costumes for shows on the Disney Dream Cruise Ship, parties that big companies would throw after the park closed and other shows.



New EMU Theatre faculty members Heather Brown, professor of lighting design, and Nikki Green, professor of costume design. *Courtesy of Heather Brown and Nikki Green*

"Nikki joins us from Washington University, bringing a background in both higher ed (with previous roles at Baylor University and Truman State University) and regional design. She holds an MFA from the University of Cincinnati CCM and has designed for exceptional organizations, including The Black Rep, the St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, and Disney Parks Live Entertainment. This is a return for Nikki, who grew up in Southeast Michigan and is looking forward to being back in the Mitten," Cardell wrote about Green.

Additionally, Green has worked with Theatrical Intimacy Education to complete more than 100 hours of specialized training. According to its website, TIE's mission is to make it easier for everyone to be in the room: "It is a consulting group specializing in researching, developing, and teaching best practices for staging and filming intimacy and more progressive practices for collaboration and leadership."

Green, who didn't originally plan to pursue a career in education, began teaching at Truman State University and fell in love teaching. She said the main thing that sparks her passion for education is watching students develop understanding of the materials they're being taught and celebrating that they succeed in their creative endeavors.

"Teaching costumes, especially, is a kind of a unique field in that it is less quantitative than a lot of university classes are. It is very qualitative work. It is hard to judge art, and grade art, and that's essentially what we are doing. There's the hard facts of: this is how you sew this, this is how this is supposed to look. But at the end of it, you created something beautiful — assuming that it was supposed to be beautiful. Sometimes you create ugly things on purpose, but they are still well created," Green said.

Green highlighted EMU's dedication to investing in and uplifting the arts, especially in the entertainment and design technology and theatre arts areas, as a key reason for her choosing to become a professor at EMU.

"I'm really looking forward to what opportunities might arise, to help grow the department and promote it, and help students see the awesome things they can learn and do and become in EDT and in the theater program. I'm at this point of: I'm so excited about the opportunities I don't know are there yet," Green said.

'Sex in the Dark' event offers sexual health information, advice for students



Sex in the Dark's 2023 panel included Jamie, local public health educator; Kathryn Farkas from the EMU Title IX Office; Pamela Landau from EMU's Human Sexuality minor; Cathy Bamrick, a local sexual health nurse; and Jay Sloan, the Graduate Assistant at the LGBT Resource Center. *Ameera Salman / The Eastern Echo*

Lelaina MacDonald
News Reporter

The Women's Resource Center at Eastern Michigan University is hosting its annual sexual health educational program, Sex in the Dark, for students at EMU on Tuesday, Sept. 15 from 7-10 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

This year, Sex in the Dark will be a conference-style sexual health fair and educational forum.

This will be a glow-in-the-dark themed event that will feature a panel of licensed experts and activities to educate students on consent, the WRC website said.

"Sex in the Dark is an annual sexual health education and awareness program designed to provide students with accessible, evidence-informed information about sexual and reproductive health, relationships, intimacy, consent, safer sex practices, and overall well-being. The event intentionally combines education, resource access, and community engagement in an environment that is welcoming, inclusive and nonjudgmental," Kimberly Ferrell, the WRC coordinator, wrote in a statement.

Ferrell wrote that the evening will begin with a student registration and check-in. Attendees will also be required to complete a community agreement which will establish expectations for respectful, inclusive and responsible participation.

"Following registration, students can create their own safer-sex kit using free sexual health products provided by the Women's Resource Center. Students can then explore the sexual health fair, where campus and community organizations will provide information about sexual health, mental health, wellness, relationships, self-care, and related services and resources," Ferrell wrote.

The main purpose of Sex in the Dark is for students to be able to ask questions regarding sexual health, which will be presented to a panel of experts. Students can scan a QR code and submit questions anonymously. Questions will be collected and screened before being displayed and discussed during the panel.

The panel is structured like a talk-show, with a moderated conversation. This format allows complex and sensitive topics to be addressed in a manner that is informative without being overly clinical or intimidating, Ferrell wrote.

The anonymity and lights turned off is intentional; students are able to ask about topics that may be difficult or embarrassing to talk about publicly without having to identify themselves.

Students who are comfortable doing so may also ask questions publicly during the panel, Ferrell told *The Echo*. The option for an anonymous submission or direct participation allows students to determine how visible they want their participation to be.

"One of the most significant developments in the program has been the transition from primarily peer-to-peer education to a professional expert-panel model," Ferrell wrote. "This change directly responds to student interest in having access to individuals with specialized training and professional expertise who can address questions related to sexual health, relationships, needs, concerns, and decision-making."

The goal of Sex in the Dark is to create a space where students feel comfortable, respected and engaged with asking questions and gathering educational information. Ferrell said that students will be able to obtain credible information about sexual health and will have access to connections with health and wellness resources.

"Students receive information about sex and relationships from numerous sources, including peers, social media, entertainment, and the internet. These sources can provide useful perspectives, but they do not consistently provide accurate or evidence-informed health information," Ferrell said in the statement.

Students who attend Sex in the Dark can interact with licensed experts and engage with topics involving consent, communication, relationships, personal boundaries, reproductive health, safer-sex practices, emotional well-being and access to health services.

The event will also provide food, mocktails and of course, glow-themed activities and materials. This type of atmosphere helps reduce stigma and discomfort that can surround conversations about sexual health, Ferrell wrote.

"The underlying message is that seeking information is a normal and responsible component of health and wellness," she wrote.

Students who wish to attend Sex in the Dark do not need to identify as sexually active, have a specific concern or arrive with a certain question, Ferrell said. The program is valuable for students who simply wish to know more about sexual health, learn about available resources or become more informed about their own health and relationships.

This event will be open to all students and those who attend can receive a Learning Beyond the Classroom credit.

How to register bikes, scooters for campus use

Lelaina MacDonald
News Reporter

For students who wish to bring their bike or scooter to campus, the Eastern Michigan University Department of Public Safety, or DPS, is hosting a bike registration event.

Students must register their bike or scooter in order to use it as transportation on campus.

A Facebook post on the EMU Police Department page announced this free event, stating that students can register their bike or scooter at the Student Center Patio Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or Monday, Sept. 21, from 4-6 p.m.

Students are expected to attend one of these dates to register their bike or scooter. Students must have certain aspects of their mode of transportation known prior to registering.

"Registrants should expect to fill out a form including personal contact information, bicycle/scooter description, make/model, and serial number," Officer Andrea Elliott, the community engagement officer for DPS said in a written statement. "Any outstanding features, such as after-market parts or notable damage can be described in the notes section."

There will be a community engagement officer at the event who will provide registrants with three stickers and an ID number for the bike or scooter, Elliott said in the statement. All identification numbers and contact information will be entered into the EMU police spreadsheet.

"If the bike/scooter is stolen, the owner can contact police to retrieve the spreadsheet information, such as the serial number for reporting purposes," Elliott wrote. "If the bike/scooter is found, it can be identified and returned to the owner."

There is no charge for this event or to register a bike or scooter. The first three registrants will receive a free U-lock at each event, Elliott said.

EMU Archives receives $30k for music preservation project

Lauren Holloway
News Reporter

Eastern Michigan University's Archives and Center for Oral History Research received a grant from the Library of Michigan. The LSTA grant will be going to an oral history project.

With the $20,000 from the grant and $10,000 from a private donor, the archives will have $30,000 to invest in the River Street Anthology project.

Matt Jones, the director of the Center for Oral History, started the River Street Anthology in 2015 from his basement on River Street. The project started because music venues in Ypsilanti were closing, and Jones wanted a reason for people to get excited about playing and practicing, he said.

Over the course of four years, Jones recorded more than 600 tracks and took more than 1,000 photos of musicians all over Michigan. Originally, the project was just going to feature artists in Ypsi, but then friends from Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo reached out, then more musicians came out of the woodwork to be a part of the anthology, too, he said.

The tracks capture all sorts of music, like hip hop, metal, folk music, sitar, fiddle band, Native drum circles and ukelele players. They are recorded in homes, libraries, churches, museums and even a vet office, Jones said.

"It's a snapshot of music in Michigan," Jones said.

With very little equipment, each player got one song, one microphone and one take. The bigger bands had to figure out how to place themselves to mix their music correctly, Jones said.

"After a while it became a science. I had it down," Jones said.

Jones comes from a musical background, playing guitar in the band Matt Jones & The Reconstruction. The best part of being in the band was having a reason to hang out with friends, Jones said, and to watch those friends light up as they played. It was also the best part of getting all the recordings: watching the musicians light up, Jones said.

Currently the anthology only exists on external hard drives and is not accessible to the public. However, the end goal is for everyone to be able to listen to the recordings, said Brooke Boyst, collections manager of the EMU Archives.

The grant funding is going to support hiring student employees to help describe all the recordings and match them up with the photos. At the time Jones was collecting everything, he didn't have the skills to keep it all organized, he said.

"The students will be putting all of the puzzle pieces together," Boyst said.

The two students the archives will hire will also be processing the photographs, making everything understandable to researchers and finding any missing files. There are quite a few backups, including copies with the Michigan Digital Preservation Network.

Eventually, the hope is to put all the recordings up on the Omeka site so that anyone can listen, Boyst said.

"We'll take something that's kind of chaotic and organize it into something accessible," Boyst said.

It has been years since the artists were recorded, and Jones said it's important to him that eventually they will be able to hear themselves. The goal of the project from the start was to capture musicians who would have no other way of getting their music out there, Jones said.

"I loved the feeling of helping people into the records," Jones said.

The EMU Archives applied for the grant months ago. Along with all the work on the River Street Anthology project, the archives staff will also spend the next year looking for more funding to be able to pay students to allow hands-on experience.

"We always have projects; it's funding the labor that takes creativity," Boyst said.

EMU football game Cruise Night draws car fans and customizers alike



Mick Stolarozyk's 1971 Mercury Comet GT on display at the EMU Cruise Night on Sept. 4 had a golf ball stuck in the windshield when he found it in Houghton Lake, Michigan, 10 years ago. Now, he says, it looks just like the Comet that was the first car he ever drove. *Savannah DeBock / The Eastern Echo*

Savannah DeBock
News Reporter

It was 19 years ago on Labor Day that Mick Stolarozyk bought his 1971 Mercury Comet GT, which he proudly displayed at Rynearson Stadium on Friday, Sept. 4.

Over the past 10 years, Stolarozyk has taken his Comet GT to as many car shows as he could. This year alone, he said, he hopes to participate in 100 shows. He has also been a regular at the Thursday cruise nights in Ypsilanti's Depot Town over the summer.

Stolarozyk said he stumbled on the Comet by accident at Houghton Lake that Labor Day. The car had come from Arizona and had been involved in an accident. A golf ball was stuck in the windshield, and the engine barely started. Stolarozyk did the natural thing: He immediately called his brother, who was a mechanic hobbyist, and brought the Comet home.

The brothers spent four years, and 4,000 hours of work restoring the Comet. The work included hunting down parts across five different states to bring the car back to working order. Even now, they are looking for a new grill.

The two Stolarozyks changed parts, commissioned the creation of custom seats (made from 1970s couches) and painted the Comet to resemble Mick's first. He drove a 1971 Comet when he was serving in the U.S. Air Force, 55 years ago.

Even the 8-track tape player is now functional in Stolarozyk's Comet.

His brother now also has a clone car of the vehicle he drove 55 years ago and sometimes joins Mick Stolarozyk at car shows. Stolarozyk loves bringing Hot Wheels, candies and plushies for kids attending the shows, partially in hopes that he can inspire them to one day get a classic car as well.

Last week, Stolarozyk said, he'd learned that a kid he gave a Pontiac Hot Wheel to 10 years ago now drives life-sized Pontiac. Over the past 10 years, he said, he's given away 45,000 Hot Wheels.

Drew Streeter joined the show with his 1984 Ford Mustang GT Convertible, which he's had for eight years.

Streeter said he has dreamed about owning the Mustang since high school, when he saw his teacher drive it. Over the years, he would always talk to that teacher about his car, with admiration and desire. 30 years later, that teacher sold the Mustang to Streeter.

Now, Streeter said, he drives the Mustang to shows only. This is the third year he has participated in the EMU Cruise Night.

Also on display at the EMU stadium were a Mitsubishi adorned with MAC conference flags, a 3-year-old Corvette, and a 2000 Yamaha motorcycle.

Many of the car fans perusing Cruise Night show were impressed by the vehicles in a more unusual category: handmade or customized hot rods.

Dave Jaskot, who owns a bright yellow hot rod that resembles a truck from the front, said he was by no means considered a mechanic when he got started on his ride. Jaskot and fellow hot rod builder Clayton Wanca were introduced to the event by Neil Herman, director of football operations at EMU.

Wanca wasn't a mechanic by profession either but said that didn't stop him from building his own car from scratch.

His blue rod is so safe he can drive it to Chicago and back with no problem, he said, adding that the car has gotten 23 out of 23 on the safety inspection. Wanca's ride is made from the cab of a Volkswagen Beetle, a tractor grill, a forklift heater, and many different other pieces that took him a year to find. He then spent a winter and part of a summer to assemble it, and its unusual features.

The car's windshield wiper fluid is stored in a wine bottle. There's a dragonfly and some bird feathers attached to the grill. Stickers and other hidden finds can be found in a number of places.

Wanca, who just started a garage called Shady Business Kustom, said he spent the whole week before the event driving the car around with a sign about Cruise Night at EMU. He said he cared more about sharing smiles and conversations than getting votes in the car contest.

Marc Pasko, an electrician, is another car enthusiast who displayed his custom ride. He said he found the shell of the car on Facebook Marketplace and loved it so much he had to buy it. The car lacked electrical, wheels and seats. The engine compartment was completely empty, so Pasko taught himself how to weld.

The vehicle has car doors made of stop signs, chains around the windshield, and skeleton hands that hold rearview mirrors. There are Jack Daniels stickers and studs decorating the vehicle, including on the stick shift. Notably, the car can be operated manually or with an automatic gear shift, depending on how it's set up. Pasko and the car are known as Bad Rattitude on Facebook and YouTube.

Bad Rattitude won the trophy for the best car at the Cruise Night event.

Car owners participating in the event received two football game tickets, and an afternoon talking about their cars.

Several of the car owners said they are planning to be at some future events in the area like Cruisin' to the Barn at the Baker Cruise Barn on Tuesday nights in Carleton, Michigan, about 25 miles southeast of Ypsilanti; and the Ypsilanti Depot Town shows held on Thursday evenings during the summer months.

The Carleton, Michigan, events are Tuesday nights at 1268 Crafton Road in Carleton.

One of the cars at the EMU Cruise Night on Friday, Sept. 4, 2026, owned by Marc Pasko, includes a special feature that had it sporting the Eagles' favorite color: green. Pasko and his car are known as Bad Rattitude on social media. *Savannah DeBock / The Eastern Echo*

What's the Move?

Sept. 15 - 21

Looking to get out of your dorm or out of the house? The Eastern Echo has got you covered!

National Voter Registration Day - Sept. 15

Sept. 15 is National Voter Registration Day, and local voting groups will be available at various Ypsilanti District Library locations throughout the day to help new voters get registered.

This non-partisan event will feature the League of Women Voters of Washtenaw County and the Ann Arbor Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., both of which are partnering with YDL to register voters, provide forms for requesting absentee ballots and provide election information.

The groups will be at the Whittaker Road branch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Superior branch from 2:30-4 p.m. and the Michigan Avenue branch from 4:30-6 p.m. No event registration is required — those interested can just show up.

Depot Town Comedy Open Mic — Sept. 16

Come for a giggle or try your own hand at bringing a laugh to the crowd at this local comedy open mic, hosted weekly on Wednesdays. Each performer is allotted 5 to 10 minutes for a set; longer set times can be requested if the sign-up list is short.

This free comedy show is hosted by Tommy Cook and is intended as an inclusive and welcoming comedy space meant to bolster comedic voices from marginalized communities.

The next comedy open mic is hosted at 734 Brewing Company, 7:30-10:30 p.m., on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

EMU Block Party at Depot Town - Sept. 17

As part of Eastern Michigan University's Weeks of Welcome event series, the university will host a block party in Depot Town to welcome students back to Ypsilanti.

A limited supply of Ypsi embroidered patches will be given away on a first come, first served basis. The block party is Thursday, Sept. 17, 5-8 p.m. in Depot Town.

Rasa Festival — Sept. 19

Akshara, an Ann Arbor-based multi-arts organization, is celebrating its 10-year anniversary. In honor of the milestone, Akshara will host the Rasa Festival on Sept. 19. Attendees can experience the beauty, diversity and timeless traditions of Indian classical dance at this year's Rasa Festival, organizers said on the event website.

The festival will include performances in five distinctive dance traditions, each featuring storytelling, rhythm, expression and cultural heritage.

The festival will run from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Riverside Arts Center, located at 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Tickets can be found on the Rasa Festival website and are $25 to the general public and $15 for students and seniors over 65, plus fees.

Washtenaw County Walk — Sept. 20

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is holding the Washtenaw County Walk on Sept. 20. The walk is between 1 to 3 miles and is non-competitive. The route and additional information specific to the Washtenaw County Health Walk will be on its webpage closer to the day of the event, organizers said online.

There will be an opening ceremony, activities of hope and healing, resource tables and complimentary honor beads for everyone who participates. Funds raised at the walk will directly support research, advocacy efforts and educational programs in schools, workplaces and communities within Michigan.

Those interested can register for this free event on the Washtenaw County Walk website. The walk will be at Rolling Hills County Park, Ypsilanti, with check-in at 9 a.m. and a start time of 10 a.m.



ELECTION 2026

Find more election coverage on easternecho.com

Meet the candidates running for Michigan governor

Hannah Borders
News Reporter

As election season heats up in Michigan, candidates vie to succeed outgoing, term-limited Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. Democrat Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Republican U.S. Rep. John James and several third-party candidates will battle it out on the ballot this November. Here's what to know about the six people running in the gubernatorial race.



Jocelyn Benson (Democrat)

Jocelyn Benson is the current secretary of state for Michigan. She is running as a Democrat in the Michigan gubernatorial race.

Prior to being elected Secretary of State and then running for governor, Benson made history as the youngest woman to lead an accredited law school when she was appointed dean of Wayne State University Law School at the age of 35. Notably, during her time as secretary of state, she created self-service stations for Michigan's motor vehicle department to decrease wait times and increase accessibility.

Benson's campaign lists her priorities as eight main issues: affordability, housing, healthcare, childcare, energy costs, education, environment and data centers.

Benson's campaign aims to increase housing availability and affordability, lower costs of medical care by increasing billing transparency, and make childcare more affordable by bringing Rx Kids statewide. She plans to rebuild Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services to make healthcare more affordable and increase options for low- or no-cost preventative healthcare.

Benson promises to work toward reducing the cost of energy through reforms. She wants to create a better and more accomplished school system by recruiting and retaining educators and by implementing initiatives such as equitable funding for schools, literacy goals, a statewide graduation standard and others. Benson says she will regulate data centers in that they must create well-paying job opportunities and not increase energy costs. She also said she will encourage transparency and disclosure to communities where data centers are being built.



Donna Brandenburg (U.S. Taxpayers)

Donna Brandenburg is running in the Michigan gubernatorial race as a member of the U.S. Taxpayers Party. She is the chair of the U.S. Taxpayers Party of Michigan, according to Ballotpedia.org.

Brandenburg is an entrepreneur and constitutional conservative, according to the U.S. Taxpayers Party of Michigan. She has dedicated her time to building businesses across industries like real estate, farming, technology and energy to create high-paying jobs.

Her campaign focuses on putting families first by eliminating property and state income taxes, reducing waste by implementing a Department of Government Efficiency, election integrity and returning the government to what she describes as its constitutional role of serving the people, not controlling them.



Douglas Campbell (Green)

Douglas Campbell is running in the Michigan gubernatorial race as a member of the Green Party.



Anthony Hudson (Libertarian)

Anthony Hudson was born in and lived in Texas before moving to Michigan in 2012. He is running in the Michigan gubernatorial race as a Libertarian. Hudson refers to himself as a hardworking Michigan conservative and has 20 years of experience as a truck driver.

Hudson's campaign has 22 key issues: eliminate state income tax, eliminate property tax, part-time legislature with part-time pay, lower auto insurance, eliminate solar and wind farms, return local control, eliminate annual auto registration, eliminate renewable energy mandates, bring back natural gas, medical transparency and informed consent, protect the Second Amendment, economic development, invest in infrastructure, eliminate the Michigan Department of Transportation, no data centers or flock cameras, immigration, parents' rights and 14th Amendment, veterans and homeless, secure schools, affordable healthcare, mental health programs and eliminate child trafficking.

The Hudson campaign hopes to provide financial relief for Michigan families by eliminating state income and property taxes, lowering auto insurance, eliminating yearly auto registration, reducing taxes on gas, restoring the use of natural gas and prioritizing small business growth.

Hudson hopes to help lawmakers connect with their communities and save taxpayer money by reducing the work of those holding legislative roles. He wants to protect natural resources by eliminating solar and wind farms. Hudson hopes to eliminate renewable energy mandates to allow individuals to decide what energy solutions work best for their personal needs. He promises to fix Michigan's roads and protect Second Amendment rights. Hudson's campaign aims to remove sanctuary cities, deport undocumented immigrants and further enforce Immigration Customs and Enforcement laws.



John James (Republican)

John James currently represents Michigan's 10th congressional district in the United States House of Representatives. He has held that position since 2023. He is running as a Republican in the Michigan gubernatorial race. James served for eight years in the U.S. Army as a ranger-qualified aviation officer. Upon returning home and prior to his work in politics, he led his family business, James Group International, a supply chain and logistics company.

James' campaign highlights six main issues: freedom from corruption agenda, the clear initiative, Parents' Bill of Rights for Michigan, education freedom agenda, make work great again and the Michigan family health and freedom plan.

James' campaign promises to increase government transparency by applying the state Freedom of Information Act to the governor's office and the Michigan legislature, which are currently exempt from the law. He also plans to increase spending transparency, auditing the previous ten years of government spending and voter rolls, funding the auditor general's office, and more.

John James will establish a Parents' Bill of Rights outlining the rights parents and their children have in areas like consent, education and others. The Parents' Bill of Rights can be found on James' website. He aims to increase Michigan's education level, improve school systems and opt Michigan into the Federal K-12 Education Freedom Tax Credit, a program that allows individuals to receive federal tax credits for up to $1,700 to authorized scholarship-granting organizations; donations are then distributed to qualifying students to be used for public or private education costs.

James' campaign promises to eliminate income tax, lower costs of healthcare, increase transparency and informed consent within the healthcare system and uphold the Trump administration's Make America Healthy Again initiative.



Evan Space (Independent)

Evan Space is running as an Independent write-in candidate in the Michigan gubernatorial race, according to Ballotpedia.org.

Space is a self-employed entrepreneur, having run his own window washing company for 17 years. He has previously served in the Michigan Army National Guard as a combat engineer. After four years, Space was promoted to the rank of sergeant in the Sapper Combat Engineers in the Upper Peninsula and continued to serve for an additional four years.

Space's campaign has seven specific priorities: the Flint water crisis, Detroit rebuilding from bankruptcy, budget cuts to national budget for Michigan's environmental protection, re-establishing permanent jobs and doing away with high unemployment rates, protecting Michigan's education system, improving correctional facilities and constriction of the opioid epidemic.

Space's campaign aims to correct the Flint water crisis. He hopes to propose innovative ideas to restructure Detroit's use of renewable energy and power resource development to reduce the cost of energy and create new jobs.

The Space campaign promises to keep incentives that prevent Michigan employers from outsourcing employees from other states or countries. Space wants to prevent after-school activities from losing funding in Michigan's K-12 schools. He wants to reduce opioid addiction by improving rehabilitation facilities and increasing legal penalties for opioid use.

5 candidates running unopposed for Ypsilanti District Library Board of Trustees

Lauren Holloway
News Reporter

Ypsilanti's November 2026 ballot will include five candidates running for the Ypsilanti District Library Board of Trustees.

The board consists of seven seats, five of which will ending their term in December 2026. Each of the five candidates is running unopposed for one of those seats. Barring a surprise write-in, those five candidates are expected to fill the seats. Four of the candidates are running for the regular four-year term, while one is running for a two-year term after a former board member vacated their seat early.

Christopher Slat

Christopher Slat, a resident of Ypsilanti Township for the past four years, is a new candidate running for the two-year term.

Before moving to Ypsilanti, Slat lived in Monroe, where he served on the board of Monroe Public Access Television, now called Monroe Community Media. Slat also ran for state representative in 2020.

Slat's interest in being on the library board comes from working in education and libraires being important in his own life, he said. "I think schools and libraires are some of the strongest remaining public services that are real agents of equity in society."

Slat told The Echo that he is not coming into this position with any agenda; he is just trying to serve the board and apply some lessons he learned on the Board of Public Access.

Paul Leighton

Paul Leighton is one of the incumbents running for re-election; he was appointed to the board in April after a trustee vacated their seat early.

Leighton is a professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthology and Criminology at Eastern Michigan University as well as the head of the advisory board for Swoop's Pantry.

Leighton's passion for the library comes from growing up with a mother who worked in education, he said. After getting into criminology, he said he realized that literacy was a way to cut down on crime.

"People who can read can do a better job navigating job applications and work. And if you can express yourself, you are less likely to be violent," he explained.

He said the library board should prioritize getting a new bookmobile. He also listed smaller projects to work on, such as setting up a memory station, a place to scan in photographs and put albums together.

His main focus is on supporting the library and helping where he can, he said.

"I've always appreciated that the library was a place where folks could get things for free," Leighton said.

Kerri Pepperman

Another new name on the ballot is Kerri Peppperman, a resident of Ypsilanti for 26 years.

Pepperman has volunteered for campaigns in the past, but this is her first time having her own name on the ballot. She has a background in web development with a master's degree in information science from the University of Michigan.

Pepperman's interest in the library board comes from years of patronizing the library and having friends who have served on the board. After reaching out to learn how she could get more involved, Pepperman ended up on the fundraising committee for the Superior branch of the library.

"That was a lot of fun and just deepened my connections to the library, the staff and the director," Pepperman said.

The board is in the process of developing a new strategic plan, surveying the community and hearing feedback on the services the library offers, Pepperman said.

Patricia J. Horne McGee

Patricia J. Horne McGee is an incumbent candidate for the YDL board and currently serves as a trustee.

According to a 2021 oral history project with the Ann Arbor District Library, Horne McGee has masters degrees from the University of Michigan and University of California, Los Angeles. She then taught social work and child development at Ferris State University and Mercy College. She also previously worked in the Wayne County Intermediate School District and served as the director for Washtenaw County's Head Start program.



Ypsilanti District Library's Superior Branch is located at 1900 Harris Road. *Lee Hammock | The Eastern Echo*

Kristy Cooper

Kristy Cooper is the third incumbent candidate for the YDL board and currently serves as the president of the board.

According to her LinkedIn, Cooper received a Bachelors of Arts in English Language and Literature/Letter from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Michigan, and a Masters of Business Administration in Non-Profit/Public/Organizational Business Management from Eastern Michigan University.

She has worked in libraries for years, and published a memoir titled, "I Was a Stripper Librarian: From Cardigans to G-Strings," according to reporting from MLive in 2021.

The Eastern Echo reached out to Patricia J. Horne McGee and Kristy Cooper, but received no response. If candidates respond, The Eastern Echo will publish their positions.

The Eagles lose 35-7 against in-state opponent Michigan State



The Eastern Michigan University Eagles face the Michigan State University Spartans for an in-state matchup in East Lansing, Sept. 12. *Sydney Gaietto / The State News*

Darrell Justice
Sports Editor

On Sep. 12, the Eastern Michigan Eagles traveled to East Lansing to take on the Michigan State Spartans. The Eagles lost the in-state matchup with a final score of 35-7. The Eagles' next game is yet another tough road test as the team will be traveling to Madison, Wisconsin, to take on the Wisconsin Badgers.

Close first half

The first quarter of the game was back and forth with each team seeming to feel out the other team's style. Of the five drives in the first quarter, only one turned into points. After a punt by Eastern, Chrishon McCray returned the ball 31 yards to the Eagles' 24-yard line. The punt return led to an 18-yard passing touchdown by Alessui Nukivojevic, bringing the score to 7-0.

The second quarter was better for each offense. The quarter started with a 16 play, 80-yard drive by Michigan State which resulted in a touchdown by Cam Edwards. Eastern Michigan answered right back with a 13 play, 78-yard drive which resulted in a rushing touchdown by Noah Kim. The running game was crucial for this drive as two of the Eastern Michigan running backs Amareon Blue and Braydon Bennett had big plays resulting in over 10 yards. Going into halftime, the Michigan State Spartans were in the lead with a score of 14-7.

Second half distancing

The second half of the game is where the distance in the final score began. The Spartans opened the second half with a scoring drive. The Eagles were not able to respond as they fumbled the ball a few plays after their kick return. The momentum for Michigan State continued as they went on to score yet again before the third quarter came to a close.

Michigan State had the first drive of the fourth quarter, and the Eagles managed to force and recover a fumble. The Eagles offense was not able to push past the Spartans defense, and had to punt the ball back. Before the game ended, the Spartans managed to score yet again, bringing the final score to 35-7.

Player successes

While it was a tough loss for the Eagles, there were some good games individually. Braydon Bennett had nine carries for 56 yards, averaging 6.2 yards per carry. Bennett had a 22-yard reception to go alongside his rushing yards. While the Spartans defense was resilient, Bennett was able to help the offense keep drives alive. Amareon Blue has 8 rushes for 40 yards, which included a long 20-yard pickup. Harold Mack recorded the most receiving yards on the team, finishing with five receptions for 49 yards.

On defense, the highlight of the game was the forced fumble by Peyton Christian which was recovered by Jason Marshall. As for pressuring the quarterback, Quincy Byas was in on both of the teams sacks, giving him a total of one total sack, with Ronn Hardin and Makhi Gilbert each recording 0.5 sacks. Linebacker Bryce Eliuk tracked the offense and had a final tackle-for-loss stat of 1.5.

Looking ahead

The Eagles will be on the road again in their next matchup against the Wisconsin Badgers. The game will take place at Camp Randall Stadium in Madison, Wisconsin, at 12:30 p.m. on Sep. 19. Fans can tune into Peacock to watch the game live.



Eastern Michigan University Defensive Lineman Carter Evans, No. 33, takes the field during the Eagles game against the Michigan State University Spartans in East Lansing. *Sydney Gaietto / The State News*

Eagle Sports Tips & Tales: Sept. 14 - 20

Jeffrey Ellingsworth
Sports Reporter

Sept. 14-15: Women's golf in Seattle, Wash., for the Leadership and Golf Invitational

The Tale: The Eagles begin their season in the Pacific Northwest, facing off against 16 other teams from across America at Chambers Bay Golf Course in Seattle. Eastern participated in the same tournament last season, earning a first-place finish in the team competition scoring a 5-under-par-859. That 2025 team was led by star Janae Leovao, who won the individual championship at the tournament before later leading the team to their third-place finish at the NCAA Championships. Leovao has since graduated, but with three newcomers, a long list of returners and plenty of experience, the Eagles are once again primed for a championship run.

The Tip: With expected humidity over 70% on both Monday and Tuesday, golfers should be prepared for balls to slice through the air and travel farther than expected due to humid air being less dense than cool, dry air. Golfers should also expect wet fairways and greens from the morning dew. Balls will be harder to hit and won't roll as far on the ground. To win this tournament, focus and battling the elements will be key.

Sept. 17: Women's soccer at Bowling Green

The Tale: Eastern Michigan will open up Mid-American Conference play starting on the road, traveling the 84 miles south to take on the Bowling Green State University Falcons.

The Falcons are red-hot coming into the game, having won their last two matches against the University of Kentucky and the University of Detroit Mercy, with their only loss coming from the University of Michigan in a 1-0 defeat at home. Both teams have one loss on the season as they go head-to-head for their only regular-season matchup. In 2025, the two teams met at Sciluna Field in Ypsilanti, ending in a 1-1 draw. In the Eagles' last match, they drew against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee thanks in part to the penalty save by goalkeeper Ella Holland. With this game being the first conference game of the season, the Eagles must get on track as the teams look to push for a MAC Tournament appearance — the first since 2019.

The Tip: After four goals in their last two games while only giving up one, Bowling Green is coming in hot to the match, meaning Eastern Michigan University must make it a priority to win the ball back and maintain possession so that super goalkeeper Holland isn't busy all night long. Winning this game would add a lot of momentum to the Eagles' season as they continue through conference play, but to do that, the Eagles must make the most of every opportunity while limiting their mistakes. Firing in crosses, second-chance efforts, tracking back, and 90 minutes of pressure will be the difference-makers in this game.

Sept. 17: Women's volleyball at Michigan

The Tale: Eastern Michigan's volleyball team will travel six miles down the road to take on the University of Michigan Wolverines at the Crisler Center on Sept. 17, at 7 p.m. This will be the Eagles' first outing since participating in the Grizzly Invitational on Sept. 11-12.

Over the past 40 years, Michigan holds a 35-11 record over Eastern Michigan, marking the 47th all-time meeting between the pair this season. With MAC play coming up quickly, Eastern will be using the match as an opportunity to fine-tune its play before heading to Mount Pleasant for its first of two matches this season with the Central Michigan University Chippewas on Sept. 22.

The Tip: This game will provide an opportunity for the Eagles to build team chemistry while facing adversity. With 14 new players added to the roster this season, Eastern Michigan head coach Kevin Foeman has had to quickly rebuild the team, adding eight freshmen and six transfers to the squad. With so much turnover from last season to this season, the Eagles will need to find a way to work together and develop chemistry before entering MAC play.

Sept. 18: Women's volleyball vs. Cornell

The Tale: The Eagles return home to the George Gervin GameAbove Center for their last nonconference matchup before conference play begins. The Eagles will welcome a struggling Cornell University team who will play three games back to back as the Big Red take on Michigan twice in two days after their bout with the Eastern. This is the final game to have fun and learn as much as possible before it's time to push our way into the MAC Tournament.

The Tip: Playing matches on back-to-back days is no joke, and the athletes will need to make sure they are hydrating and recovering both during the Michigan match and afterwards so that the team is fresh and ready to take on Cornell.

Sept. 18: Women's cross country at George Dales Invitational in Kalamazoo

The Tale: Eastern has had very successful races when it comes to the George Dales Invitational, having won in 2010, 2012, 2016 and 2017. This will be the team's final race in the month of September as the team prepares for a busy October calendar with the Mid-American Championships taking place the day before Halloween. Every race is important for the Eagles as they look to remain in form and prepare for the grueling courses they will face throughout the season.

The Tip: With much of the race taking part on the fairways of the Prairies Golf Club, the ground for much of the race should be freshly mowed and trimmed, allowing more traction for runners' spikes and less drag for every stride. Freshly cut running surfaces allow better visibility for runners, helping them avoid missteps that could cause injury. Runners should prepare to have more energy at the end of the race because of the decrease in energy exertion for every step they take; they will need to save that energy and find that extra kick to help move the team up the race rankings.

Sept. 19: Football at Wisconsin

The Tale: If taking on one Big Ten team this season wasn't enough, good news: the Eagles are taking on two. One week after playing Michigan State University in East Lansing, Eastern Michigan will head to Madison, Wisconsin, to take on the University of Wisconsin-Madison Badgers. This will be the fifth all-time matchup between the two teams, with Wisconsin holding a 4-0 record against the Eagles. The teams last met in 2021, when the Badgers defeated the Eagles 34-7. With an experienced squad and plenty of depth, head coach Chris Creighton and company are looking to finally change the tide.

The Tip: Eastern Michigan has an opportunity to pull off an upset against Wisconsin, but the Eagles will need to play smart, play hard and play together to make it happen. The game will stream on Peacock, while WEMU and the Varsity Network will also broadcast the game live on the radio.

WEEKLY VOTER TIP

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WASHTENAW COUNTY

VOTE 411

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

Students visit job fair for on and off campus part-time options



Patrick Wright, right, and Sireen Alhunaidi, speak to a student interested in working at Eastern Michigan University's Student Center during the campus job fair Wednesday, Sept. 2, in the Student Center Ballroom. *Jan Hernandez / The Eastern Echo*

Lauren Holloway
News Reporter

On Wednesday, Sept. 2, Eastern Michigan University's Student Center Ballroom was filled with EMU students gathered with resumes in hand to speak with 50 local businesses offering jobs.

The Student Employment Fair is one of many events the University Advising & Career Development Center puts on during the year to help students find people and a career path that interests them. John Carlson, a job and internship specialist for the UACDC, said the intent is to help students make money while on their path to get a degree.

"It's a way for students to get started and build confidence," Carlson said.

This employment fair centers on jobs on campus and the surrounding Ypsilanti community. The job opportunities this year ranged from grocery stores and retail to childcare and automotive technicians.

Deb Gunnell, a hiring representative for Kroger, said she started working at the company at 16 years old. Gunnell's 49-year run with Kroger shows how one entry-level job as a young person can launch a whole career. Gunnell said in terms of candidates, the company is looking for friendly, smiling people.

"We can't train them to be happy," Gunnell said.

One of the businesses searching for students interested in childcare was Jovie Nannies & Sitters. Emily Kenyon has been with the company for six years after being recruited from a daycare. Kenyon said the company is looking for anybody with childcare experience. Kenyon told *The Echo* job fairs are great because they allow businesses to build good relationships with the university.

"It's more than just looking for a job; it's about connecting," Kenyon said.

For those who are interested in a hands-on job, Bridgestone is looking to hire technicians for four locations around Michigan. Matt Simpson, one of the representatives at the table, said the company was looking to hire people who are dependable, have a good attitude and are ready to learn. Simpson said they spoke with around 100 students during the fair.

"It puts us in front of people we normally wouldn't be able to reach," Simpson said.

Jessica Tripp has worked for the University of Michigan's School of Medicine as a recruiter for five years. The school is offering many roles from direct patient care to administrative and IT positions. The school is looking for someone prepared, who's done research on the company and the roles offered, Tripp said.

"I think it's great for students to get in front of employers," Tripp said.

For students, the fair offers a chance to get used to talking to businesses in a professional setting and making connections. Secondary education sophomore Deshawn Murray said the fair was great for getting a feel of campus and seeing what opportunities are out there. Murray applied to two of the businesses from the fair and has emailed the College of Education regarding open positions.

The employment fair is also good for students who aren't yet sure what they want.

Teagan Cole is a freshman who currently has an exploratory major. Cole was looking for jobs in grocery stores and retail spaces. For new students, it may be difficult to know where to start, Cole said, which is why the fair is helpful.

Carlson said this year's fair was a great success because the companies, the community and the students put in the effort to attend. Carlson estimated around 350 students made an appearance during the event, with many still chatting to recruiters even as the fair was wrapping up.

"Moments like these can change the trajectory of a student's life," Carlson said.

The UACDC is there to support everyone's goals, Carlson said, whether it's a student, a program or a business. All employment fairs are promoted on Handshake under the events tab. For more information on student employment, career development or advising, students can visit the University Advising & Career Development Center website.

Late EMU Professor Carol Schlagheck remembered for her 'courage' after 11-year cancer battle

AnnaBelle Favre
Managing Editor - News

In the early hours of Thursday, Aug. 27, former Eastern Michigan University professor Carol Ann Schlagheck, 68, of La Salle Township died in her home after a battle with cancer. She was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in 2015

Schlagheck was a journalism professor at EMU from 1994 to 2021. She taught hundreds of students and served as the chairperson of the Student Media Board.

Journalism was a part of Schlagheck's life from the beginning. She was the editor of The Goalpost, her high school newspaper, got her master's degree in Journalism from Michigan State University, was the co-founder of The Bedford Journal, and was a reporter and copy editor for The Monroe Evening News, 1978-89, stated her obituary.

While at the Monroe Evening News, she met her husband, Charles Slat, whom she married on January 16, 1981, the obituary said. Slat was also a journalist.

After her grandfather's abduction and murder in 1972 went unprosecuted, Schlagheck utilized her skills in reporting and investigating to bring justice to him and the two other men killed, her family said in her obituary. She was successful, and the perpetrator was sentenced to life in prison in 2014, the obituary said.

Schlagheck had interest in digitalization and helped to combine journalism, electronic media and film studies into Media Studies and Journalism in 2014, according to reporting from WEMU.

A former student of hers, Nathan Bomey, posted on Facebook in memoriam the day after Schlagheck's death: "Carol was a journalism professor at Eastern Michigan University, but she was so much more than that. She was a mentor, an inspiration, a friend. I learned so much from her. Yes, I learned about journalism. But I also learned about grit and determination. I witnessed her courage. She taught us how to stand up to hostile sources — and then she showed us how to stand up to a hostile disease."

In Bomey's keynote speech during the 2017 Undergraduate Symposium, he spoke about all he had learned from Schlagheck.

"It's what I've learned from Carol since graduating from Eastern that I could truly never forget. She has faced a harrowing health challenge over the last two years, fighting every single day, and then unexpectedly she endured personal tragedy with the loss of her husband and fellow journalist Charlie. During these terrible trials, Carol has exhibited immense grace and courage and she has lived life authentically, sharing her struggles and showing us how to face our fears. Collectively, those traits have taught me far more than any classes ever could. I want to say thank you to Carol for being a fighter and thank you for teaching us all so much more than we could have ever asked for," he said.

Another student of Schlagheck's, Kory Woods, posted on Facebook that she was his favorite teacher and remembered her humble generosity: "When I returned to Eastern Michigan to finish my journalism degree, she awarded me a scholarship in her late husband's name without even telling me — the Charles Slat Memorial Scholarship. She just did it! I didn't even know where that extra money came from until she told me out the blue several months later," he said.

Schlagheck was preceded in death by her husband Slat; mother, Yvonne Schlagheck and grandmother Delores Ludlow.

She is survived by her three children Christopher Slat, Stephanie Slat, and Nicholas Slat; brother John (Jana) Schlagheck, sisters Marie (Victor) Valenzuela, Susan (Mike) Jones, Kathleen (Tom) Beach Wirick and Kristine (Mark) Nowicki; as well as many nieces and nephews and her beloved golden retriever, Ella, her family said in her obituary.

In lieu of flowers, Schlagheck asked that contributions be made to the Toledo Harbor Lighthouse Society, Camp Kesem at the University of Michigan, or to the Eastern Michigan University Foundation with a note for the Charles Slat and Carol Schlagheck Journalism Endowed Scholarship.



Former Eastern Michigan University journalism professor Carol Schlagheck. *Courtesy of Schlagheck's family*

County report

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Demographics

36 Washtenaw County residents died by suicide in 2025. The following data is all sourced from the Washtenaw County Suicide Report. All 2025 data is preliminary and subject to change.

Age

- 6 residents less than 25 years of age
- 13 residents between the ages of 25 and 44
- 17 residents between the ages of 45 and 64 years
- 10 residents ages 65 and older

Race

- 87% of suicide deaths in Washtenaw County were white residents between the years 2023 and 2025. Washtenaw County's population is 74% white.
- 7% of 2025 suicide deaths in Washtenaw County were residents who identify as African American or Black, 5% were Asian, and the remaining percentage identified as another race.

Sex

Following national and state trends, suicide rates are significantly higher in men than women in Washtenaw County; 3.2 women and 16.3 men out of 100,000 completed suicides in 2025.

Location

Twelve out of the 13 ZIP codes in Washtenaw County fit within the national Healthy People 2030 Goal (12.8 or fewer suicides per 100,000 people) in a three-year rolling average from 2023-2025. While the overall rate in the county fits within this goal, the Manchester ZIP code, 48158, had 18.1 suicides per 100,000.

Non-fatal suicide attempts

While rates in suicide deaths decreased from 2024 to 2025, the rate of non-fatal suicide attempts increased.

In 2024, 15.5 residents out of 100,000 survived a suicide attempt, and in 2025, 17.3 out of 100,000 survived.

Women are more likely to have non-fatal suicide attempts than their male counterparts. In the years 2023-2025, 53% of non-fatal suicide attempts were made by women, 45% were by men, and 2% identified as other genders.

The county saw an increase in suicide attempts across all age groups.

The report said, "Demographic trends in suicide attempts continue to differ from those seen in suicide completions. While completions are more frequent among middle-age males, young adult females ages 10-24 years have consistently had the highest rate of suicide attempts."

Resources

Washtenaw County Health Department offered community resources for those in need of help.

Washtenaw County Community Mental Health is available 24/7 at 734-544-3050.

The national suicide and crisis lifeline can be accessed by calling or texting 988 or visiting 988lifeline.org/chat/.

If you or someone you know is in danger, call 911.

The health department lists the following warning signs for those at risk of suicide:

- Talking about wanting to die, feeling hopeless or having no purpose, feeling trapped or in unbearable pain, or being a burden to others
- Looking for a way to kill oneself
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs
- Acting anxious, agitated, or reckless
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Withdrawing or feeling isolated
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Displaying extreme mood swings.

Washtenaw County Health Department staff wrote in an email, "If someone you know shows warning signs of suicide, assume you are the only one who will reach out. Take them seriously, talk to them in private, and ask directly if they are thinking about suicide."

Staff recommended visiting the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention website for more information on what to do if someone is at risk for suicide.

Remembrance

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ypsilanti Mayor Nicole Brown told *The Echo* she was in 8th grade on Sept. 11, 2001. A Native New Yorker, Brown said she had family in the city during the attacks, including her father and her aunt. She learned later that her father was stuck in Brooklyn and her aunt was stuck in Manhattan, where they worked.

"My aunt had walked holes into her shoes because the subways were shut down," Brown said. "She had to walk from Manhattan to Queens."

Brown described 9/11 as one of the worst moments in her own life, as well as collectively across the nation.

"At that point as a child, [we] didn't know the massive destruction that had occurred and all the lives that had been lost — we just knew fear," she said.

EMU Chief of Police Matthew Lige said he learned of the attacks as he was watching "Toy Story" on television with his young son. He said the news was sombering, bringing forth the realization that the world and the country had then changed.

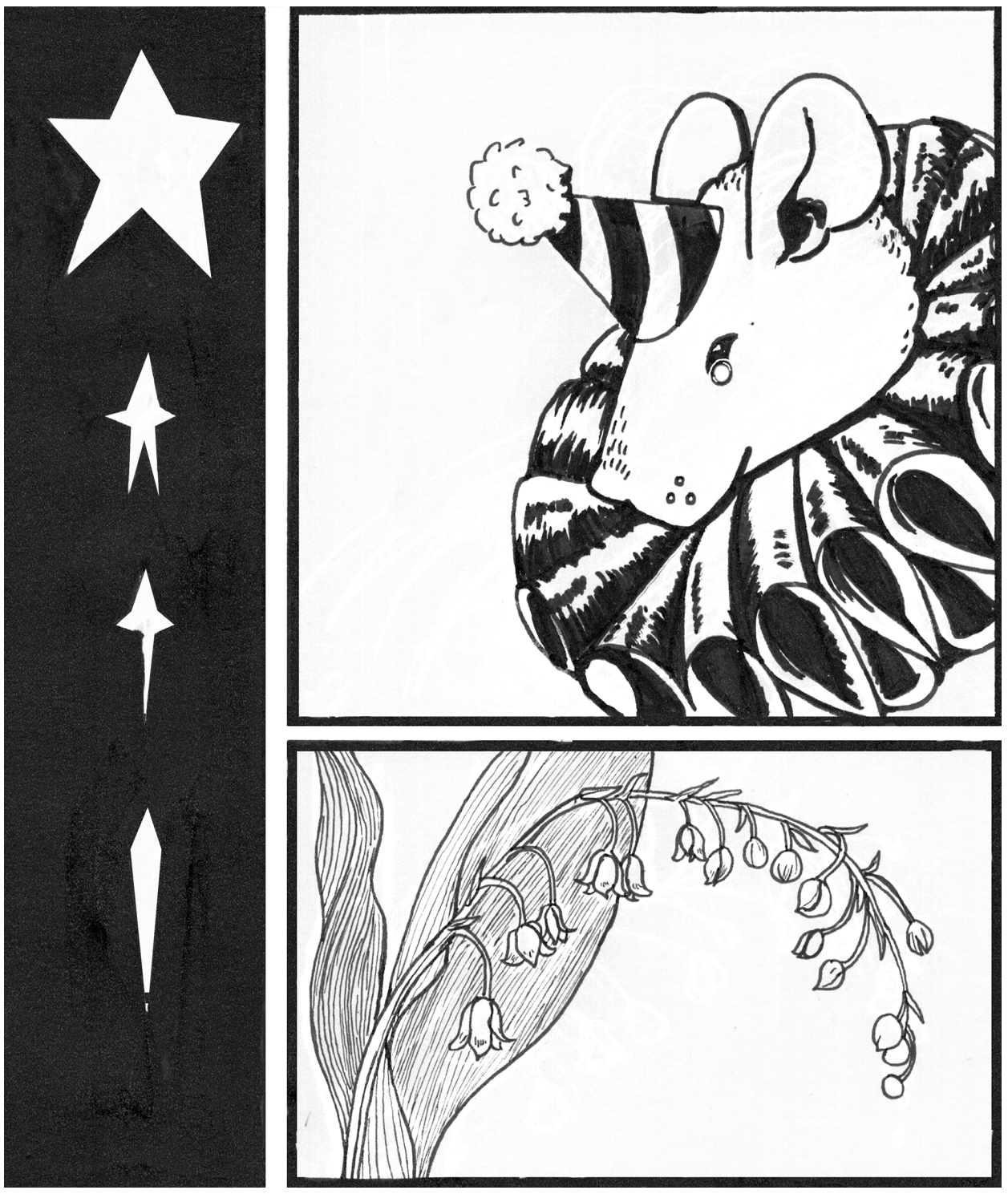
"It was unnerving; it was uncertain. The nation was in shock," Lige said. "Law enforcement — we had a high level of motivation to protect and serve in ways that I had never experienced before."

Visit easternecho.com for a special report compiling campus and local community members' recollections of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.



EMU Chief of Police Matthew Lige takes a knee in front of the 9/11 memorial at the campus Day of Remembrance on Sept. 11, 2026. *Courtney Prielipp / The Eastern Echo*

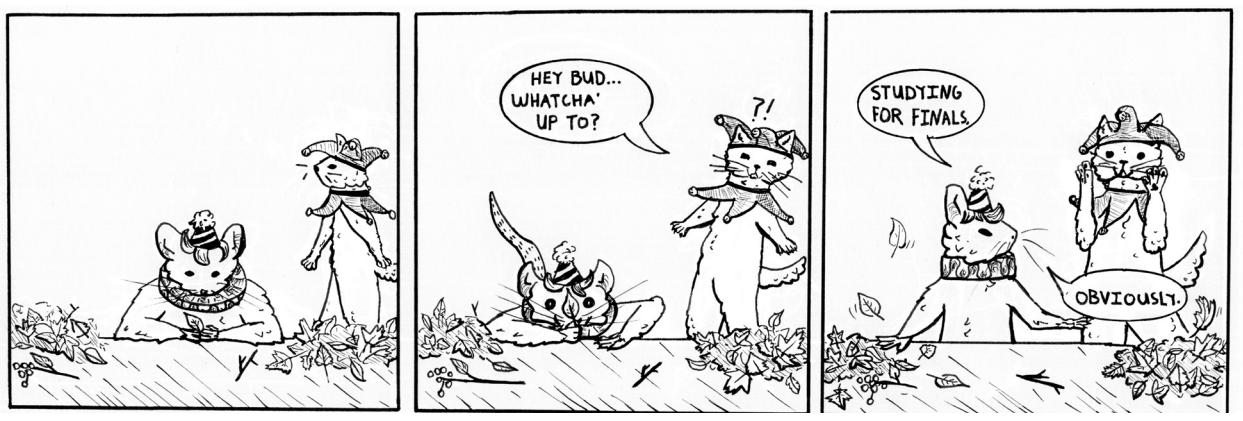
The Sad Clown... | *Jamie Owens*



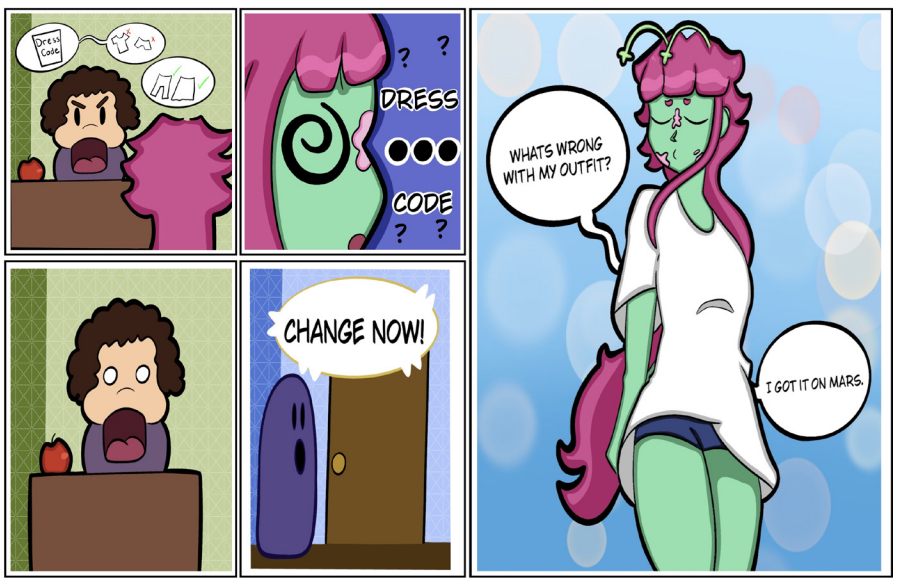
The Customer is Always Wrong. | *Julia Bartlett*



Biology Exams | *Jamie Owens*

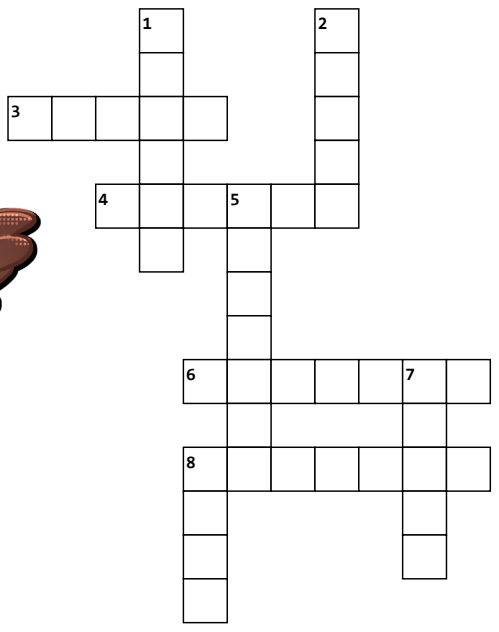


Xena: Dress Code Validation | *Katelyn Hollis*



The Planets Crossword Puzzle | *Crossword Labs*





Across

3. No longer a officially considered a planet

4. Coldest planet in the solar system

6. The largest planet

8. Closest planet to the sun

Down

1. Famous for its rings

2. Closest planet to Earth

5. The farthest planet from the sun

7. Takes approximately 365 days to rotate around the sun

8. Known as the "Red Planet"



Scan to read more comics!

EMU campus moments, Aug. 27 - Sept. 11



Jade Pangburn, a marching band member, is ready for the next set of directions to practice the band formation on Aug. 27 at Rynearson Stadium. *Courtney Prielipp / The Eastern Echo*



Members of the Eastern Michigan University Marching Band perform on the football field during band camp week, Aug. 27. *Courtney Prielipp / The Eastern Echo*



Sabin performs at BBQueer 2026 at the Eastern Michigan University Student Center on Sept. 10. *Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo*



Attendees laugh while walking through University Park during the Together Walk on Sept. 10. Hosted by the Disability Resource Center, the walk was meant to raise awareness of mental health resources and support suicide prevention. *Lee Hammock / The Eastern Echo*



The Indian Student Organization table at the Center for Race and Ethnicity's Welcome Back event. The table is surrounded by student organization officers, members, and Swoop, Eastern Michigan University's mascot in the Student Center on Sept. 11. *Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo*



Student-made affirmations are on display at the You Beautiful Black Woman's booth on the main floor in the 2026 Center for Race and Ethnicity Welcome Back event at the Eastern Michigan University Student Center on Sept. 11. *Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo*



Eastern Michigan University's Judo Club co-adviser Joe Breza, left, and Club President Bella Adair, right, pose with EMU's Mascot Swoop at EagleFest in the University Park on Sept. 9. *Jan Hernandez / The Eastern Echo*



U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell speaks to attendees at the Eastern Michigan University Day of Remembrance at Pease Park, which honored the 25th anniversary of 9/11 on Sept. 11. *Courtney Prielipp / The Eastern Echo*

YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE AT YOUR CAMPUS ADDRESS

As a student, you're eligible to vote here - regardless of where you grew up. **Voting at school is easier and gives you a say in what's happening where you actually live.**

Register before the deadline:

Michigan

Online voter registration deadline	**October 19**
Early voting	**October 24 – November 1**
Election Day	**November 3**

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