

The Eastern Echo

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New Ypsilanti Township data center resolution requests moratorium on local resources

Laura Meriweather
News Reporter

As some state officials continue to push for data centers to be built in Michigan, Ypsilanti Township has taken additional legislative action against them.

During a Pancakes and Politics forum April 8, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer pushed back on public resistance.

"Data centers are going to be built," she said. "They're going to be built because we are all fueling the need for them every day with our devices ... I understand that there's a lot of concerns, and that people are saying, 'Well, we don't want to do them here.' If we don't do them here, they'll be done elsewhere, and they'll be done less smart, with lower wages, in a way that abuses the natural resources and jacks up energy prices."

At a special meeting held by the Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees on April 15, a resolution was unanimously passed requesting a moratorium to be placed on the township's water and sewer resources in relation to data centers and high-powered computing facilities.

"I don't know anyone that supports data centers ... other than Gretchen Whitmer," Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo said during the meeting.

Resolution 2026-08 says that an artificially induced market demand for data centers has been fueled by tax incentives supported by Whitmer and the Michigan legislature in the past, such as the Enterprise Data Center Sales & Use Tax Exemptions that took effect last year. It also says that these tax exemptions have the effect of pressuring public utilities such as the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority to commit to water and sewer capacity without sufficient time to conduct needed reviews. Six analyses are proposed in the resolution as requirements for the moratorium to be lifted, including analysis of financial, infrastructural and environmental risks. The resolution requests that the YCUA refrain from lifting the moratorium for at least 12 months to allow proper time for the analyses to be conducted. YCUA did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The resolution received vocal support from community members at the meeting, though some raised concerns. Rebecca Cook, a resident of the Ann Arbor area, said she was glad the resolution was being passed, but she questioned if the proposed timeline would be sufficient. Trustee Karen Lovejoy Roe later said that the moratorium could likely be extended at a later date, if needed.

Joanne Dula, an Ypsilanti Township

resident who expressed support for the resolution, said that she believed Michigan officials' support of data centers was in service of corporate interests.

"I am horribly disappointed in Jocelyn Benson and Gretchen Whitmer," she told *The Echo* after the meeting. "I worked tirelessly to help them get elected, and for them to slap us in the face and do this is unimaginable."

In a February interview with *The Echo*, Secretary of State and gubernatorial candidate Benson said, "I would only support data centers if they don't use our water, if they drive down energy costs, and if they comply, through a rigorous hearing process, with the needs of the community."

A representative for Whitmer did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Ypsilanti resident and noise researcher Lauren Smith said she fully supported the resolution but believed that regulating noise pollution would be an important next step. Her concern was echoed by multiple people in attendance.

Township Attorney Douglas Winters said, "This resolution is just one of many that's going to be forthcoming ... but first and foremost, it's the water that has the higher priority, because YCUA is the organization that has the



The Ypsilanti Charter Township Board of Trustees holds a special meeting April 15 in the Tilden R. Stumbo Civic Center to vote on resolution 2026-08.
Laura Meriweather / The Eastern Echo

authority to issue the permits to these data centers."

Residents and trustees alike raised additional concerns about the computing facility being proposed for a site on Textile Road by the University of Michigan, the Los Alamos National Laboratory and DTE. Swanson pointed to the recent power outages that came in the wake of severe storms in the area.

"When they [DTE] tell us, oh, we can handle everything; the grid is fine, sure. It'll be fine for the data centers that you're helping," Swanson said. "They will have their own substations and they will have generators ... but what about the people?"

Ryan Lowry, a communications employee for DTE, said that DTE has simultaneous capacity for both Ypsilanti Township residents and the

data centers that are being proposed for the county.

"The power would come from the transmission system, not the local community distribution network," he said. "This means reliability would not be impacted for local homes and businesses."

When asked about the concern about noise pollution from DTE substations at future data centers, Lowry said that it was difficult to respond to that point.

"Substations are not considered noisy," he said. "Each person's perspective may be different, and we want to be sensitive to that."

U-M Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs and Internal Communications Paul Corliss did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Board of Regents focuses on new leadership, future changes at EMU



Brendan Kelly addresses the regents during his first Board of Regents meeting as Eastern Michigan University president, April 16 in Welch Hall.
Lilly Kujawski / The Eastern Echo

Lilly Kujawski
Managing Editor - News

Eastern Michigan University President Brendan Kelly kicked off his first Board of Regents meeting as president April 16.

During his report, he highlighted recent accomplishments, including the launch of a direct-admission partnership between EMU and Ann Arbor Public Schools. The partnership will guarantee EMU admission to AAPS seniors with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher who are on track to graduate, as well as offering them a waived application fee and consideration for merit-based scholarships. The partnership will help make higher education more accessible

in the area, Kelly said.

The university will also begin its strategic planning process, with a completion goal by the end of 2026, Kelly said. Kelly will organize a strategic planning steering team to guide the priorities in the plan.

Continued plans for improved student satisfaction

In an interview with *The Echo*, Kelly said his team is continuing to evaluate improvements for parking on campus, after the announcement of three changes to campus parking on his first day as president was made. The changes included lifting overnight parking restrictions, waiving spring and summer semester parking permits for

2026 and opening the Ford Reserved Lot to commuters and residents.

"In terms of parking, those were the first three changes. They're not the last three changes," Kelly told *The Echo*.

He confirmed that his team is re-evaluating the cost of parking, which currently averages above comparable universities.

"I think what you will see in the next year is going to look different than what we have right now," Kelly said. Beyond parking, Kelly said his team is examining ways to enhance the student experience across the board by reviewing every student service offered at EMU and identifying areas for improvement.

Leadership changes at EMU

On April 14, Kelly announced leadership changes involving two top-level administrators at EMU, Provost Rhonda Longworth and Chief of Staff Leigh Greden. Longworth will move back to faculty status on May 1, 2026, a move Kelly said was mutually agreed upon between him and Longworth. In his announcement, he identified David Schechter, former president of East Georgia State College, as interim provost. Schechter was present at the April 16 Regents meeting.

"Dr. Schechter has been both a provost before and a president before, and right now, EMU is at a moment where when we have people who have been in other places, served other institutions around the country and can bring that experience here, it is only going to help us navigate what is really

a changing environment in higher education," Kelly said to *The Echo*.

During the open communications portion of the meeting, Kathleen Stacey addressed the regents. Stacey is a professor of communication and has been an EMU employee for more than 30 years. She said she has served in various roles, from director of the Office of Academic Service Learning to interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as current interim vice president and chief human resources officer. She spoke of Longworth's contributions to EMU.

Stacey listed lessons and insights she learned from Longworth over the years, such as the importance of looking to policies and processes to inform answers, thorough documentation and the value of assessing a situation from multiple perspectives before making decisions.

"What I have appreciated about working with Provost Longworth is her deep knowledge and understanding of EMU," Stacey said. "She is a walking encyclopedia of EMU."

Stacey also mentioned Longworth's creativity, patience and deep care for EMU students, staff and faculty, as well as Longworth's ability to stay calm in crisis and to spread knowledge.

"She is always an educator," Stacey said.

Board of Regents business

During the Board of Regents meeting, the regents approved an application for a new Class C liquor license under MLC 436.1513 for the

EMU Student Center. A recent statutory change has made it possible for EMU to apply for a liquor license for the Student Center, which is now designated by the Michigan Legislature as a conference center, according to meeting materials. State law allows for the sale of alcohol at universities and colleges only at regularly scheduled conference center activities and other limited situations, such as at approved sporting events and other circumstances as defined by the law.

At the meeting, the regents also named former EMU President James Smith as an honorary degree recipient at the 2026 commencement ceremony. He will be presented with an honorary doctoral degree in Humane Letters on May 2.

The board also issued a resolution recognizing outgoing Student Body President Jack Booth. Booth, who has served in Student Government since his freshman year at EMU, will graduate this spring summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in business management. During his time at EMU, he worked on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, was a Presidential Scholar and a member of the Honors College.

During the open communication portion of the meeting, Nina Freeman and Eva Orlich Rojas, the recently elected incoming Student Government president and vice president, addressed the board, introducing themselves and outlining the key goals of their administration.

The Eastern Echo

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

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THE ECHO MISSION

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

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CORRECTIONS

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

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



CALENDAR

APR 21

Rock the Patio

4-7 p.m.
Student Center — Patio

APR 22

The Honors Recital

7 p.m.
Alexander Music Building — Room 110

APR 23

Therapeutic Thursday

1-3 p.m.
Rec/IM Building — Front Lobby

APR 24

"Last Day" Jam Session

12-1 p.m.
Alexander Music Building — Breezeway

APR 25

Anything Goes, Student Choreography Concert

7-9 p.m.
Pease Auditorium

APR 26

Ypsi Trivia Night

5 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Ypsi Alehouse

APR 27

Finals Lounge

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Student Center — First Floor

WEATHER FORECAST

Tuesday, April 21

High: 68 | Low: 47
Mostly sunny / Partly cloudy



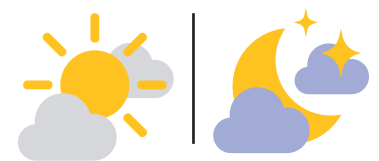
Wednesday, April 22

High: 71 | Low: 47
Sunny / Mostly clear



Thursday, April 23

High: 76 | Low: 56
Mostly sunny / Partly cloudy



Friday, April 24

High: 78 | Low: 51
Partly sunny* / Mostly cloudy*



Saturday, April 25

High: 66 | Low: N/A
Mostly cloudy* / N/A



*Chance of precipitation



Source:
The National Weather Service

Where to find The Echo:

Off Campus:

- Northern Grind, 317 W. Cross St.
- Peninsular Place, 1000 N. Huron River Drive
- Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 735 W. Cross St.

On Campus:

- Porter Building
- Rackham Hall
- Rec/IM

Where to find our links:



Q&A with New Dean of Students Aura Cazares explains unique challenges for students



Aura Cazares is EMU's new dean of students. Courtesy of Aura Cazares

AnnaBelle Favre
News Reporter

Aura Cazares started as Eastern Michigan University's dean of students April 1, 2026. The position had been vacant since the last dean of students retired in July 2025.

Cazares received both her Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and her master's in interdisciplinary studies, marketing and communication from the University of Detroit Mercy. She recently earned her doctorate in community college leadership from Ferris State University.

Cazares was formerly the assistant dean of students at Oakland University. Most recently, she served as the chief administrative officer for the Michigan Hispanic Collaborative, or MiHC, a nonprofit organization aimed at helping first-generation and low-income students through academic and career support programs and services. She manages recruitment, oversees staff, supports students and mentors, and helps to promote MiHC's mission, her resume said.

Q: How would you describe the position of dean of students?

A: I love this question. I would describe the position more so as a role. The role of a dean of students is basically the person that can really support the students' educational experience. Unfortunately, it supports

them when something has happened that may impact their ability to succeed — that's the predicament. It's not a role that a lot of people intuitively know what it means. People align a dean more so with our academic needs, like my colleagues who oversee a particular college, right? So the role itself is just so gratifying because you see the students when they need the most help. I think part of it is supporting students and motivating them to make sure that even if something has come into your path, we are here to support you and guide you.

[Some people] only just align [the role] with discipline and consequences, which, the job does have that — that's a big role for us to have. But we also create a campus where people feel welcomed and that they belong. It requires for us to guide people when their behavior is not in alignment with our principles and our core values, but they get to keep their humanity and advocacy. How you are treated when you make a mistake really can project you to really see your full potential, or it can really discourage you and reiterate things that you potentially have always heard about yourself that are not true.

Q: What drew you to EMU?

A: Truth be told, this is a job that if you really like it, you search and you seek it, and these opportunities don't come about frequently. What drew me to the role was the opportunity to do the

role in an institution whose values I can see myself in. I think there's value in having people who have outside eyes looking in, because you can value the history and learn and take it in while inserting ideas and collaborating.

Q: What do you see as the biggest issue facing EMU students today?

A: The same that is impacting all of the students in higher education: the way our world is in turmoil right now. It's heavy. It's a heavy time to be a student, and so I think that opportunity for me lies in, how do we support students, without sounding cliché? And really, in practice, in a pragmatic way. I think the biggest challenge right now, for both of us, is the same. How do we balance and acknowledge that things are tough without losing hope that we can fix it? How do we validate people's frustrations without making it sound like, "That's how you feel, but you're wrong?"

I have children in college and college-aged, so me, being a mother of a college student, I can wholeheartedly understand. So my role and the role of President Kelly, and all of us here, is to reinforce to you that you're making the right choice, that EMU is the right choice, and that you're pursuing your career. And of course, it's not just going to change your life, but it will change generations thereafter. That's the challenge, but also the opportunity.

Q: What are your top priorities for your first year as dean of students?

A: As a linear learner, I like that 30 [days], 60 [days], 90 [days], a year concept because first, in order for me to be able to tell you what my goals and vision are for a year ... I need to really get to learn the campus culture and get to meet people and get to understand what the EMU student experience is like. I have lots of ideas, and I've been at other campuses where I know things that are working, and that if I were to do here, would most certainly make your experience better, but the most important part of the equation is for me

to do the homework in meeting with students and with my colleagues.

I think the short answer is that in a year, I would like for people to say, "You know what? I love my experience at EMU. Something happened, and the Dean of Students Office and everyone in Student Academic Affairs was able to help me through this situation."

Q: What is one thing students may be surprised to learn about you?

A: I'm a first-generation student. I never knew what a dean of students was. I just remember walking through the hallways of my prior institutions where I was enrolled and at times being afraid to ask for help, because I thought, "Oh, that person, I don't know what they do, and I don't know what they are," and sometimes, people seemed to be intimidating.

I would like for students to know that you will always have a no, unless you ask, and then you might get the yes. We can figure it out. ... My role here is to support your success, even if we're meeting due to a situation that might feel uncomfortable at first. I think I'm rather approachable. I think that what people might not know is that not just me, but all of my colleagues — we're here for your success, so don't be shy or be afraid to say hi to us. If you have a question, just ask.

Q: What is a message you want students to hear directly from you?

A: I want to be aspirational and pragmatic at the same time. I want to say that everything seems harder when you're going through the process of getting a college education, because it is hard. It requires you to be, as people say, locked in when you are tired, and at times you want to really have a lot of fun when you should be studying, but it's all together part of your journey as a university student. And so I would say, I want to validate that. It's really hard to be a college student right now, but don't let the hard aspects of your journey obscure that. There's also such an amazing reward at the end of it.

What's the Move?

April 21-27

Allie Beecher
Copy Desk Chief

Looking for something to do this week? *The Eastern Echo* has its readers covered with this list of local events happening April 21-27.

Live Music at Ziggy's, April 23

In the mood for music? On Thursday April 23, Ypsilanti bar and restaurant Ziggy's will host a triple bill with bands The Minor Pieces and the Lucky 17 as well as musician Kat Steih. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the music begins at 8 p.m. Admission is \$10 at the door, and Ziggy's is at 206 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. To learn more, visit The Minor Pieces' Facebook page or YpsiReal.com.

An Evening with Ozone House, April 24

On Friday, April 24, the local nonprofit Ozone House will host a community evening from 6-9 p.m. at the Morris Lawrence Building at Washtenaw Community College, located at 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. Attendees can enjoy a plated dinner, hors d'oeuvres, live music and a cocktail reception. There will also be a discussion by a panel of youth who have experienced housing instability.

Tickets vary in price from \$125 for an individual ticket to \$50,000 for a corporate sponsorship. To learn more and purchase tickets, visit the Ozone House website.

Karaoke Donation Drive, April 24

Looking for a chance to have fun while supporting a good cause? On Friday, April 24, Azaad Healing Justice Studio and the Mutual Aid Network of Ypsilanti will present a karaoke donation drive in support of the Daytime Warming Center, or DWC, which offers services to those experiencing homelessness in the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor area. From 7-11 p.m., attendees can sing their favorite songs at the 734 Brewing Company, located at 15 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Community members of all ages are welcome, but minors must be accompanied by an adult.

A donation of \$10 or more serves as a ticket for entry at the door. Those interested in attending can write "Karaoke 4/24" in the message box when sending their contribution to www.givebutter.com/CFE26 or pay cash.

For more information, visit the Azaad Healing Justice Studio Facebook page or YpsiReal.com.

Free Appraisal Day, April 25

On Saturday, April 25, local auction house Schmidt Antiques Inc. will host a free appraisal day. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., community members can bring in items such as artwork, watches and clocks to be evaluated for future auction sales. For larger items, such as furniture, attendees can bring in photos.

At the same time just next door, the Michigan Art Gallery will be hosting a free appraisal clinic for artwork by Michigan artists. Selected pieces may be featured in future gallery sales and exhibitions.

The appraisals will take place at Schmidt's Antiques Inc., located at 5138 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. For more information, visit the Schmidt's Antiques Facebook page or email info@schmidtsantiques.com.

Ypsilanti Poet Panel, April 25

On Saturday, April 25, the Whittaker branch of the Ypsilanti District Library will be partnering with YpsiWrites to host local poets David Boeving, Angelica Esquivel, Marie Williamson, John Allen Taylor and Stephanie Heit for a conversation about their creative processes and journeys. From 2-3:30 p.m., attendees will hear work from each poet and have the chance to ask questions about their journeys. The Ypsilanti Poet Panel is free and open to anyone ages 14 or older, and no registration is required.

The Eastern Echo's guide to finals week



EMU's Campus Wellness Center is home to both the Counseling and Psychological Services office and the Community Behavioral Health Clinic. Josh Cromwell / The Eastern Echo

Allie Beecher
Copy Desk Chief

The end of the semester can be an overwhelming time for many college students. From exams to papers to projects, academic demands can feel endless. Fortunately, Eastern Michigan University offers a variety of resources to help students handle finals week, including tutoring, mental health support and events.

Academic and mental health resources

Students looking for tutoring, writing support, coaching or mental health support have access to several resources at EMU.

Holman Success Center

One major academic resource at EMU is the Holman Success Center, which offers tutoring, success coaching and more. The center offers both drop-in and appointment-based tutoring. During drop-in tutoring sessions, students can receive support from peer tutors

in person at Eagle Study Tables in the Halle Library or online over Zoom. To find the winter 2026 tutoring schedule, visit the Holman Success Center's webpage on EMU's website.

Students who would prefer to meet one-on-one with a tutor can also set up an appointment through Starfish in my.emich.edu or on emich.edu/starfish. When making their appointment, students can indicate whether they would prefer to meet with their tutor in the Halle Library or over Zoom.

Success coaching can also be a valuable resource. Holman success coaches are full-time staff members and graduate assistants who can work with students on developing study skills, creating an academic plan that works for them, and setting goals and priorities. Students can set up a meeting with a success coach through Starfish in my.emich.edu. To learn more, visit the Success Coaching section of the Holman Success Center's webpage.

For more information, students can email success.center@emich.edu or call 734-487-2133.

Writing Center

EMU's University Writing Center, or UWC, provides writing support to all EMU community members. Students can meet with UWC consultants for assistance at any stage of the writing process, from drafting a paper to citing sources. The UWC website states that consultants can provide feedback on aspects such as organization, cohesiveness and clarity as well as grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Located in 104 Halle Library, the UWC offers in-person and Zoom consultations. Students can also get written feedback on their writing from consultants. To schedule a consultation,

visit emich.mywconline.com/.

Math Lab

EMU's Math Tutoring Center provides mathematics support to all students. Students can meet with tutors one-on-one or in small groups for support with math and statistics courses. Located in 411 Pray-Harold, the Math Lab focuses on cultivating a welcoming, collaborative environment in which students of all backgrounds can learn, grow and understand the material.

During the fall and winter semesters, students can stop by the Math Lab in person on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. They can also make online appointments at bookedin.com/book/emu-math-placement/services any time Mondays through Wednesdays from 1-5 p.m.

To learn more, visit the Tutoring section of the Mathematics and Statistics page on EMU's College of Arts and Sciences website. Students can also email Sara Lynne Schultz, the coordinator of the Mathematics Tutoring Center, at sschult5@emich.edu with any questions.

Counseling and Psychological Services

EMU Counseling and Psychological Services, or CAPS, provides free mental health support to all students enrolled at least half-time. CAPS staff provide individual, couples and group counseling as well as emergency services and crisis intervention Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside of those hours, students can still receive crisis counseling from CAPS by calling 734-487-1118.

To schedule a CAPS appointment

for the first time, call 734-487-1118 or email counseling.services@emich.edu. Returning clients can ask to schedule an appointment with their former clinician.

For more information, visit the CAPS webpage on EMU's website.

Upcoming events

Students who need a break from preparing for finals may want to check out one or both of these upcoming events.

Fuel Up and Wind Down: Ending the Semester Strong

On Wednesday, April 22, 2026, the Honors College will host Fuel Up and Wind Down, an evening event that will give students an opportunity to relax and have some fun before finals officially begin. The event will take place 6-8 p.m. in the Honors College and will feature pancakes, karaoke, bingo, coloring and more.

While the Honors College is hosting the event, it is open to all students, regardless of whether or not they are part of the Honors College.

To learn more, visit the EMU Today calendar or the Honors College Instagram @emuhonors.

Finals Lounge

From Monday, April 27, through Thursday, April 30, 2026, EMU Campus Life will host Finals Lounge, an event designed to provide stress relief during finals week. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, students can visit the first floor of the Student Center for different activities, including making zines, designing vision boards and decorating cupcakes. Free snacks and treats will be available.

For more information, visit the EMU Campus Life Instagram @emucampuslife.



Instagram @easternechoofficial



TikTok @theeasternecho



Facebook @ The Eastern Echo

What to know for EMU's 2026 Winter Commencement



Students wear hard hats and graduation caps during their graduation ceremony Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025, in the George Gervin GameAbove Center.

Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo

Gray Connor
Managing Editor - Operations

Eastern Michigan University's 2026 Winter Commencement is set to take place May 2, the Saturday after finals wrap up for the semester. Here is everything that graduates and guests need to know.

Ceremony

The commencement will take place in two parts, divided between EMU's six different colleges. Students graduating from the College of Business, GameAbove College of Engineering, and the College of Health and Human Services will attend the ceremony held at 9:30 a.m., with doors opening at 8 a.m.

Students graduating from the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education, and the Individualized Studies Program will attend the 1:30 p.m. ceremony, with doors opening at noon.

The commencement website encourages graduates and guests to arrive to the ceremony early. Both commencements will be held at the George Gervin GameAbove Center at 799 N. Hewitt Road, Ypsilanti.

For those whose guests cannot attend in person, a livestream of both ceremonies will be available on EMU's YouTube Channel and the commencement website homepage.

Free parking for those attending will be available in the George Gervin GameAbove Center lot, the Rynearson Stadium lot, and east of the George Gervin GameAbove Center. Parking locations are subject to change due to weather conditions. Specific driving instructions can be found on EMU's website.

"The ceremony is expected to last approximately two hours," the commencement website says.

Ticketing

Graduating students will be able to claim their tickets starting April 20. Each student is allotted four tickets each; however, students can claim additional tickets for free by contacting the ticketing office at emu_tix@emich.edu or 734-487-3669.

Those graduating must also claim a student ticket to attend the ceremony. Both student and guest tickets must be claimed by graduates only. Those attending as guests may not claim a ticket.

All seating is general admission. Those with accessibility concerns must contact the EMU ticketing office prior to the ceremony.

Safety policies

Prior to entering, all attendees will be required to step through a metal detector. During the screening, attendees will place all items on their person in a tray.

Bags will not be permitted inside the arena unless they are clutch bags no larger than 4 by 6 inches, clear bags no larger than 12 by 6 inches with one side completely see-through, or one-gallon clear plastic freezer bags. Exceptions also include diaper bags, medically necessary items, child carriers and small camera bags. All bags will be subject to inspection prior to entrance into the arena.

Media staff with permission may bring equipment into the arena; however, all bags will be checked prior to entry.

The full list of prohibited items is available on the commencement website under the Health and Safety Protocols tab.

Regalia

All EMU graduates participating in the commencement ceremony are required to wear EMU-approved regalia. Undergraduate and graduate regalia can be purchased in person at the Eastern Outfitters store, located in the Student Center, or online through the store's website.

Undergraduates graduating with honors can pick up their free golden tassels at the Service EMU desk, located on the second floor of the Student Center and open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Non-honors students can purchase their tassels at the Eastern Outfitters store.

Name reader cards will be provided at the ceremony for non-honors students. Those graduating with honors can pick up their cards, along with their tassels, at the Service EMU desk.

Those graduating with master's and doctorate degrees are required to wear a supplemental hood with their cap and gown. Instructions on how to wear each piece can be found on EMU's website.

Those with further questions can contact the Commencement Office at emu_commencement@emich.edu for more information.

Opinion

The WellNest Watch

Mapping Health: How GIS transforms public health



Kegan Tulloch
Contributor

Editor's note: In The WellNest Watch, master's degree candidates in the public health program at EMU's School of Health Promotion and Human Performance explore news, research and standard practices in the field of health and wellness.

Where you live shouldn't determine how healthy you are, but in reality, it often does. Public health has a history of recognizing patterns in disease and access to care. Yet, many of the most important differences between communities remain hidden in statistics. That's where Geographic Information Systems can make a real difference. By turning data into maps, GIS helps us see what's happening and where it's happening. Having that perspective can change everything.

Consider two neighborhoods that are a few miles apart. On the surface, they might look similar, but when you map things out, a different story can unfold. One neighborhood might have high rates of sexually transmitted infections and no nearby testing sites, while the other neighborhood has multiple clinics and lower STI rates. Without GIS, those gaps are easy to miss, and if we can't see the gaps, it's harder to address them.

One of the biggest strengths of GIS is its ability to reveal inequities that often hide in plain sight. By layering data like income, race, transportation access and health outcomes, maps can highlight patterns that spreadsheets alone can't. This matters because health disparities don't happen randomly; they're shaped by systems, environments and access. GIS helps connect the dots in a way that is hard to ignore. It also makes public health responses more practical. With limited resources, decisions about where to invest time, funding and services are not always straightforward. GIS can help pinpoint places where the need is high but access is low. For

example, mapping STI rates alongside clinic locations might show entire areas without nearby testing or prevention services. That kind of insight can guide decisions about where to send mobile clinics, expand outreach or open new sites.

We've already witnessed how powerful this can be in moments of crisis. During the COVID-19 pandemic, maps became essential tools for tracking the spread of the virus, identifying hotspots and guiding vaccine distribution. This helped decision makers act quickly and, ideally, more equitably. That same approach can, and should, be applied beyond crises to everyday public health challenges.

GIS has the ability to involve communities more directly. Maps don't have to be created only by researchers or institutions. Community members can contribute their own knowledge, highlighting barriers that data alone might miss. When that lived experience is included, public health strategies become more effective.

Of course, GIS isn't perfect; there are limitations. Data gaps are still a problem, especially for marginalized communities that are often underrepresented in official datasets. Maps can be informative, but if used carelessly, they can also reinforce harmful narratives.

GIS offers clarity that public health needs. It allows us to see the full picture, not just averages or assumptions. And when we can see where the gaps are, we're in a better position to fill them.

Editor's note: Contributors to The WellNest Watch health column are Kegan Tulloch, Ebrima Jobarteh and Ruby Wyles, graduate assistants in the Office of Health Promotions, and Shafaat Ali Choyon and Nathaniel King, graduate hall directors in the Department of Residential Life. All five are master's degree candidates in the Public Health Program from the School of Public Health Promotion and Human Performance at EMU.

Ypsilanti agencies offer free, low-cost mental health resources

Lilly Kujawski
Managing Editor - News

Eastern Michigan University students tackling the challenges of college and residents of any age trying to make it through the day can find help with those struggles in their own community.

Many local organizations offer free or low-cost mental health services for all, regardless of health insurance status. The Ypsilanti community also has resources available to help uninsured individuals navigate their options, including those aging out of their parents' health-care coverage.

Among those opportunities are these nine resources in Ypsilanti for receiving mental health support at low or no cost:

Eastern Michigan University CAPS

Counseling and Psychological Services, or CAPS, at EMU offers mental health services to students, ranging from short-term free, confidential counseling to psychiatry appointments for medication, which requires insurance or payment. Students must be enrolled at least half-time to receive services. CAPS provides individual, couples and group counseling, emergency services and crisis intervention, faculty and staff consultation and outreach, and education opportunities.

An online mental health screening is available for free online for students. Students can reach CAPS by calling 734-487-1118, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. After-hours crisis counseling is also available by calling the number above. The Campus Wellness Center is at 1075 N. Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti.

Eastern Michigan University Counseling Clinics

The Counseling Training Clinic in

the College of Education at Eastern Michigan University provides personal and family counseling and career assessment and academic counseling. These services are provided by advanced graduate students under the supervision of faculty who are all licensed professional counselors and supervisors, the EMU website states.

Counseling services are available at no cost to EMU students, staff and faculty, and on sliding fee scale to Washtenaw County residents. Fees can be waived due to financial difficulties, managers explained on the clinic's website.

The clinic is open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. by appointment and is inside the EMU College of Education John W. Porter Building in Suite 135.

Community Mental Health

The Washtenaw County Health Department offers mental health resources, including assessment services, treatment planning and case management, crisis services, and outpatient therapy. To get started with accessing care, community members can call 734-544-3050, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Payment is based on what patients can afford, the Community Mental Health website said. Fees are assessed on an individual's financial situation based on review of requested documents.

Community Mental Health is at 555 Towner St., Ypsilanti, and is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with 24-hour crisis services available by calling 734-544-3050.

The Hope Clinic

The Hope Clinic provides medical services at no cost to uninsured members of the community, including behavioral healthcare and counseling.

The behavioral health team includes licensed counselors, patient advocates and healthcare navigators, the Hope Clinic website states.

Betsy King-McDonald, the communications manager for the clinic, said the first step for someone seeking counseling is a triage appointment. A triage appointment helps clinic staff identify patient needs and determine eligibility. The Hope Clinic takes an integrated approach to care, providing behavioral health screenings in other appointments, such as medical and dental, she said. If someone doesn't qualify for Hope Clinic's free services, staff can help refer them to partners in the community.

The Hope Clinic is at 518 Harriet St., Ypsilanti. It is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Emergency and crisis resources

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

24/7 National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

- Contact with any mental health question or crisis
- Text, call or chat 988

Washtenaw 24/7 ACCESS Helpline

- Contact for mental health, substance use questions or crisis support
- Call 734-544-3050

Michigan Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

- For those experiencing a mental health crisis
- Text "home" to 741741

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Eastern Michigan leads the charge in women's flag football rise

Eagle Sports Tips & Tales:

April 21 - 27

Darrell Justice
Sports Reporter

Women's golf
April 26-28: *Mid-American Championships*

Tale: The Mid-American Women's Golf Championships will be taking place April 26-28. The championships are hosted by Kent State University at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio.

Tip: Baiyok Sukterm was awarded her second consecutive MAC Golfer of the Week award after the team had an impressive showing at the Chevron Silverado Showdown.

Where to watch: Fans can access live scoring on ScoreBoard.

Baseball
April 24-26, vs. *Northern Illinois*

Tale: The Eastern Michigan baseball team will travel to DeKalb, Illinois, to take on the Northern Illinois University Huskies in a three-game series. The last time these teams met was in 2025, with Eastern coming out on top with a score of 13-3.

Tip: John Hale is one to watch, as he recently hit two home runs in a single game against the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Where to watch: Fans can watch the games live on ESPN+ and view the results of the series on the EMU Athletics website.

Women's lacrosse
April 25, vs. *Youngstown State*

Tale: The Eagles lacrosse team will be taking on Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. These teams have faced each other three times before, with Eastern leading the all-time series 2-1.

Tip: Senior Tracy Grollman has been stellar through the season thus far. Grollman is currently tied for first in assists per game within the MAC.

Where to watch: Fans can access live stats on the SidearmSports website.

Track and field
April 23-25: *Jim Freeman and Clark Wood Invitational, Hillsdale College Tune-Up, GVSU Extra Weekend Meet*

Tale: The Eastern Michigan men's and women's track teams will be split and partake in three meets, including the Jim Freeman and Clark Wood Invitational from April 23-25, the Hillsdale College Tune-Up from April 24-25, and the GVSU Extra meet from April 24-25.

Tip: The Eagles set multiple new personal bests at the Spec Towns Invitational, including a new 800-meter personal best by Jimmy Geller.

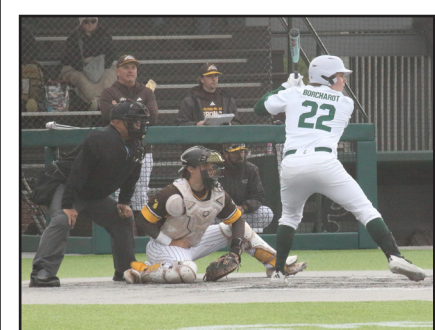
Where to watch: Fans can see the final results of the Jim Freeman and Clark Wood Invitational on MileSplit and results for the Hillsdale College Tune-Up and GVSU Extra Meet on AthleticLive.com.

Rowing
April 25: *Ford Lake Cup*

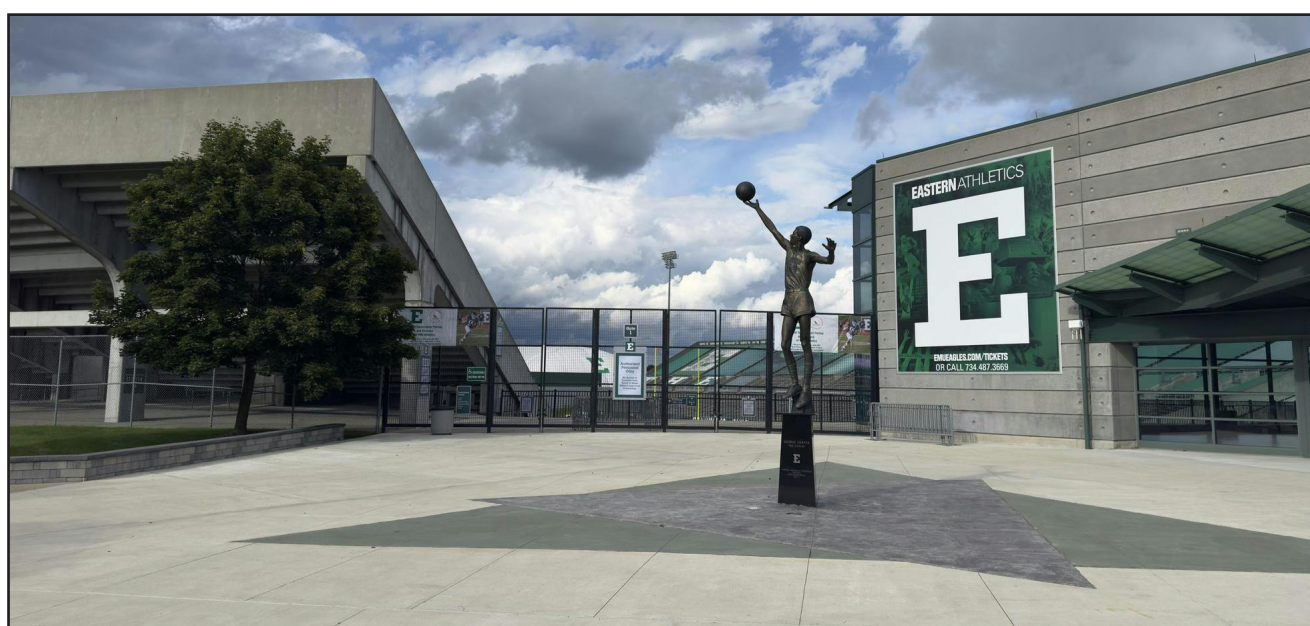
Tale: On April 25, the Eastern Michigan rowing team will be participating in the Ford Lake Cup in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Tip: The Eagles are coming off a fifth-place finish in the varsity four grand finals in the Knecht Cup.

Where to watch: There are currently no reported livestreaming or scoring resources available for the Ford Lake Cup.



Catcher for Eastern Michigan's baseball team, No. 22 Nathan Borchardt, batters up April 18 at Oestrike Stadium during the game against the Western Michigan University Broncos. Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo



Rynearson Stadium, home of the Eastern Michigan University football team, is at 799 N. Hewitt Road, Ypsilanti. Josh Cromwell / The Eastern Echo

“Women’s flag football is one of the fastest-growing sports in the nation, and its addition reflects our commitment to creating new opportunities for student-athletes at EMU,” Wetherbee said in a written statement. He emphasized that with the sport set for the Olympic stage in 2028, EMU is proud to lead its growth and build a program that the community will embrace.

The global surge toward 2028

The timing of EMU’s announcement is no coincidence. The NCAA officially designated women’s flag football as an Emerging Sport for Women in January 2026, a status that allows it to pursue official championship status once it reaches 40 varsity programs. Currently, more than 20 million athletes play the sport worldwide, including 3.6 million youth in the United States. High school participation has also skyrocketed, with 69,000 girls playing this year — a massive jump from 11,000 in 2018-19.

The sport’s profile is expected to reach an all-time high when it makes its Olympic debut at the Los Angeles 2028 Games. This global visibility, combined with support from all 32 NFL teams for youth initiatives, has created a powerful momentum that

collegiate programs are now beginning to harness.

A new way to play

For those unfamiliar with the collegiate version of the game, it is a fast-paced, non-contact, 7-on-7 competition. Played on a field measuring 80 by 40 yards, games consist of four 12-minute quarters. Rather than tackling, players wear belts with two detachable flags; a play ends when an opponent removes a flag from the ball carrier. Scoring remains familiar to football fans, with six points for a touchdown and options for one- or two-point conversions.

Leading the pack in Michigan and beyond

EMU is the 18th NCAA Division I school to announce a varsity program, joining a diverse group of institutions including Alabama State University, Long Island University and the University of Nebraska. In Michigan, the landscape is evolving; while Siena Heights University previously housed a varsity program, the university announced its closure at the end of this academic year; Davenport University and Saginaw Valley State University

will continue to compete alongside EMU.

The momentum is also building at the conference level. The Big South recently became the first Division I conference to sponsor varsity flag football, and reports indicate the Big 12 and Big Ten are closely monitoring the landscape for potential sponsorship by 2028.

The road ahead for the Eagles

The work for EMU begins immediately. The university has launched a national search for a head coach, with roster construction to follow shortly after. As an institution that has captured 159 MAC team championships and sent representatives to every Summer Olympics since 1960, the expectations for the new program are high.

By jumping into the fray now, Eastern Michigan is not just following a trend — it is helping to define the future of women’s athletics in the United States. As the Eagles prepare for their inaugural kickoff in 2027, the Ypsilanti community and the wider sports world will be watching a new legacy take flight.

Strategic growth and student success

The university’s leadership views this move as a core component of its broader mission. EMU President Brendan Kelly noted in a written statement that the university’s future is built on “purpose, belonging, and opportunity.” According to Kelly, the addition of flag football is a clear example of investing in new pathways for student success while strengthening the university’s alignment across campus and its impact throughout the state.

Athletic Director Scott Wetherbee echoed these sentiments, highlighting the sport’s explosive popularity.

EMU Esports offers supportive avenues, free resources for students



The EMU Esports team encouraged students to join them in a game of FIFA 26 during Pumpkins on the Patio on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo

Gray Connor
Managing Editor - Operations

While Eastern Michigan University’s ESports facility serves as the hub for its varsity teams, it also acts as a resource for students interested in online gaming, multiplayer and other opportunities to play alongside their community.

In 2024, the ESports team’s primary space relocated from the Rec/IM to the Student Center.

Alongside the relocation, the change also came with an upgrade to the space. While the Rec/IM location allowed for students not affiliated with

ESports who paid a Rec fee to access the computers, the new space allows for significantly more students to use the space at once, with more than 20 computers, gaming systems and an upgraded studio for production student interns.

Open Monday through Friday from noon to 10 p.m., the space includes free access to monitors, headsets, mouse and keyboards, and the ability to download games to play. Currently, EMU’s ESports facility houses six varsity teams, competing in Call of Duty, League of Legends, Overwatch, Rocket League, Super Smash Bros and Valorant.

Each semester, the teams play in the ESports Collegiate Conference, and each of their games can be viewed while livestreamed on their Twitch. The service also allows for students to view past matches.

While not all students interested in gaming have the passion to play on a varsity level, ESports also offers students the opportunity to play on low-stakes teams, and to meet and game with other EMU students through its Community Teams, according to EMU ESports Coordinator Zach Lewis.

Currently, there is one available team for EMU students to join. EMU’s Super Smash Bros team, which is a 2D fighting game featuring some of Nintendo’s most iconic players, meets weekly in the Student Center outside of the ESports facility. For more information, contact @symphonies on Discord.

Alongside Super Smash Bros, EMU ESports is also in the planning stages of creating four other community-based teams. The first, Rainbow Six Siege, adds tactical strategy to the classic “shoot-em-up genre.” Next is Splatoon, which challenges players to take up as much space as possible with colorful ink and an animated art style. ESports is also in the planning stages of developing a community Fortnite team, as well as team centered around online chess matches, where individuals can play the classic game with people located all over the world.

For more on the teams currently in development, contact information and further details can be found on EMU ESports’ website.

Groups of students passionate about games not listed can also register to create an official Community Team. To be accepted, each team must designate a team manager to act as the main point of contact between both the team and EMU’s ESports faculty, and play once a week at the facility. Interested applicants can register on the group’s website.

For those looking to support ESports, learn more about the program and see how this year’s roster played out, ESports will also be premiering its 2025-26 season documentary April 15, starting at 5 p.m., Lewis said.

The location has not yet been announced, but interested attendees can visit EMU ESport’s Instagram page at emuesports for updates.

Christopher Cathon, also known by his username “wulfanite,” expressed that he was looking forward to the banquet and the chance to show students what ESports does throughout the season.

“I’ve never been a part of it, since it’s my first year ... The last two semesters, they’ve gotten [a lot] of footage of us playing and interviews,” Cathon said of the documentary. Currently, Cathon plays Valorant competitively for EMU.

More information on EMU ESports’ upcoming events, competitions and summer programs can be found on the group’s website.

To speak to current members of the ESports community, or to join one of ESports’ Community Teams, students can find the invite to the group’s Discord on their website.



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EMU Theatre presents family-friendly puppet show with 'The Snowy Day and Other Stories by Ezra Keats'



Eastern Michigan University Theatre will perform "The Snowy Day and Other Stories by Ezra Keats" at Sponberg Theatre on April 24 at 7 p.m. and April 25 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. *Courtesy of EMU Theatre*

Gray Connor
Managing Editor - Operations

From paper puppets to lit-up bubbles, Eastern Michigan University Theatre presents "The Snowy Day and Other Stories by Ezra Keats," a family-friendly show that showcases experimental theater and creative prop pieces.

First written in 1962 by Ezra Jack Keats, "The Snowy Day" stars Peter, a young boy, as he explores his neighborhood after the year's first snowfall. Comprised of four parts that take place throughout the four seasons of the year, "The Snowy Day" explores youth, coming of age and the beauty of growing up. The play adapts four of Keats' children's books, including "The Snowy Day," "Whistle

for Willie," "Goggles" and "Letter for Amy."

Olivia Allen, a part-time lecturer at EMU in the communications, media and theater arts department and the director of EMU's performance of "The Snowy Day," expressed the impact that the books had on young readers when they were first released. While the play feels more like a slice of life to modern audiences, the books that they are adapted from acted as an early form of diversity and representation, being some of the first picture books to feature a young Black protagonist.

"You're watching him [Peter] experience these childhood wonders, joys and growing up for the first time. To us as a modern audience, I don't know that there is necessarily a moral. We're watching him go

through things like being angry at a friend and having to resolve a conflict, or real experiences like the magic of seeing snow for the first time ... I think it offers, especially in the '60s and now ... this representation and this diversity, and continuing on the tradition of diversity representation in children's theater," Allen said.

While the show is geared more toward younger, elementary-aged audiences, there is still plenty for older attendees to enjoy about the production, Allen said.

For this show, EMU Theatre's crew built more than 100 puppets out of black card stock and laminated them to ensure they would remain intact on the road. Each character in the show, including Peter, is depicted in both human form and puppet form. Throughout the show, the form the

characters take switches to reflect their mindset.

According to Allen, the use of puppets was a way for the group to experiment with different scenes, with some specific parts of the original picture book being difficult to adapt without the use of extra props.

With a show that appeals to a younger audience, the use of puppets and shadow actors also allows for elementary-aged students to suspend their disbelief and interpret the reality of what's happening on stage with their own imaginations.

Prior to showing "The Snowy Day" at EMU, the cast and crew toured a number of local elementary schools from March 13 through April 17, as part of the EMU Theatre for the Young Tour. According to Allen, touring offers EMU Theatre students a variety of new experiences, including the ability to perform their pieces in front of larger audiences. Each year, the tour brings shows for younger audiences to nearby schools. Some performances are designed specifically for individuals who enjoy hands-on and sensory performances.

"It's such a special thing to be able to take high-quality, really thoughtfully crafted, acted and performed pieces of theater into communities where the students already live," Allen said. "They get to see something new and exciting that maybe shows them something they didn't know was possible before, or just gives them an

exciting Friday morning."

Outside of puppets, the crew also used experimental methods to depict large settings on a small stage, including using bubbles to depict snow and scaling prop pieces to allow a character to ride down a mountain.

The show lasts approximately 45 minutes and will include a Q&A section afterward for audience members to ask the cast and crew questions about the show.

"We're really excited to bring it home to our EMU community," Allen said. "I just want to give a huge shoutout to all the beautiful artists who worked on this show. It takes a lot to make a set and puppets and costumes that travel, and can handle the wear and tear of being on the road and still come home and look beautiful. They've done a beautiful job at that."

Those interested in seeing "The Snowy Day and Other Stories by Ezra Jack Keats" once it returns to Eastern Michigan University from April 24-25, can purchase tickets online at EMU Theatre's website or in person at the box office. General admission for each ticket is \$6.

Performances will be held in person at the Sponberg Theatre, located in the Judy Sturgis Hill Building, on April 24 at 7 p.m. and April 25 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

More information on the show can be found through the Snowy Day Study Guide, available through Google Drive on EMU Theatre's website.

Dreamland Theater reimagines 'Animal Farm' with puppet show adaptation

Hannah Borders
Arts Reporter

Dreamland Theater is bringing life to George Orwell's "Animal Farm" with its puppet show adaptation of the 1945 dystopian novella.

Dreamland Theater is a community arts space that opened in 2002 and operated as an LLC until 2009, when it became a nonprofit. Dreamland hosts a variety of art galleries, live music and theater performances, and independent films, but it is most well-known for puppet shows.

Dreamland's adaptation of the novel is more than 15 years in the making. Producer, director, puppet maker and owner of Dreamland Theater, Naia Venturi, began writing the adaptation in 2010 with the goal of keeping as true to the original story as possible.

"I had to cut out some characters,

because there's a lot of characters. It's always tricky to translate anything, whether it's an actual novel like 'Animal Farm,' or even a play, into a puppet show, because you really can't have long monologues, because they get really boring with puppets. To just figure out the timing, and what to keep in and how to stay true to the story ... that's pretty tricky," Venturi said.

The show will feature several different types of puppets, all handmade by the production staff. The backdrops and props were also designed and hand-painted by production staff.

Venturi said the biggest reward is getting to see how the audience reacts to their shows.

"It's always tricky because you get to memorize the show because of rehearsals; you have it so in your head that you kind of lose objectivity. So it's always nice to hear an audience laugh when you added something you

thought was funny, and then forgot that it was supposed to be funny, and then they laugh, and you're like 'oh, right, that was funny,'" Venturi said.

"Animal Farm" is a satirical, allegorical story about mistreated farm animals who rebel against their human owner with the goal of creating a free, just society. Instead, their rebellion is hijacked, pushing them back into totalitarianism and dystopia. Using farm animals, Orwell delivers a satirical critique of the Russian Revolution and Stalinism.

"I like dystopian fiction, which is what this is. It's a very famous book because the story resonates for a lot of different people about different periods in history. I think I felt, because of all of the changes in the world right now, politically and so forth, that this was a good time to finally put it on," Venturi said.

The show opened April 4, and remaining dates are April 23 and 26

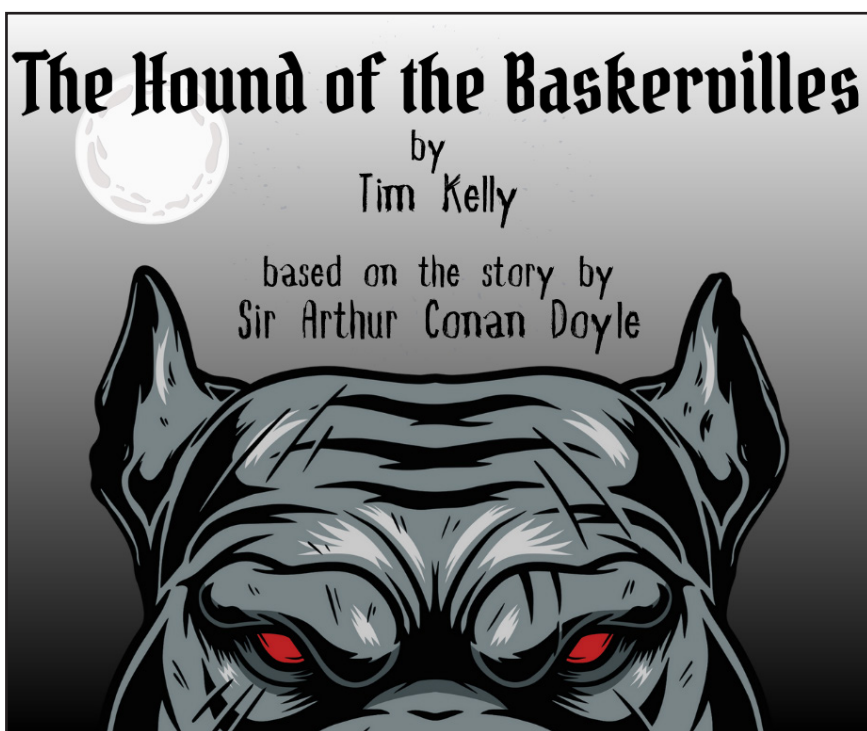


Dreamland Theater is putting on a puppet show of their adaptation of "Animal Farm" by George Orwell. *Hannah Borders / The Eastern Echo*

as well as May 1, 9 and 16 at 7 p.m. Front row tickets are \$18, general admission tickets are \$15, and pay-what-you-can shows are April 23 and 26 with a minimum price of \$10,

the Dreamland Theater website says. Performances take place at Dreamland Theater, located at 26 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti.

Ypsilanti's PTD Productions presents 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'



PTD Productions will be putting on the play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the Riverside Arts Center from May 7-10 and 13-16. *(Courtesy of PTD Productions)*

Hannah Borders
Arts Reporter

PTD Productions is set to bring the characters of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson to the stage this May with its production of "The Hound of the Baskervilles."

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" is a play written by Tim Kelly based on the novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The play is a story in which Holmes and Watson investigate the death of Charles Baskerville, the heir to the Baskerville Estate, that is rumored to have been caused by a ghostly hound. Holmes and Watson investigate the case to prevent the murder of Henry Baskerville, the next heir.

Playwright Kelly adapted the novel into a play to fit the particular needs of small theaters. The show allows for smaller spaces and casts, as well as less elaborate costuming and sets. Kelly also emphasizes female characters in

the show, as there were usually more female actors auditioning for shows at smaller theaters during the time the play was written, said David Andrews, the director of the production.

"The reason that I am doing it in particular myself is that I've always been a big fan of the Sherlock Holmes stories and Conan Doyle's writing, and I seem to be attracted to a lot of Victorian-era writers," Andrews said. "And this particular version by Tim Kelly is very deftly arranged so that it can be done by a theater company in a relatively small theater like PTD Productions uses at the Riverside Arts Center."

Kelly wrote the play to take place in 1976, though Andrews has moved the setting back to 1951. Andrews said he imagines the 1970s as a time full of bright colors and disco music. He said the story is more grim and dark and fits better in the earlier decade.

"I think the important thing is that if people are, in fact, fans of the writer

of the book, the characters of Holmes and Watson, that they will really see a lot that they will be happy with in terms of fulfilling their expectations for the characters, in addition to the little twists that the playwright has included to keep them guessing," Andrews said. "They will see the characters they have come to know and love over the decades portrayed in a way that fulfills their expectations and their hopes, and so I hope people who do like the books, do like the characters, do like the author, will come to the show and give me their opinion on how well we have upheld their expectations."

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" will run May 7-10 and 13-16. The play will be performed at the Riverside Arts Center at 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students, seniors and active military members, and can be purchased online at the PTD Productions website.



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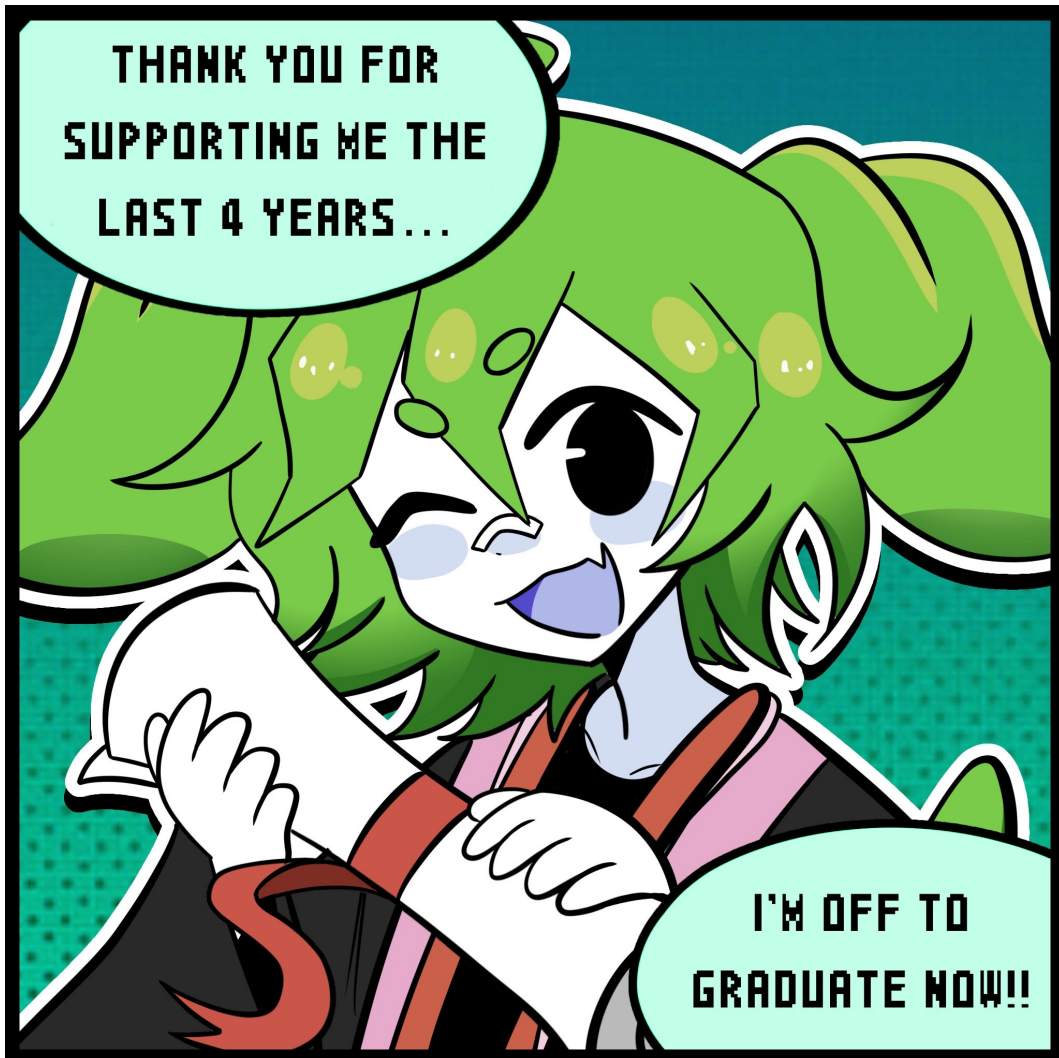
The Eyes of Wisp | Yiri



The Night Before.. | Yiri



I'm Off! | Rylee Curley



Scoop says...



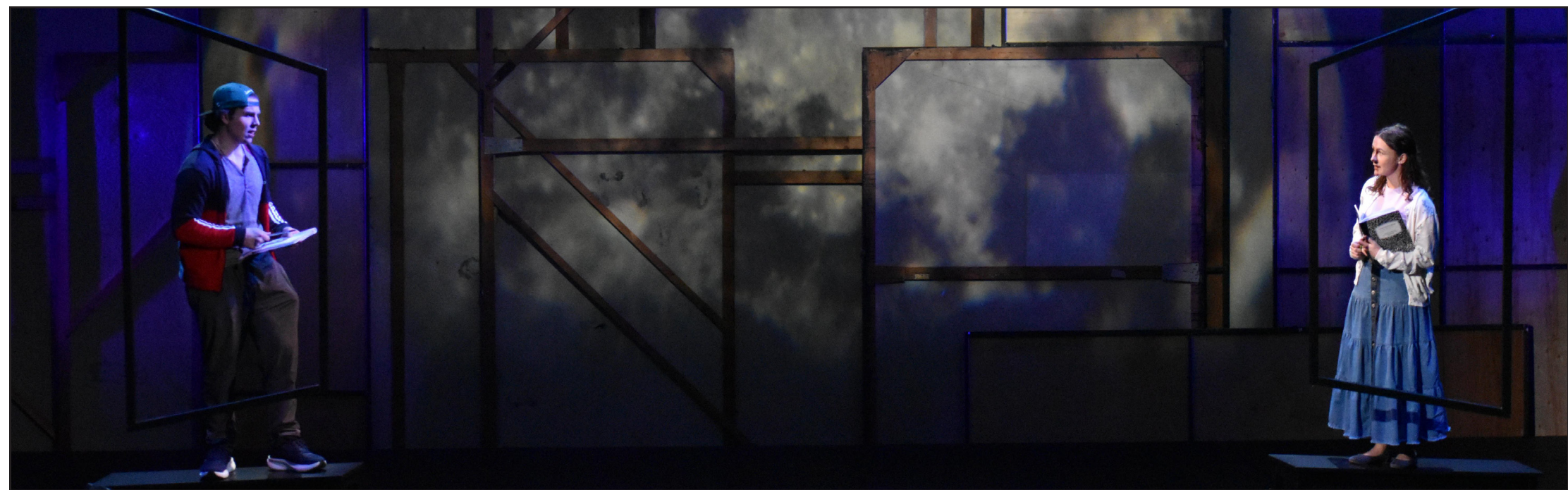
WORD SEARCH
The Grand Finale, will you find them?

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Out of the field and into 'Our Town,' EMU at a glance, April 16-19



George Gibbs (Wyatt Hicks) and Emily Webb (Morgan Stillson) discuss their homework between the windows in their neighboring homes as bright moonlight shines on them on stage in EMU Theatre's production of "Our Town." Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo



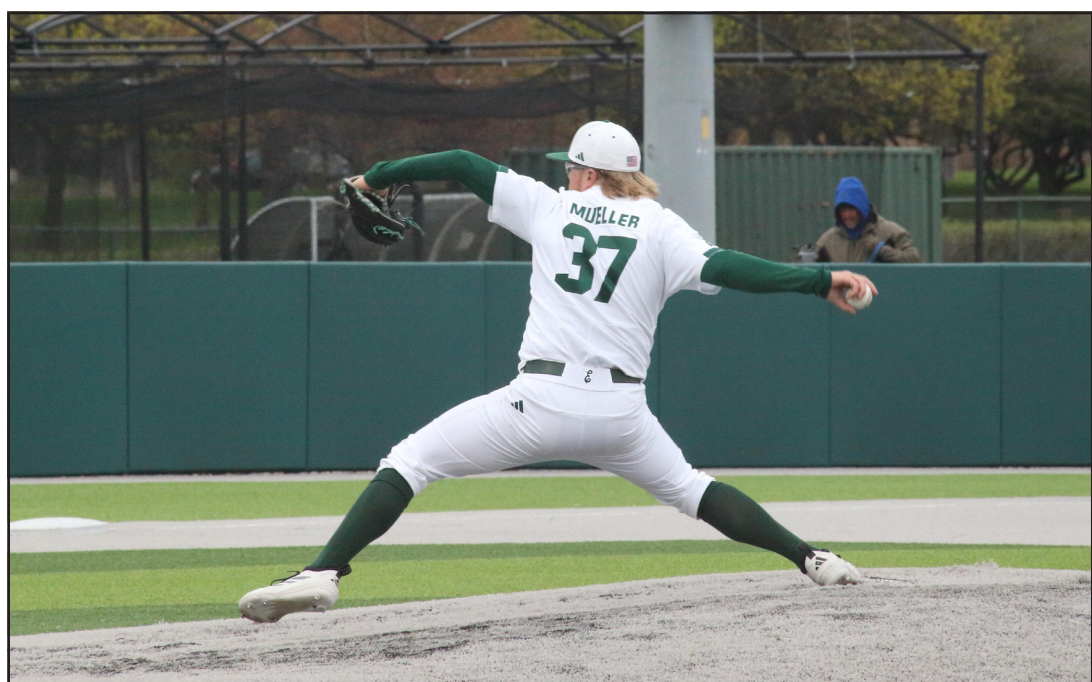
Howie Newsome (Levi Greunke), Si Crowell (Alex Franklin), and Constable Warren (Tesia Brown) discuss the past, present and future of baseball in Grover's Corners in Eastern Michigan University Theatre's production of "Our Town." Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo



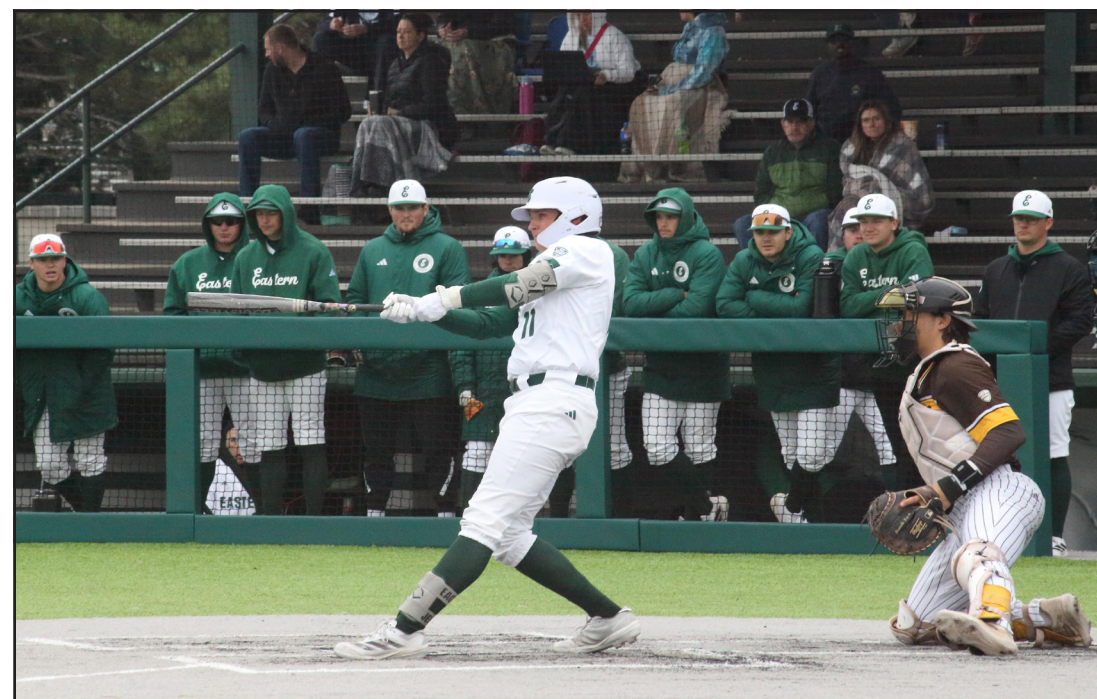
Gavin Miller plays the role of Stage Manager in Eastern Michigan University Theatre's production of "Our Town," acting as both a narrator, teacher and guiding hand throughout the play. "Our Town" ran in Judy Sturgis Hill's Legacy Theatre from April 16-19. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo



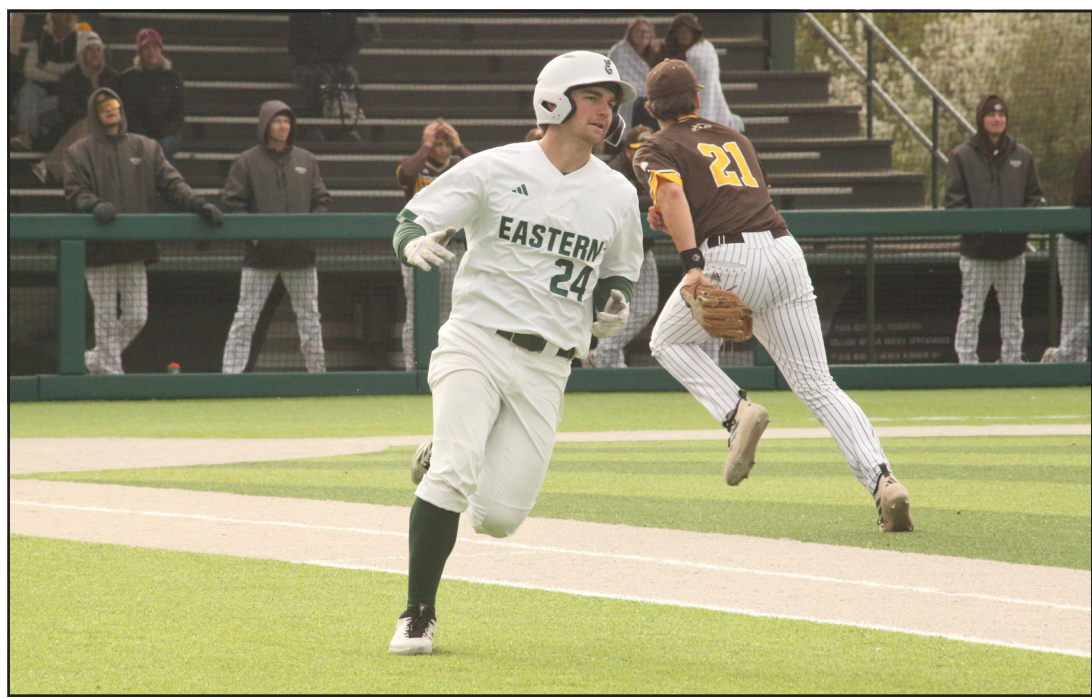
A deceased Emily Webb (Morgan Stillson) prepares to join the dead in the graveyard at her funeral in Eastern Michigan University Theatre's production of "Our Town" in Judy Sturgis Hill's Legacy Theatre. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo



Right-handed pitcher Landon Mueller, No. 37, pitches the ball toward the Western Michigan University batter on April 18 at Oestrike Stadium. Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo



Eastern Michigan infielder No. 11, Bruce Jellison, lands a successful hit at the game against Western Michigan University on April 18 at Oestrike Stadium. Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo



Tristan Crane, No. 24, a utility player for Eastern Michigan University baseball, runs toward first base at Oestrike Stadium on April 18 during the game against the Western Michigan University Broncos. Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo