



Eagles celebrate
Homecoming victory

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The Eastern Echo

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Tuesday, September 23, 2025
easternecho.com

EMU students host vigil to honor Delta State University student Trey Reed

Lilly Kujawski
News Reporter

On Wednesday, Sept. 17, Eastern Michigan University students gathered outside of the campus Lake House in front of the Student Center for a vigil to honor De'Martravion "Trey" Reed.

Reed was a Black student at Delta State University in Mississippi whose body was found hanging from a tree on Delta State's campus on Monday, Sept. 15, 2025.

Police reportedly did not find evidence of foul play upon initial investigation, but the manner of Reed's death has raised questions from his family and some civil rights organizations, and has sparked outrage online, with many drawing parallels to lynchings.

In a press conference held on Sept. 17, DSU Police Chief Mike Peeler said the Mississippi Medical Examiner's Office is conducting a full autopsy. Since the autopsy was completed on Sept. 18, Reed's death has been ruled a suicide; however, the final toxicology results remain pending and the investigation is still active.

EMU students respond

At EMU, some student leaders on campus felt called upon to take action and planned the vigil to give campus community members an outlet for their grief.

The vigil was planned in less than 24 hours, said Aiyana Mackey, vice president of EMU's Black Honors Student Organization and one of the event organizers. Planning it was a joint effort between campus organizations including BHSO, Sophisticated Talented Youthful Leaders & Entrepreneurs, or STYLE, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, she said.

For Daeshawn Williams, president of BHSO, being a Black student at a predominantly white institution makes events like these all the more important. He credits BHSO, which offers



Many students attend the Trey Reed candlelight vigil at Bob's Lake House on Wednesday, Sept. 17.
Owen Cardenas / The Eastern Echo

social events, activism opportunities, professional development, scholarships and more, with helping him find his community at EMU.

Honoring Reed

Vigil organizers passed out candles and began the event by addressing the crowd.

"Social activism is important," Mackey said to the crowd. "If we don't do it, no one else will."

Attendees observed a moment of silence to honor Reed before organizers opened up the floor for attendees to share with the group. Many speakers called for community and love and encouraged the crowd to use their voices to speak up.

"Your voice matters," said Michala Johnson, EMU student and president of EMU's branch of Burning Bush Campus Ministries.

LaNyia Durr, vice president of

"I just ask that we come together as a community, as brothers and sisters, to love one another and rely on each other."

-LaNyia Durr, vice president of Burning Bush Ministries

Burning Bush, led the group in a prayer.

"Thank you for this unity, dear God," she said. "I just ask that we come together as a community, as brothers and sisters, to love one another and rely on each other."

Matthew McKnight, a kinesiology major representing Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, also encouraged unity and connection, not just in hard times, but

in the good times too.

Others reminded attendees to engage in uncomfortable discussions, even when it's difficult.

"This is a time to mourn; this is a time to reflect on what's happened. But just because it's time to mourn, doesn't mean it's time to stay silent," said one student speaker, who addressed his peers during the event. "It doesn't mean that we need to cower in fear. We will never let them drive us out."

Some attendees were motivated to join the vigil when they heard the news of Reed's death.

"I heard about the passing of one of our other Black brothers in this country, you know, I had to step out and support," said Chloe Shorter, a marketing major who attended the vigil.

Others joined in hopes of offering support to a grieving community. Laila

Purdy, president of the student group Sistas That Care, a Black women's collective with a focus on sisterhood and mental health, attended the vigil to share resources with attendees. She encouraged affected students to remember to breathe and practice self-care.

"As much as we can advocate for others, if we don't advocate for ourselves, it's hard to show up for other people," Purdy said.

She suggested journaling, art and other stress-releasing activities. Purdy also reminded students of the resources EMU offers, including mental health counseling services, the Office of Access and Opportunity and more. She encouraged students to reach out to a trusted adult if they need support.

Campus Resources

If you or anyone you know is in need of help or support, consider using these campus resources:

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.: Call 734-487-1118 or visit the Campus Wellness Center at 1075 N. Huron River Drive (arrive by 4 p.m.). After 5 p.m. and on weekends and holidays: Call 734-487-1118 for CAPS after-hours crisis counseling.

Campus police
Call 734-487-1222.
Call 911 if someone is hurt or in immediate danger.

EMU's Office of Access and Opportunity
346 Student Center
734-487-3118
<https://www.emich.edu/access-opportunity/index.php>

Center of Race and Ethnicity
356 Student Center
734-487-2377
<https://www.emich.edu/access-opportunity/centers-programs/core/index.php>

Wurst Bar closure makes way for something new

Owners plan to keep staff for new bar



Renovations are currently underway at the former Wurst Bar, a popular hangout spot in Ypsilanti, following its closure on Aug. 25. Lilly Kujawski / The Eastern Echo

Lilly Kujawski
News Reporter

Renovations are currently underway at the now-closed Wurst Bar, a local Ypsilanti hangout located on Cross Street that was known for its karaoke nights and bratwurst menu offerings.

Wurst Bar closed its doors Aug. 25. While the exact timeline of the renovation project is unknown, patrons can expect an entirely new business concept.

"It's gonna be all new; fully new bar, fully new name, fully new menu, lots of new changes," said Taylor Hamlett, Wurst Bar's general manager up until its closure.

Last December, Wurst Bar changed owners, and revamping the business has been in the works since then, Hamlett said. The plan is to keep all the employees who worked at Wurst Bar, she added.

"You'll still have the same servers and bartenders that you loved before, we'll just be at a different bar," Hamlett said.

During the renovation period, employees who are eligible have

applied for unemployment benefits, but many already had secondary jobs and are taking on more hours at those in the meantime, Hamlett said.

While the new concept for the space hasn't been made public yet, patrons and locals can expect a positive change, Hamlett said.

"It's something to look forward to because it is going to be fully renovated," she said. "It's going to be completely new inside, so it'll be exciting to see."

The bar's new owner, Vince Ankawi, has some exciting new ideas, said Audrey Lucero, former Wurst Bar general manager, who worked at the business from 2019-2024. Lucero, who now lives in Arizona, said she knew of the expected transition as early as November of 2024.

"To see a new ownership and new life come into that building will be nice for a whole new generation of college students and locals," Lucero said. "I can assume there's going to be some great cocktails, because I've seen them mixing up some pretty awesome things back there."

Ethan King, a junior studying aviation flight technology at Eastern

Michigan University, said he enjoyed going to Wurst Bar when it was open and will miss its "rustic vibe."

"I really liked how it kind of felt like a dive bar, but still a higher class and nicer," King said.

For Lucero, the highlight of working at Wurst Bar for six years was the camaraderie she shared with her coworkers and the connections she made with patrons, especially the bar's regulars.

"Thank you for all the years; I appreciated each and every person who walks through the doors and the company they brought; [...] the joy and purpose they brought to my work," Lucero said. "My life is rich with stories because of these people."

On Instagram, the bar thanked its patrons and teased the upcoming changes.

"Thank you all for your incredible support over the years," said a post on the Wurst Bar's Instagram page. "This location will be going through renovations, and while we're sad to say goodbye to The Wurst Bar, we're excited to share that something new is brewing, Stay tuned!"

The Eastern Echo

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

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www.EasternEcho.com

THE ECHO MISSION

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

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CORRECTIONS

- In the September 16, 2025 edition of Roots, the name of EMU Homecoming halftime performer Kin Curran was misspelled.
- In the September 16, 2025 print edition of The Eastern Echo, the ElDining participant donors to Swoop's Food Pantry were misstated.

Where to find the newest volume of
Cellar Roots,
EMU's
Art Magazine:



SEPT 23

National Hazing Prevention Week: Sign the Banner

Noon - 2 p.m.
Student Center — Lobby Tables

SEPT 24

Principal Trombonist Levi Boylan's Master Class

Noon - 12:50 p.m.
Alexander Music Building — Room 124

SEPT 25

Star Lecture: Ypsilanti Mayor Nicole Brown

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Student Center — Ballroom

SEPT 26

Honors College Fall Festival

2 - 4:30 p.m.
Honors College — Room 107

SEPT 27

EMU Football vs. Central Michigan University

1 p.m.
Kelly/Shorts Stadium — Mount Pleasant, MI

SEPT 28

EMU Soccer vs. Ohio

From 1 - 3:30 p.m.
Paul Scicluna Soccer Field — Ypsilanti, MI

SEPT 30

Walk-In Flu Shot Clinic

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Student Center — Ballroom

WEATHER FORECAST

Tuesday, September 23

High: 76 | Low: 85
Chance of Rain/ Cloudy



Wednesday, September 24

High: 77 | Low: 55
Cloudy



Thursday, September 25

High: 71 | Low: 55
Chance of Rain/ Cloudy



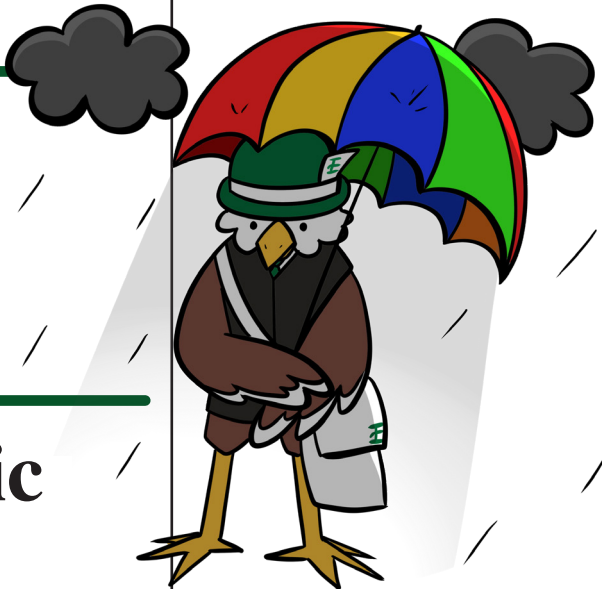
Friday, September 26

High: 74 | Low: 53
Partly Sunny/ Chance of Rain



Saturday, September 27

High: 74 | Low: N/A
Mostly Sunny/ Chance of Rain



Source:
The National Weather Service

Where to find
The Eastern Echo:

Off-Campus

- Ma Lou's on Michigan Ave
- Ypsi Real Office on Michigan Ave
- Maize in Depot Town

On-Campus

- Pray Harold
- Student Center

Where to find our links:



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TikTok @theeasternecho



Facebook @ The Eastern Echo



Eastern Michigan University President James Smith and his wife, Connie Ruhl-Smith, receive the Public Media Impact Award from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. Courtesy of 2025 Michigan Association of Broadcasters

EMU President Smith receives public media impact award

Ky'anna Coates
Staff Writer

The Michigan Association of Public Broadcasters delivered its Public Media Impact Award to Eastern Michigan University President James Smith and his wife Connie Ruhl-Smith.

The award is given to a donor and professional who contributes to public broadcasting in Michigan. The Smiths, who received the award during an Aug. 12, 2025, event, were honored for the contributions to WEMU-FM, the public broadcasting station that operates from King Hall on the Eastern

Michigan University campus.

The Smiths were nominated by Molly Motherwell, the general manager and executive director of WEMU-FM.

“From the beginning, they have invested their time, their money and their pride in WEMU and achieved outstanding results that are more than worthy of the Public Media Impact Award,” Motherwell said in a written statement from the university.

WEMU, 89.1, is a National Public Radio-affiliated station licensed by the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents. The station specializes in

jazz, blues and local news. EMU is one of the station’s 11 sponsors.

A spokesperson for the broadcasting association said the donor award was established in 1985 and was previously titled the Pioneer Award. The name was changed in 2015. Five other recipients in Washtenaw County have received the honor.

This year’s award ceremony was held at the 2025 Michigan Association of Broadcasters’ Summer Leadership Conference and Evening of Excellence in Traverse City, Michigan. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer served as the keynote speaker for the event.

The ceremony also recognized several other honorees:

- Julie Brinks, recipient of the 2025 Michigan Association of Broadcasters’ Lifetime Achievement Award
- Blake Harms, recipient of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters’ Foundation Young Professional Award
- Bill Hart, co-recipient of the Public Media Impact Award
- Hall of Fame inductees Jeff Gilbert, Tom Mogush and Chris Warren

EMU closes campus bookstore, unveils spirit store 'Eastern Outfitters'

Lauren Holloway & Natalie Kyle
News Reporter & Managing Editor

Students at Eastern Michigan University may notice that the campus bookstore in the Student Center has been closed since it shut its doors June 30, 2025. All textbooks can now be purchased online through a new system.

The eCampus.com Virtual Bookstore Program serves more than 150 colleges, universities and K-12 schools across the country. Eastern Michigan University joined that number with the introduction of the company’s online bookstore on July 1, 2025.

The bookstore’s new website can be accessed directly at emich.ecampus.com. Students can access the link through their My.Emich account in the “Student Academic Services” card under “External Resources.” The website can also be accessed in the Canvas course shell for applicable courses. The eCampus portal has access to students’ schedules, so it displays the materials required for each class.

If a student desires a physical textbook instead of a digital one, they can order the book to their home address or the on-campus pickup site at the EMU Central Receiving Office, located at 1215 N. Huron River Drive.

Shipping to campus is free via UPS Ground, and shipping to a home address is free if the order is over \$59.

Melissa Thrasher, EMU’s executive director of media relations and social media, hopes that the convenience of online shopping will make students’ lives easier.

“The goal is to save students time, money and stress so they can stay



Signs in the Student Center on Sept. 21, 2025, announce that Eastern Outfitters will be opening on Nov. 17, 2025. Lyndsay Tusen / The Eastern Echo

focused on their classes,” Thrasher said.

However, the campus bookstore did not just sell books; it also offered merchandise such as sweatshirts, mugs, pens and more. Since then, there has not been a designated place on campus to get EMU merch.

That is expected to change this semester. In partnership with eCampus.com, Eastern Michigan University is debuting Eastern Outfitters, which will be housed in the previous bookstore location in the Student Center.

Eastern Outfitters will be the university’s new spirit store, providing students, staff, faculty, fans and alumni the opportunity to buy EMU merchandise and apparel. Eastern Outfitters is set to open Nov. 17, 2025,

with an online store opening sooner.

Walter Kraft, vice president of communications at Eastern Michigan University, elaborated on the experience the bookstore hopes to provide to customers.

“Eastern Outfitters is where EMU pride comes to life,” said Kraft in a statement from eCampus.com. “From textbook pickup to your favorite Green and White hoodie, it’s your go-to spot for everything Eastern.”

The new location will be operated and managed by eCampus.com. In addition to selling EMU branded merchandise, it will provide book rental returns, textbook buyback and pickup for online orders.

“eCampus.com is proud to expand our partnership with Eastern Michigan

University to now include the on-campus retail experience alongside our existing course material solutions,” Matt Montgomery, president and CEO of eCampus.com, said in a statement.

Thrasher said this change is part of a bigger movement to make essential resources more accessible to students.

With the previous bookstore closed, students looking to purchase school supplies on campus can visit the lowest level of the Halle Library. There they can find a vending machine that sells school supplies, including pens, pencils, flash drives, tape, scissors and more. Those interested should be aware that the machine accepts cash only.

As the university continues to make changes, students should keep an eye on their email for updates.

What's the Move?

Sep. 16 - Sep. 22

Israel Shriki & Allie Beecher
News Reporter & Copy Editor Chief

Looking for an interesting event to spice up the week? Check out one of these local events.

ESL Community Tutoring with Washtenaw Literacy, Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025

The Ypsilanti District Library invites people from the community for an English as a second language community learning experience.

Students who speak English as a second language can join the group to practice skills in English in an informal class setting.

The group will meet from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Nov. 25, 2025, in the Superior Meeting Room at the Ypsilanti District Library’s Superior Township branch, located at 1900 Harris Road. Directions to the branch are available on the library’s website.

There is no need to register, and participation is free.

MI Fusion Connection & Brazilian Zouk, Friday-Sunday, Sept. 26-28

Students who haven’t yet heard about the Brazilian Zouk dance have an opportunity to learn the moves at the MI Fusion Connection event organized by the Rhizome Roots Studio in Ypsilanti. Three nights in a row of Fusion, Brazilian Zouk, and Blues dancing are scheduled for this weekend, offering opportunities for beginners and more advanced dancers.

Participants will learn some dancing skills and have a chance to practice those skills across three nights at the Concourse Hall in Ann Arbor. Each day, the event begins at 7 p.m. and ends at 11 p.m.

The Rhizome Roots Studio regularly hosts dance events at its Ypsilanti studio, located at 108 Pearl St., but the MI Fusion Connection event will take place in the Concourse Hall in Ann Arbor, located at 4531 Concourse Drive.

Event tickets range from \$45 to \$219 and are available online.

True Crime Murder Mystery Dinner Show, Saturday, Sept. 27

Dining in a restaurant might sound like an ordinary event, but what if the restaurant turns out to be a crime scene? Between a toast and a bite, guests might find themselves suspected of the crime during this dinner theater event staged at the Ann Arbor Marriott at Eagle Crest Resort, located at 1275 S. Huron St. in Ypsilanti.

The show offers an opportunity for those who love food and comedy to spend a mysterious evening at North America’s largest interactive comedy True Crime Murder Mystery Show. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. and lasts two and a half hours.

General admission tickets include the dinner and the full show experience. Adding a suspect package is optional.

The restaurant’s menu and more information are available on the dinner show’s website.

Bread and Puppet Fall 2025 Circus Tour, Sunday, Sept. 28

Founded in 1963, the Bread and Puppet Theater is one of the oldest nonprofit political theater organizations in the United States. This year, Bread and Puppet will be coming to Riverside Park, located at 2 E. Cross St. in Ypsilanti, to present Our Domestic Resurrection Revolution in Progress Circus. The show will take place at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 28.

After the show, Bread and Puppet will serve sourdough rye bread and aioli. Attendees can also purchase books, posters, postcards, pamphlets and more from the Bread and Puppet Press.



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Facebook @ The Eastern Echo

Fraternities, sororities, campus groups mark National Hazing Prevention Week

Ky'anna Coats
Staff Writer

Eastern Michigan University’s fraternities and sororities - and a number of other campus organizations - are gearing up for three days of special events to recognize National Hazing Prevention Week, which starts Monday, Sept. 22.

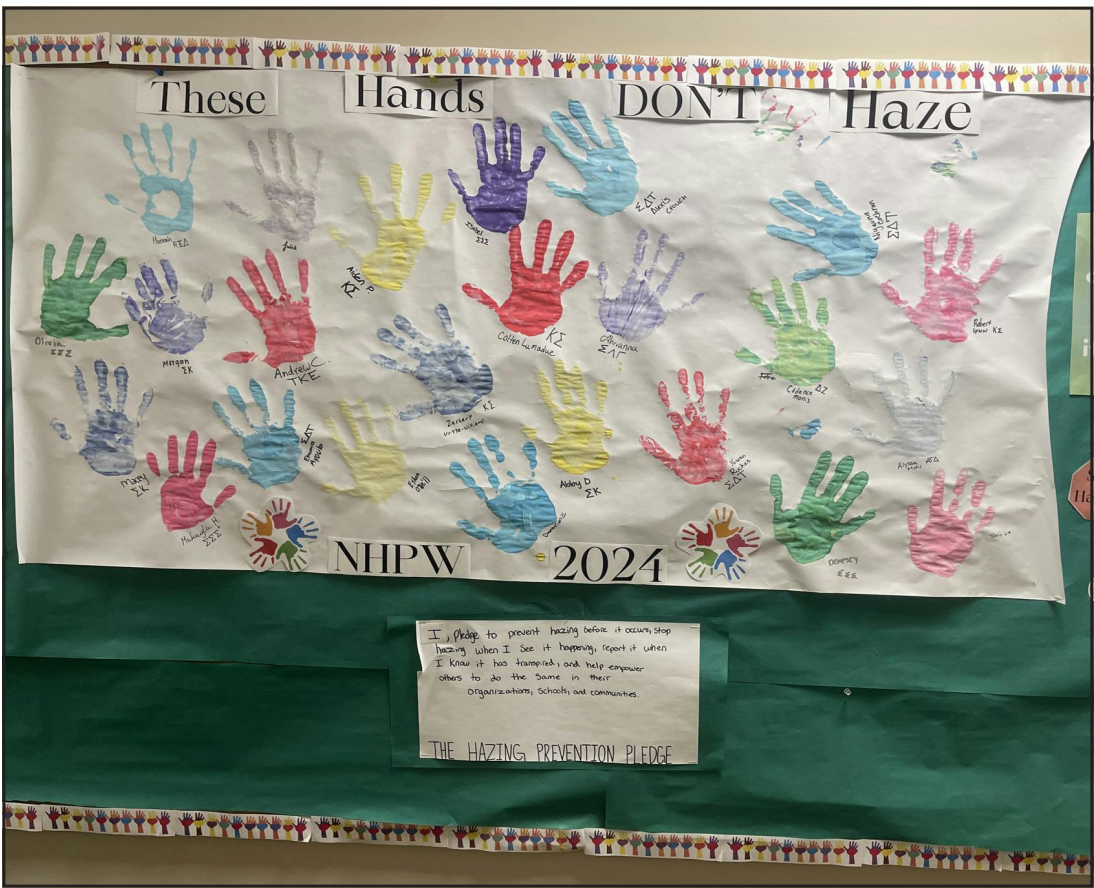
One of the key features of the events is that all students can make pledges against hazing. All EMU students also can participate in a number of hazing prevention-focused activities.

“We want to do all that we can to make sure people are aware of what hazing is, the dangers it imposes, and how to put a stop to it,” Greek life coordinator Alyssa Mohr said. “Without that understanding, they could be victims of hazing without even knowing it.”

Mohr serves as the coordinator for Campus Life’s Fraternity and Sorority Life community, which includes four councils made up of about 200 students. She said EMU athletics, ROTC, the marching band, and theater forensics have all been invited to lead events for National Hazing Prevention Week.

The EMU Student code of Conduct defines hazing as “any action or activity committed by either active members, associate members or pledges of an organization for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization which inflicts or intends to cause physical or severe emotional distress and/or may demean, degrade, or disgrace any person.”

This definition was partially drawn from the federal Stop Campus Hazing Act, which was signed into law by then-President Joe Biden on Dec. 23, 2024.



This banner, created and displayed during the 2024 National Hazing Prevention Week, promotes the pledge that college students can make. *Contributed*

Among the events planned on campus are:

National Hazing Week Kick-Off - Monday, Sept. 23
From noon to 2 p.m., the National Hazing Week Kick-Off event will be hosted in the Student Center Lobby. Students will have the opportunity

to sign the hazing prevention pledge from the official Hazing Prevention Network website.
From 7-8:30 p.m., the Bystander Intervention Training will be held at the Student Center in room 310AB. Participants will be educated on how to recognize the signs of hazing and how to take action through reporting.

“Hazing” Screening - Tuesday, Sept. 24
From noon to 2 p.m. students can add their painted hand print to a banner as a pledge. Located in the Student Center Lobby. During the week, students are encouraged to wear purple and pledge that “These Hands Don’t Haze.”
From 7-9 p.m. students can attend a screening of “Hazing,” a documentary film by Byron Hur that explores the culture of hazing in regard to tradition for many organizations, such as fraternities and sororities, sports teams, and the military.

Hazing Prevention Jeopardy - Wednesday, Sept. 25
From 6-7 p.m. students can participant in the Hazing Prevention Jeopardy gamed in the Student Center, room 310A.
Mohr said she would love to see the week become a campus-wide event, beyond Fraternity and Sorority Life students.

“This is a care for EMU beyond, let’s make this place amazing, but also let’s make this place safe,” Mohr said.

According to the Hazing Prevention Network website, the nonprofit group started National Hazing Prevention Week to shift the focus of hazing discussions from punishment to prevention through education and resources.
For more information about Eastern Michigan University’s Hazing Week, visit National Hazing Prevention Week Kick Off.
To report hazing at Eastern Michigan University, go to the Hazing Concern Reporting Form.
These events are not LBC-credit approved.

EMU substance use prevention program receives \$200k grant

Josh Cromwell
Staff Writer

Ariel Pompey and Amber Horwitz have landed an opportunity to expand their 9-year-old substance use prevention project, thanks to a \$224,755 grant from the Washtenaw County Opioid Settlement Fund.

The money will be used to reach more youth with the program, called Prevention@EMU, that focuses on working with Ypsilanti area 11- to 15 year-olds.

“Our mission is to educate youth to make low-risk choices, reduce stigmatized views of individuals with substance use disorder, and promote healthier communities starting with our youngest residents,” Horwitz said in a written announcement on the grant award. “This funding allows us to reach more students and provide the tools they need to understand risk, make informed decisions, and develop empathy for others in their community.”

Pompey and Horwitz are co-directors of the program. The two partnered with the Washtenaw Alliance for Virtual Education, the Early College Alliance at EMU, and the Ypsilanti Community Schools to provide the program, which educates teens on ways to make low-risk decisions when it comes to substance use.

Prevention@EMU uses evidence-based research and destigmatized approaches to provide a safe space for groups of youths to safely and realistically learn about substances and how to make educated decisions, the creators explained on the program’s website.

The program uses tools specifically designed for tweens and teens, aiding conversations about substances such as vaping, smoking, and alcohol and promoting a recovery-oriented mindset. Pompey and Horwitz have four different program offerings aimed at different age groups and covering different types of topics. Program types range from those using theater techniques to those covering social skills and violence reduction.

The overall goal of the program and its directors is to reach children before they face choices about addictive substances. In addition to promoting informed decision making, the program leaders work to break down stigmas regarding addictive behaviors and to cultivate empathy for everyone within their community.

“We incorporate evidence-based research with creative, engaging approaches to connect with students,” Pompey said in the announcement. “This grant empowers us to expand our program, reaching critical age groups before first use and equipping them with the skills to navigate choices around substance use.”

Funding for the grant comes from Washtenaw County’s opioid settlement fund, which was established following the settlement of lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies and their distributors regarding their contribution to the opioid crisis. Over an 18-year period, starting in 2023, Washtenaw County is set to receive \$16.3 million in funds.

The money received in the opioid settlement fund is designed to go toward remediation, prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and improving access to health services. The funding for Prevention@EMU comes from a portion dedicated to proposals sent to the county and are due to begin rolling out in October 2025.

Prevention@EMU is just one of nine organizations awarded funding based on their submitted proposals. The grant period is for three years.

The \$224,756 in grant funding will be used to reach a greater audience of Ypsilanti area youths by providing facilitator salaries, program supplies and other materials needed for making the prevention education possible. Those who participate in the program include more than Pompey and Horwitz, who as co-directors lead a full staff. While the team has a clinical social worker on staff, all other staff involved in the Prevention@EMU program are certified in evidence-based curriculum and work with certified prevention specialists.

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NEW! Ninja Warrior Challenge
NEW! Viking Invasion

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EMU snaps eight game losing skid, defeats ULL on Homecoming

Caleb Henderson
Sports Editor

For the first time since Oct. 19, 2024, Eastern Michigan University’s football team is back in the win column.

The Eagles survived a late comeback attempt by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in one of college football’s games of the year, the leg of true freshman kicker Rudy Kessinger booting a game-winning 42-yard field goal through the uprights with three seconds left to propel Eastern Michigan to their first win of 2025.

Kessinger, who made three of four field goal attempts last week on the road against the University of Kentucky Wildcats, came in clutch once again when his number was called. The Toledo native missed a previous field goal attempt in the final frame but came through for his team with the go-ahead kick when it mattered most.

“It’s a huge weapon,” Eagles Head Coach Chris Creighton said in a pre-game presser about Kessinger’s hot start to his collegiate career.

“We’re not surprised, but at the same time, doing it for the first time, it’s awesome to see him starting out so strong,” he added.

The kick from Kessinger capped off an electric day by the Eagles offense, reaching their season high points total with a balanced attack courtesy of 226 yards through the air and 183 yards on the ground.

Despite throwing his first pick-six as an Eagle midway through the third quarter, Noah Kim batted back to post his second straight multi-touchdown game.

The graduate transfer passed for 226 yards and a touchdown while also adding six points to the board via his legs for the second straight week.



Tavierre Dunlap celebrates in the end zone after scoring a touchdown against Louisiana Lafayette. *Bradán Copeland / The Eastern Echo*

Kim has begun to establish himself as a viable dual threat option to open up further rushing lanes for Eastern Michigan’s developing two-headed rushing attack.

Halfbacks Dontae McMillan and Tavierre Dunlap combined for 166 rushing yards and two rushing touchdowns. McMillan raked in the bulk of the yards (121) while Dunlap provided both trips to the endzone, carving out his role as the team’s goal line back.

Even with the Rajin’ Cajuns’ best efforts to make EMU receiving threat Terry Lockett Jr. inconspicuous, other Eagles stepped up to fill the void for “The Deuce” as he had only two catches and 29 yards receiving.

Nick Devereaux, Eastern Michigan’s fastest target, burst onto the scene with

four pivotal catches for 76 yards, while Joshua Long caught another receiving touchdown on a two-minute drill late in the first half. Porter Rooks also hauled in seven receptions for 39 yards as Kim’s safety valve throughout the afternoon.

With the win, Eastern Michigan extended their win streak on homecoming to five games, the second longest stretch of wins on homecoming games in program history, and improved their record to 1-3 heading into conference play. On the other hand, Louisiana Lafayette dropped to 1-3 to conclude their nonconference portion of the campaign.

“Our football team, we are in good shape. It is right there for us, our guys are all in, we’re together, and those [positive] moments, they haven’t

happened yet. But they’re going to, we have the pieces,” Creighton remarked in a pre-game press conference about his team’s outlook despite a rough start to the season.

Creighton’s words of affirmation came to fruition for Eastern Michigan on Saturday and may have been just what his program needed to save their season as they embark on the next two months of Mid-American Conference action, starting with an in-state foe.

The Eagles hope to continue their positive momentum as they head on the road up to Mount Pleasant to face off against the Central Michigan University Chippewas next Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025, at 1 p.m. Viewers can catch all of the action live on ESPN+.

Eagle Sports Tips & Tales: Sept. 23-29

Caleb Henderson
Sports Editor

With fall sports in full swing, here’s a look at some of this week’s top storylines from Eastern Michigan University’s various athletic disciplines.

Football | Eastern Michigan begins Mid American Conference play against Central Michigan

Fresh off their first win in 336 days, Eastern Michigan’s football team aims to continue riding their wave of momentum directly into conference play with a date against a familiar opponent.

The green and white will hit the road once more to face off against Central Michigan University Chippewas, the team the Eagles had most recently defeated prior to their dramatic triumph against Louisiana at Lafayette last Saturday.

In their last meeting, the Eagles outscored the Chippewas 22-7 in the fourth quarter to complete an immaculate comeback, winning against their in-state foe and scoring their fourth consecutive homecoming victory at the time.

This meeting between the two Michigan schools will be in Mount Pleasant, however, a place in which the Eagles have not won in since 2011.

Kickoff for this matchup is slated for 1 p.m. on Sept. 27, with viewers being able to stream all the action live on ESPN+.

Volleyball | Eastern Michigan goes 1-2 competing in Butler Invitational

It was a mixed bag for the Eastern Michigan women’s volleyball team on their most recent trip to Indianapolis over the weekend. They took home another win over Oakland University but fell to IU Indianapolis and Butler University along the way.

Despite the losses, Hatteras Welker continued her early season dominance with her 11 block performance against Butler, the second most by any player in a single match in school history. Ashlynn Belcher also reached more than 500+ digs in her collegiate career, posting nine digs in that same match.

The Eagles’ 1-2 mark in the tournament drops them to 8-5 on the campaign, with conference play now looming large and in-state foe Western Michigan University next on the schedule Sept. 25, at 6 p.m. Viewers can stream all the action live on YouTube under Western Michigan’s YouTube channel.

Women’s Golf | Janae Leovao named MAC Golfer of the Week

Welcome to Ypsilanti, Janae Leovao.

It did not take long for the former Long Beach State University transfer to make her impact felt on the Eastern Michigan women’s golf team. The senior won back-to-back individual titles to open 2025 and propelled the program as a whole to their first sequential tournament wins since 2021-22.

Leovao, who had not won an individual title prior to this season, boasts a 151-0-1 record through the first two tournaments in 2025. Neither she nor her sister Jasmine Leovao will compete in the team’s next event, the Golfweek Red Sky Classic from Sept. 22-24, 2025, as the pair take preliminary steps to qualify for the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour next year.

Eastern Michigan women's soccer defeats Buffalo 1-0, first win over Bulls since 2019



Eastern Michigan Eagles soccer players celebrate a hard-earned goal against Central Michigan on Sept. 19, 2024, sealing a 1-0 victory on their home turf. *Courtesy of EMU Athletics*

Jeffrey Ellingsworth
Sports Reporter

It had been six years since the Eastern Michigan University women’s soccer team had beaten the University at Buffalo Bulls back in 2019, but that was before either team had stepped onto the field, and this time, Eastern was poised to flip the script.

After falling to Loyola University Chicago 2-0 on September 11, the Eagles aimed for a bounce-back win to kick off homecoming week right and begin their quest for a Mid-American Conference Tournament berth.

Eagles goalkeeper Ella Holland earned her second clean sheet of the season as she led Eastern to a 1-0 victory and sent Buffalo packing with their first loss to Eastern in six years.

The game was a defensive battle from the get-go as neither team wanted to let long passes fall in behind their defense. Buffalo had the advantage early as they attacked the 50/50 balls and continuously put pressure on

the Eagles’ offense, leading to many turnovers and changes in the pace of play.

Buffalo’s break came in the 15th minute when a lapse in the Eastern defense allowed the Bulls to have a one-on-one opportunity with the goal. Unfortunately for Buffalo, Ella Holland was in goal.

A sprawling butterfly save by Holland pushed the ball wide of the net, giving Eastern defenders time to recover and clear the ball away from the danger area.

In the 19th minute, Holland had a diving save as she punched the ball out for a corner kick which allowed Eastern to reset. In the 33rd, Holland had to stretch to push a Buffalo shot over the crossbar.

By the time the first half ended, Holland had made five saves compared to just one from Buffalo goalkeeper Lexie Thompson.

The Eagles offense in the first half struggled as they had trouble connecting passes in the final third

and building on their momentum. The Eagles earned a corner kick in the 35th minute that almost resulted in an Eastern goal, but the ball got trapped in between defenders, leading to an easy goalie clearance and the Eagles having to retreat and reset.

The first half ended scoreless as both teams’ defenses bent but did not break, with neither team being able to capitalize on the mistakes or the swings in momentum.

The second half started quickly for the Eagles as they were able to push the ball downfield and get in behind the Bulls defense, forcing Buffalo’s goalkeeper Thompson to step up and make a save, but still the score remained 0-0. Buffalo countered, but nothing came from it as the Eagles defense increased the pressure they put on the ball and got the turnovers they needed.

A turnover by the Bulls resulted in Olivia Sipsock taking possession, with Sipsock passing the ball to Meredith Werner who laid a beautiful pass back

to Sipsock in between two Buffalo defenders, allowing Sipsock the time and space to take on another defender and then with her left foot center a shot to the top right corner of the goal.

The ball was tipped by Buffalo goalie Lexie Thompson, but she could not completely redirect it as the ball hit the back of the net, putting the Eagles up 1-0 three minutes into the second half.

With 42 minutes still to play in the second half, the Eagles continued to attack Buffalo’s defense but were unable to find any more offensive brilliance to increase their lead. Not to worry, as the heroics were being displayed on the other side of the field once again by Holland and the Eastern defense.

Eastern’s defense remained strong in the second half; Buffalo registered five corner kicks, but all were shut down.

After the game, Eastern Coach Taylor Clarke emphasized consistency and effort.

“I think just the level of consistency and the level of determination to go and repeat the effort,” Clarke said. “The last thing you want to do is think you’ve done one and the next one’s just going to happen. You have to work even harder for the second one, and harder for the third. That’s all we’re going to do, focus on the next one and take care of business.”

Clarke also praised Holland’s performance.

“No real surprise. She circles every single opponent and wants to play her best game every opportunity,” he said. “She has a special mentality when it comes to that.”

The Eagles are away for their next two MAC contests as they will travel to take on the University of Toledo Rockets on Sept. 21, 2025, for a 1 p.m. kickoff and the Miami University Redhawks on Sept. 25, 2025, at 7 p.m. Eastern Michigan will return home on Sept. 28 for a matchup against the Ohio University Bobcats for Kids Day at Scicluna Field.



IGG exhibit explores relationship to masks

'Mask Mandate' opens in EMU Student Center Gallery with student works from Digital Fabrication class

Katherine Tatomir
Newsletter Editor

Intermedia Gallery Group's new exhibit, "Mask Mandate," explores masks as they relate to the human experience and how they are as complex as the process of making them. Intermedia Gallery Group is Eastern Michigan University's student-run art gallery. It was founded in 1977, and has completed a wide range of projects during its almost 50-year history. The flyer for "Mask Mandate" reminds readers to think about their experiences wearing masks during the Covid-19 pandemic, and asks that, "...students reconsider their relationships with masks and wearable artwork."

Next to most of the pieces in the exhibit, there are pictures of students wearing their masks to

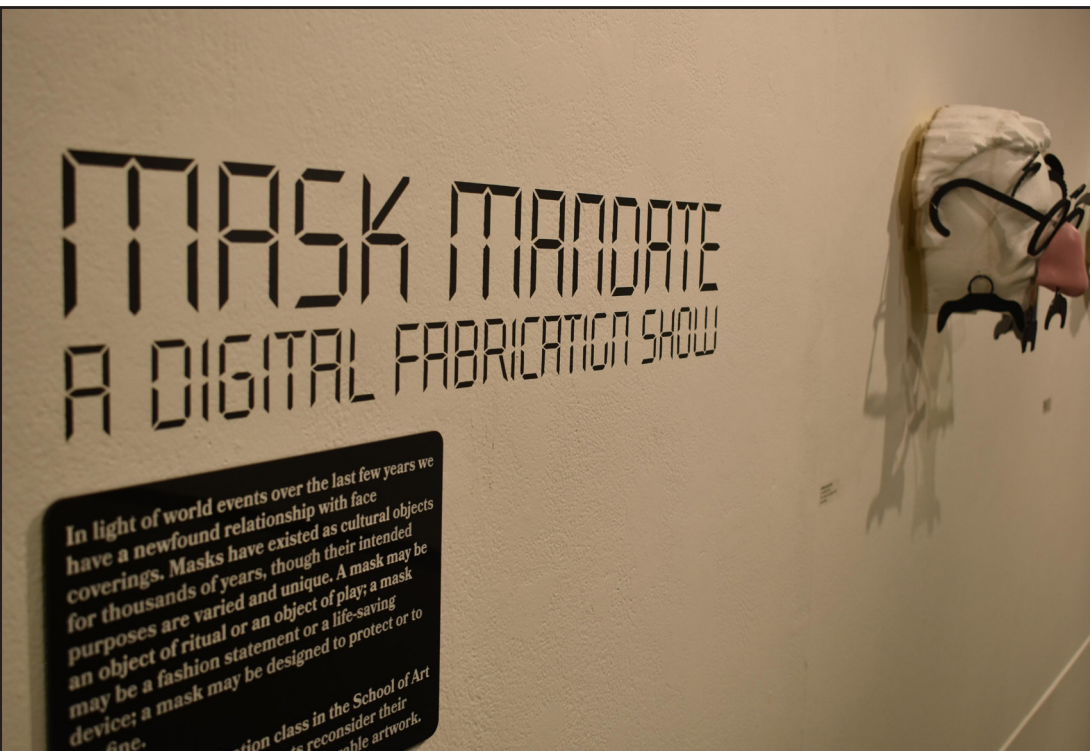
give the viewer an idea of the mask's intended use. Kristen Holsworth is the president of Intermedia Gallery Group for the 2025-2026 school year, and was co-president with two other students last year. She joined the group not necessarily expecting to take on the role of co-president, but her passion for protecting a space for student art and community was all that she needed to know that the role was right for her. "I wanted to become president to make sure that the community thrived and continued to grow into more than just a space in the student center," Holsworth said. "We all want our voices heard."

Holsworth believes that Intermedia Gallery Group is a great place for students of any background or major to express themselves and find a sense of community through art. Being a student-run gallery, Intermedia

Gallery Group depends on student engagement to create exhibits and keep its ambition alive. "I know [Intermedia Gallery Group] has changed and evolved over the fifty years it has been around. That's what I want it to keep doing after I leave," Holsworth said. Aside from self-expression, Holsworth sees Intermedia Gallery Group as a place for students to gain real-world experience of their craft before they graduate college. "I've not only gotten great real world experience out of being a part of this group, I've gotten friends and people I can rely on," Holsworth said. Jason Ferguson, a professor in the EMU School of Art & Design since 2010, originally created the "Mask Mandate" project during the Covid-19 pandemic for his Digital Fabrication class. The project has served as a practical and meaningful

way to further his students' knowledge about 3-D printing, and the creation of some of the masks included in the exhibition date as far back as 2022. "It has been wonderful working with Aya Bazzi and Kristen Holsworth of IGG to curate the show from the class's archives and to see this exhibition come to fruition," Ferguson said. "Mask Mandate" opened on Sept. 8 in Intermedia Gallery Group's Student Center Gallery, and will come to a close on Sept. 25. The public reception was held on Sept. 18 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Photo Gallery by
Max Taylor



A sign in the gallery describing the mission of the Digital Fabrication students who brought "Mask Mandate" to life.



Students and faculty browse Intermedia Gallery Group's first show of the season titled "Mask Mandate" at their public reception on Sept. 18.



"Divine Pain in My Glass," a mask made of 3D printed material and glass work, by Katie Cooper displayed in IGG's season opening gallery titled "Mask Mandate."



Artwork by Sierra Fancher doubling as a performance piece as they balance on a platform mirroring the pose of the statue across from them.



3D artwork, "Airbourne," by Ayah Baydoun displayed in IGG's gallery for the "Mask Mandate" show.



Students and faculty browse Intermedia Gallery Group's first show of the season titled "Mask Mandate" at their public reception on Sept. 18.

HAVEN'T CHOSEN A MAJOR YET?

NO...

MY PARENTS ARE DOCTORS.

THE WORK THEY DO IS REALLY IMPORTANT.

I DON'T THINK I WANT TO DO THAT, THOUGH.

SO I'M TRYING EVERYTHING I CAN!

WHAT'S YOUR MAJOR?

THEATRE. MY MOM WOULD RATHER I NOT CHOOSE IT, BUT I'M DOING IT ANYWAY.

WHOA! THAT'S SO COOL!

HAHA, THANKS.

YOU'RE WELCOME!

NEVER MIND... I THINK I HAVE ONE ACQUAINTANCE, AT LEAST.

A crossword puzzle grid with 11 numbered starting points. The grid is 10 squares wide and 15 squares high. The numbers are: 1 (down, top center), 2 (across, top right), 3 (across, middle left), 4 (down, middle left), 5 (across, middle left), 6 (across, middle right), 7 (down, middle left), 8 (across, middle left), 9 (across, middle right), 10 (across, bottom left), 11 (across, bottom right).

1. The Fall _____ will have pumpkin painting, donuts, and games
2. The _____ College is hosting Bingo Night September 23rd
3. Some events offer this graduation requirement
4. The day an event takes place
6. Hosting an annual "Pumpkins on the Patio" event October 28th
8. National _____ Prevention Week starts September 22nd

[illegible]

A four-panel comic strip. Panel 1: A woman with short black hair and a crescent moon on her head looks shocked, with her hand raised. Panel 2: She sits at a desk, talking to a man with brown hair. Panel 3: She stands and talks to a doctor in blue scrubs. Panel 4: She looks at a pink, tentacle-like creature on a table. The creature has a face and is holding a small object. The artist's signature 'M16' is in the bottom right corner.



Eastern Michigan celebrates earliest homecoming with first season win



Louisiana Lafayette running back Zylan Perry hurdles over Eastern Michigan defensive back Dramarian McNulty. Bradan Copeland / The Eastern Echo

Eastern Michigan University celebrated an early homecoming Saturday, Sept. 20. This year's homecoming was the earliest in school history, usurping the previous Sept. 21, 2013 record by a single day. EMU students, staff, alumni and community members celebrated the "Paint it Green" homecoming theme with spirit tables, stuffed eagle plushies,

tailgating and more. The halftime show featured a combined performance between EMU marching band and Drew and Kin, an EMU alumni piano-rock duo. Fans celebrated Eastern Michigan's first football win of the season at the homecoming game with EMU beating Louisiana-Lafayette 34-31.



Homecoming week offered students the opportunity to make their own eagle. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo



EMU trumpet players dancing along to Drew and Kin during the halftime performance. Bradan Copeland / The Eastern Echo



Kin Curran sings at the EMU Homecoming halftime show. Bradan Copeland / The Eastern Echo



Eastern Michigan's ground attack was an integral part to their Homecoming win, rushing for 183 yards as a team. Bradan Copeland / The Eastern Echo



LEFT: EMU celebrates its earliest Homecoming on Sept. 20. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo

For more photos head to our website:



RIGHT: EMU football plays the Louisiana Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns at Rynearson Field. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo



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