



The Eastern Echo

Volume 142, Issue 17
Serving EMU and Ypsilanti since 1881

Tuesday, September 16, 2025
easternecho.com

Cellar Roots debuts new arts publication

Literary magazine open for submissions



Cellar Roots at the 2025 Student Media Gala in the Ypsilanti Freighthouse on Thursday, March 27. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo

Natalie Kyle
Managing Editor

Eastern Michigan University's student-operated fine arts and literary magazine, *Cellar Roots*, introduced *Roots*, a new arts and entertainment publication, in collaboration with *The Eastern Echo*.

Roots will be a monthly magazine and distributed as an insert inside the print edition of *The Eastern Echo*. Current readers of the Sept. 16, 2025, print issue can find the first copy of *Roots* within their paper.

Roots will expand upon *The Eastern Echo's* arts section by highlighting EMU and Ypsilanti arts news and events as well as local artists, musicians and more. Artists of the month and historical *Cellar Roots* volumes will be spotlighted in each issue.

Madison Cantrell, editor-in-chief of *Cellar Roots* and arts editor at *The Eastern Echo*, hopes that *Roots* will "inform our readers about the vibrant arts community in their city."

Cantrell also expressed hope that *Roots* will further connect *Cellar Roots* and *The Echo* as the two teams collaborate on the publication.

What is Cellar Roots?

Cellar Roots aims to highlight student artists and provide a platform to publish their work. The team produces an annual fine arts magazine that features 2D, 3D and digital art submissions as well as photography, short stories, prose and poetry.

At the end of the academic year, the chosen submissions of *Cellar Roots* Volume 52 will be showcased on campus in the Intermedia Gallery Group's Student Center gallery.

The history of *Cellar Roots* dates back to 1971, when the first official volume was released. Warren Brown, editor-in-chief of *Cellar Roots*' first issue, had a specific goal in mind when naming the publication.

"Students with these varying backgrounds should have a magazine whose name has something in common with all," Brown said. "The 'Roots' symbolize the deep growth and natural expansion that is creativity. The 'Cellar' is the man-made thing that comes closest to the roots."

To learn more about the original 1971 *Cellar Roots* publication, read this week's issue of *Roots*. The latest edition of *Cellar Roots*, Volume 51, can be purchased on Amazon.com for \$20.

Why join Cellar Roots?

When joining *Cellar Roots*, students can expect a hands-on, collaborative team experience.

Laurence Bourdeau, now an elementary school art teacher, worked on the *Cellar Roots* team as a graphic designer and design lead from 2023 to 2025.

"With regular classes, we didn't really do a lot of group work," Bourdeau said "so it was really important for clubs to be that space, to [say], 'All right, we're on our own; how do we make what we want to make happen, happen?'"

Ashley Schemer, now a graduate student at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, worked as a graphic designer on the *Cellar Roots* team for two years, starting in 2023.

"*Cellar Roots* helped prepare me for my career as a graphic designer by introducing me to collaborative teamwork and teaching me how to make design decisions that aligned with the publication's needs," Schemer said in an email. "I also gained hands-on experience working with other artists, learning from their expertise, and promoting their creative achievements."

How to get involved

Students can get involved with *Roots* and *Cellar Roots* in a number of ways. *The Eastern Echo* is hiring arts and entertainment writers for the *Roots*. *Cellar Roots* is looking for students to fill leadership, layout design and graphic illustrator positions. Those interested can email managing@easternecho.com and cellarroots@easternecho.com for more information.

Additionally, students and EMU alumni can submit their work for the upcoming edition of *Cellar Roots*, Volume 52. Submissions can be made through a Google Form until Dec. 13.



The former dining market on the second floor of the Pray-Harrold building sits empty Thursday, Sept. 11. Eastern Michigan University and its EIDining program closed several campus markets Christine Uthoff / The Eastern Echo

EMU announces reopening of Pray-Harrold market as a grab-and-go food center

The Eastern Echo Staff

Eastern Michigan University officials announced in a series of emails that the EIDining market in Pray-Harrold is scheduled to reopen this fall, although in a different format than before.

The emails also explained that the now-empty bookstore space in the Student Center will soon house a new shop where students and fans can purchase EMU-branded apparel, home goods and more.

Pray-Harrold Market

In an email sent to students Wednesday, Sept. 10, Walter Kraft, the university's vice president for communications, said the Pray-Harrold market would reopen later this fall as a grab-and-go center.

"We're committed to continually evaluating and improving your experience, and we'll keep making thoughtful adjustments to better serve your needs," university officials said in the email.

When students arrived on campus Aug. 25, the Pray-Harrold market and three others, including the one in the Student Center, were closed. This decision was shared with students in an Aug. 18 email, just a week before move-in. In that correspondence, university and EIDining managers said the changes were made to reflect student needs.

The day after the closure announcement, students created an online petition through Change.org demanding that the markets reopen.

"They stated that this was what students wanted," student and petition-creator Jason Folk told *The Echo*. "Considering the increasing backlash and the number of signatures, they

were wrong. They obviously did not think through the impacts of this in the community and on students."

The petition also demanded a town-hall style conversation with EIDining, extended hours for the food services operations that remain open, and replacement of the restaurant-style options in the Student Center that were closed along with the markets. As of Friday, Sept. 12, the petition had 1,623 signatures.

Before students were informed, a Sept. 5 email sent to EMU employees from the university's communications division stated that "the changes focus on expanding services to high traffic areas and updating, modifying or eliminating venues with lower usage."

Language in the online petition claimed that the changes do the opposite.

"By removing frequently used locations on campus (The Markets) and replacing them with nothing, these changes do not benefit students. Instead, they rob students, faculty and staff of a convenient option between classes," the petition states. "Furthermore, by removing options in the Student Center, which were primarily underused due to limited hours (not a lack of student interest), this will concentrate students in one part of campus, leading to worse wait times and a continually unsatisfactory experience."

The email to employees also said that in the two weeks since the initial market closures were announced, "Chartwells and the University have reviewed those changes and are in the process of enhancing that original plan to assure access to food or drinks across campus."

SEE PRAY-HARROLD, PAGE 4

City of Ypsilanti distributes uniform trash bins for residents

Lilly Kujawski
News Reporter

Distribution of new, uniform trash bins is now underway for residents in the City of Ypsilanti. The change comes as the city's garbage collection service, contracted by Stevens Disposal, moves to an automated side loader.

New bins for residents

Each household will receive a single, standardized covered 96-gallon bin, replacing previous rules that allowed households to use up to three resident-supplied 33-gallon bins, said Jeremiah Brown, communications assistant for the City of Ypsilanti.

The change only applies to City of Ypsilanti residents, not township residents, he added.

All city residents must begin using only the new 96-gallon bins only by Sept. 29, 2025. Trash placed in other bins or outside the bin will not be collected. Items placed on top of the bin will result in the entire bin and the



The new trash bins from Stevens Disposal are in use at many Ypsilanti residences in the Historic District. Lilly Kujawski / The Eastern Echo

item being skipped.

Switching to these larger single bins and the automated side loader keeps up with technology updates and standards across other municipalities, Brown said. The covered bins will also help address litter and vermin, he added.

The change will not affect recycling or yard waste pickup; however, residents currently receiving trash and recycling pickup on Fridays will receive pickup on Thursdays instead beginning Sept. 29, 2025, Brown said.

SEE TRASH BINS, PAGE 3

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

Last week's print edition of the Eastern Echo misstated the date of a home football game in the calendar section. The game against Jacksonville State took place Sept. 14, 2024.

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



SEPT

16

Women & Gender Studies
Welcome Reception

From 3:30pm - 5:00pm
Bob's Lake House — Ypsilanti, MI 48197

SEPT

17

Homecoming Trap Karaoke
Night

From 8:00pm - 10:00pm
Student Center — Ballroom

SEPT

18

Soccer vs. Buffalo

From 4:00pm - 6:30pm
Paul Scicluna Soccer Field — Huron River + Hewitt, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

SEPT

19

D.Y.N.A.S.T.Y 25th Anniversary
Homecoming Cabaret

From 8:30pm
Ypsilanti Masonic Lodge — 5752 Whittaker Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

SEPT

20

Homecoming Football
Game and Tailgate Event

All Day
Rynearson Stadium — 799 N Hewitt Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

SEPT

22

National Hazing Prevention
Week Kick Off

From 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Student Center — Lobby Tables

SEPT

23

What's Your Goal? - Eagle
Transfer Pathways Program

From 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Sill Hall — Room 124

WEATHER
FORECAST

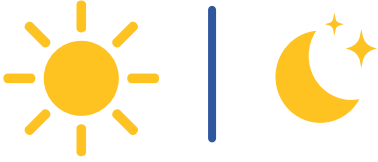
Tuesday, September 16

High: 83 | Low: 56



Wednesday, September 17

High: 84 | Low: 56



Thursday, September 18

High: 85 | Low: 58



Friday, September 19

High: 82 | Low: 57



Saturday, September 20

High: 74 | Low: N/A



Source:
The National Weather
Service

Where to find
The Eastern Echo:

Off Campus:

- Black Stone Books on Michigan Avenue
- Sidetrack Bar & Grill in Depot Town
- Golden Egg on Washtenaw Avenue

On Campus:

- Halle Library
- Westview Apartments

Where to find our links:



Instagram @easternechoofficial



TikTok @theeasternecho



Facebook @ The Eastern Echo



Displays outside the Eastern Michigan University Office of Academic Travel Programs, on the second floor of the Student Center, promote trips to other countries as a part of the learning experience. Laura Meriweather / The Eastern Echo

Study Abroad Fair offers EMU students a chance to see the world

Laura Meriweather
News Reporter

Spain, Japan, New Zealand, the Czech Republic and France: these countries have something in common on the Eastern Michigan University campus. Two upcoming fairs hosted by the university’s Office of Academic Travel Programs aim to help students study in those countries and others.

The first and largest fair is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025, on the first floor of the Student Center. Several programs will have tables set up where students can talk to representatives about the different countries and schedules and even start the application process in person.

Using a similar format to EagleFest, the student organization fair held the second week of the semester in University Park, the Study Abroad and U.S. Travel Programs Fair allows students to walk through at their leisure and approach tables promoting programs that interest them. The event will include a raffle where multiple students will have the opportunity to win a \$100 application fee waiver.

Less than a month later, on Oct. 7, the Honors College will host a smaller fair from 5 to 6:30 p.m. that will start with a 20-minute presentation.

Honors College Assistant Director Nick Malendowski said this event usually draws about 50 people and is more structured. Still, it is open to any student who is interested in learning more or getting involved, regardless of whether or not they are in the Honors College. Like the Student Center fair, there will also be tables after the presentation where students can interact with people who have more information on the individual programs.

A list of available programs can be found on the university’s study abroad webpage, which is always being updated, Kristen Krug-Shaffer said. Krug-Shaffer manages program development for the university’s academic travel programs. She also said there are more than 200 options for students to choose from on almost every continent.

“OK, well, maybe not Antarctica,” she said.

The logistical details of different programs can vary significantly, with some programs at international, EMU-affiliated universities lasting a full semester where students can take directly transferable credits and use their EMU scholarships and financial aid to pay

for the relevant fees. Other programs are shorter, like the upcoming EMU faculty-led New York City trip lasting as little as a week.

“When it comes to cost, it varies greatly,” Krug-Shaffer said. She offered an example of a Scotland program that costs roughly \$25,000 for a semester that includes tuition and housing. “But, if you wanted to go someplace like Spain, or, possibly, South Korea, or maybe some locations in Latin America, you can actually live abroad for something comparable to what we would charge here at EMU for a full course load.”

Krug-Shaffer said even a short-term experience can be valuable.

“I honestly would say that it’s even a greater opportunity for students who never had the opportunity to live on campus, because they get that opportunity to ... travel and live with a group of students,” Krug-Shaffer said of the travel abroad programs. “A lot of times we have students who made ... lifelong friends on these programs.”

Malendowski, who plans the Honors College fair in collaboration with Krug-Shaffer, said study abroad programs present more opportunities than simply traveling abroad with one’s own agenda.

In addition to gaining college credit, Malendowski said, “each program is a little different with how they do it, but ... you’re able to get funding to go, which can help with those travel expenses as well.”

Malendowski also said students have leeway in choosing whether they’d like to be in a program with other EMU students or one where they have independence to explore and meet new people on their own.

Reflecting on his own time studying abroad while he was an undergrad, Malendowski said it was eye-opening for him to experience a new place from an anthropological lens.

“I think it helps to see, like, just differences between how the U.S. operates compared to other countries, just how people approach different situations,” Malendowski said. “A lot of times they have mealtimes that are really different, and I thought that was a really interesting, just like, small thing.”

The Office of Academic Travel Programs is on the second floor of the Student Center. Contact office staff at 734-487-2424 or programs.abroad@emich.edu.

What's the Move?

Sep. 16 - Sep. 22

Israel Shriki
News Reporter

Riverside’s Ypsi Fine Arts Club, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025

The Ypsi Fine Arts Club at the Riverside Arts Center invites art lovers, artists, and all to celebrate original work during regular gatherings.

Event organizers said the club’s vision was inspired by the Detroit Fine Arts Breakfast Club. The events, held twice a month, emphasize local artists and local art. Artists are welcome to bring their works and shed some light on the creation process.

Artists can bring up to two pieces of art to the presentation. Visitors do not have to present.

The gatherings occur at Riverside’s Ypsi Fine Arts Club at 76 North Huron st. in Ypsilanti from 5 to 8 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

For more information, see Riverside’s Ypsi Fine Arts Club’s website.

Joe Reilly & The Community Gardeners, Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025

“Music makes the people come together,” lyrics from a Madonna song, represent Joe Reilly’s agenda to bring the community together through the power of music.

Reilly and The Community Gardeners, his band, will perform pieces from Reilly’s new album “Learn to Love Again” at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse, starting at 7:30 p.m. The performance is part of the University Musical Society’s shows at the Freighthouse in September.

Admission is required with a “pay as you wish” method and a minimum of \$5 per ticket. To purchase tickets go to the UMS website.

Noah Jackson and Full Circle, Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 20-21, 2025

Grammy-nominated Noah Jackson comes to town during Eastern Michigan University’s homecoming weekend.

Music lovers who want to spend an evening with the sound of jazz are invited to attend Noah Jackson and Full Circle’s performances, which are also part of the University Musical Society’s shows at the Freighthouse.

The educated bassist, cellist, composer, and curator will perform with his band, the Full Circle.

Two events full of jazz music will be played at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse, the first at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, and the second event at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025.

Admission is required with a “pay as you wish” method, while a minimum \$5 charge is needed per ticket. For ticket purchasing, visit the UMS website.

Ypsi Fall River Day, Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025

The city of Ypsilanti Parks & Arts Commission and the Huron River Watershed Council scheduled this year’s Ypsi Fall River Day from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21.

Individuals and families are invited to Frog Island Park for an afternoon of river-themed activities. Participants can join in games, crafts, hiking and kayaking, and tour a live river critters exhibit. Other exhibitors will be present to share information about the river.

Organizations interested in exhibiting, vending, or tabling at the event can complete the form on the city’s website. Individuals interested in volunteering at Fall River Day can call the Huron River Watershed Council at 734-769-5123.

Attending the event is free, but those interested in kayaking must register. Kayaks and supplies are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Frog Island Park is at 699 Rice st. in Ypsilanti.

Trash Bins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Worker safety

The new automated side loader system works “kind of like a claw machine,” said Bonnie Wessler, director of public works for the City of Ypsilanti. The automated arm on the truck reaches out to pick up the bin and tip it into the truck, she explained.

Currently, trash is collected using a rear loader, requiring sanitation workers to hang off the back of the refuse truck and manually tip the bins into the truck through traffic and all weather conditions, Wessler said.

Wessler stated that the switch to an automated loader will help prevent worker injuries

Two years ago, a sanitation worker at Stevens Disposal was struck by a motorist, said Kevin Shipman, municipal and customer relations manager for Stevens Disposal. The automated loader will help prevent incidents like that, he said. He added that 90% of Stevens Disposal’s operations are now automated.

“It’s much safer for the drivers because they’re not getting out of the truck,” Shipman said.

In 2023, refuse and recyclable material collection was the fourth deadliest civilian occupation, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 74% of refuse truck-related deaths were related to transportation incidents, including struck-by incidents and

collisions involving other vehicles, said a 2024 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Locally, the City of Ann Arbor has used automated trucks for trash collection servicing single and two-family households since 2004, said Alison Heatley, solid waste manager for the City of Ann Arbor, in an email. Ann Arbor residents have used a city-issued bin for trash collection since the switch to automated trucks, according to Heatley in an email.

Residents react to new bins

Some city residents have already received their new bins. The new bins are bigger and a little heavier, said Celeste McClellan, an Ypsilanti resident who has lived in the city for more than 30 years. Previously, McClellan was using a smaller Rubbermaid bin from Ace Hardware.

The new bins roll with ease, reported KJ Miller, a city resident of 25 years. However, Miller said she was concerned about the pickup of large household items following the change to standardized bins.

Previously, residents were allowed to leave one additional item by the curb for pickup, Miller said. Starting Sept. 29, 2025, bulk items will be picked up on Fridays for all households and

pickup must be scheduled in advance by calling 734-279-2611 or emailing bulk@stevensdisposal.com, according to a public notice issued by the City of Ypsilanti.

Move to automation

Both McClellan and Miller also mentioned concerns about the move to automated services and the impact on jobs and workers.

The switch to the automated side loader will not result in any job loss, Shipman said. Currently, Ypsilanti’s two trash collection routes require two workers each, a driver and a “helper,” the person who manually loads the bins into the truck. Although the new automated system will require only one driver per route, it is not expected to result in any job loss. The “helper” position is the most difficult position to hire for because it is the most labor intensive, said Shipman. The update to an automated system will not eliminate jobs but rather allow the company to train and promote more employees to become drivers, he said.

“It’s definitely not eliminating any jobs; it’s just allowing us to train people with an actual [U.S. Department of Transportation Commercial Driver’s License] skillset and operate a truck that takes a lot more skill than just driving down the road,” he said.

“We’ve never laid anybody off ever in the history of our company,” Shipman said. “We’ve been very fortunate to grow and not have attrition.”

Cost and additional bins

Each household will receive a new bin, paid for by city property taxes and provided by Stevens Disposal, a waste disposal company based in Petersburg, Michigan. The City of Ypsilanti has contracted services from Stevens Disposal since 2019.

Currently, the city pays Stevens Disposal \$9.50 per household per month for residential curbside trash pickup, funded by city taxes, Wessler said in an email. 5,337 households receive curbside trash pickup service, according to information provided by Wessler. Multifamily and commercial properties are excluded from that, usually contracting their own haulers for pickup and paying for it themselves, she added.

Stevens Disposal provides trash collection services for at least 15 municipalities in Michigan, Shipman said.

Distribution of the new bins began the week of Sept. 8, 2025 and is expected to conclude by Sept. 19, 2025. If households require additional trash bins, residents can request to contract more directly from Stevens Disposal.

For questions or concerns about the change, or to report an extra or missing bin, residents should contact the City of Ypsilanti Department of Public Works at 734-483-1421 or DPW@cityofypsilanti.com. Residents can check their delivery address for the new trash carts at cityofypsilanti.com. For more information about trash disposal guidelines, residents can visit the city’s trash service webpage.



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Echo Q&A Series: A year after opening, Candy Coated Creamery is finding new ways to innovate

Laura Meriweather
News Reporter

Editor’s Note: *The Eastern Echo staff meets regularly with interesting people on and off campus. Engage in those conversations with us through our weekly Q&A report. This week, we talk with Seun Awosika, the owner of Candy Coated Creamery.*

Candy Coated Creamery, an ice cream parlor on North Huron River Drive across from the Trinity Health urgent care building, has had a busy year. Since launching the shop over Memorial Day weekend in 2024, the owners have added eight new ice cream flavors, and several new employees have joined the team, according to Ypsilanti local Seun Awosika, who started the shop with the help of his nephew and girlfriend.

Awosika mentioned that the Strawberry Crunch shake, which is topped with whipped cream, fresh strawberries, golden Oreos, cookie crunch and a full Strawberry Crunch ice cream bar, is one of their most popular items and has helped garner social media attention.

Q: You had almost ... two decades experience before this, running a hair salon? Is that right?

Seun Awosika: Yeah, I’ve been here in this location for 15 years. I had a chance to see three different classes come in that ... went from freshmen to seniors. I’ve been in this location since 2009. I had a daughter who got diagnosed with brain cancer [in] 2022, and she’s cured and is in remission. She’s doing well; she actually works here a few days a week. So, I had shut it down around that time, and then, when she was done with treatment, she told me, you know, reopen it, get it back open. You know, it’s a been a blessing.

Q: And you’re open year-round?

Seun Awosika: We will be closing just for about five weeks. We’re closed the last day in November and then reopened the first week in January.

Q: On [Facebook], there was an image of a line of customers outside the shop [last August] ... How big of a role has it [social media] played in promoting this?



Justin Awosika, left, and his uncle, Seun Awosika, started Candy Coated Creamery in 2024. *Laura Meriweather / The Eastern Echo*

Seun Awosika: A tremendous amount of our customers, I’ll say about 90% of our customers daily, are new customers. ... So it has to be the social media effect ... the fact that people still come in, and they take pictures of their shakes and their nachos, and their family members hold their shakes or whatever they’re indulging in. They like to take pictures and, you know, it’s a vibe.

Q: Do you have any new promotions or events coming up?

Seun Awosika: We will be doing a Sweetest Day shake where we’ll be doing a Chocolate Strawberry Lover’s shake. We definitely have a five and

below menu for students as well as the public. ... You can get two scoops of vanilla or chocolate for five bucks, any float for five bucks. Italian ice is another five. We just hope the community knows we’re here.

Q: What percentage would you guess is maybe EMU students that eat here?

Seun Awosika: Since they’ve been back, I’ll say it’s about 20 percent of our sales. ... I love the community; I grew up in Ypsilanti. You know, I graduated from Ferris State. I love the college town vibes, you know what I mean? I spent a lot of time in

downtown Ann Arbor as a child. So, I mean, I’m all here for it, you know? We meet a lot of interesting people, a lot of fun people. ... It’s a diverse community. Everybody’s friendly, everybody’s welcoming.

Q: Do you see, at any point, if things continue to go well, opening another location?

Seun Awosika: Right now, we’re focused on this location, but we’re always open to building and providing more for a bigger community. But we’re just perfecting what we’re doing here. ... We don’t pay for reviews; those are strangers that have got us at a 4.9. ... They love what we’re doing, and we’re putting a different take on

dessert. We freestyle a lot of things, and there’s really nothing we won’t do for a customer.

Q: What’s your favorite thing on the menu?

Seun Awosika: My favorite things are the frosted lemonades. We use mango Italian ice, [then] we add vegan black cherry and strawberry lemonade and mix all three together.

Awosika’s nephew, Justin Awosika, who focused on business studies in college, said he feels equally optimistic about the future of the store.

Q: What’s been your experience working here so far?

Justin Awosika: It’s been great. ... It’s really been crazy to see the reception from the community. I can see all the good reviews we get, just people’s reactions. Like, when we give them their ice cream, their little treats and stuff, it’s just a completely different experience.

Q: Do you plan to work here long term?

Justin Awosika: Yeah, I mean, I’ve been here since this started. We’re really doing something different. I’m just excited to see where it goes in the next few years.

Q: What was before this? What’s your educational or professional background?

Justin Awosika: I was in college, and I was working at Amazon, and then I left there and I came here. I’ve been the manager, so it’s like every day has its challenges, but we always get through it.

Q: What kind of challenges?

Justin Awosika: Just like, time management and things like that, and keeping track of the temperatures. Replacing different foods. A lot goes into it.

Q: Is there anything else you wanted to share about your experience or the store in general?

Justin Awosika: We want everybody to come out and see what we’re about.

Candy Coated Creamery is open from noon - 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The Sunday hours are 2 - 9 p.m.

Pray- Harrold

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chartwells Higher Ed. is a private company that specializes in providing dining services to higher educational institutions. Chartwells and EMU’s Board of Regents signed a 10-year contract in 2016 for the company to provide food services on campus. In 2018, the regents approved an extension of that contract to 2031.

Eastern Outfitters replaces bookstore

The market in Pray-Harrold reopening is not the only change coming to campus. The email to students sent Wednesday also announced that a new store, Eastern Outfitters, will be coming to the now-empty space in the Student Center that used to be EMU’s bookstore. Described as a spirit shop, the physical store is expected to open in mid-November, with online shopping expected to be available sooner, the university stated in the email.

The former bookstore in the Student Center was closed over the summer. This year, the university switched to eCampus.com as its textbook vendor, which offers all book purchases online. Eastern extended its own branding to a specific domain of the platform called the EMU Online Bookstore.

Other upcoming changes

Other expected changes outlined in the recent emails to employees and students include the following:

- Little Caesar’s will open at the Student Center with afternoon and evening hours. Until now, Little Caesars has operated from a food truck outside Pray-Harrold during mid-day hours.
- Travelin’ Tom’s Coffee Truck will continue to serve beverages outside the Pray-Harrold building during its established schedule with ElDining.
- A new vending spot called Grab. Go. Enjoy. will open on the second floor of the Student Center.
- The university’s food services will organize and host more on-campus farmer’s markets, which will accept Flex dining dollars for purchases.
- Happy Boba, which was previously in the Student Center, will relocate to PhoU at the Eastern Eateries.
- The market at the Halle Library now has self-service grab-and-go options available whenever the library is open.
- TrueBurger’s menu now includes vegetarian-friendly options.

The university emails also said that in a new program, both Little Caesars and TrueBurger will donate 5% of all sales to EMU’s Swoop’s Pantry.



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Eastern Michigan football falls to Kentucky 48-23, drops to 0-3

Caleb Henderson
Sports Editor

After a valiant late first half rally that featured 10 points in just over a minute and a half, the Eastern Michigan football team entered halftime in Lexington, Kentucky with momentum, only trailing the heavy home favorites by 12 at the break.

However, the second half is where the University of Kentucky would flex their muscles, out-scoring their Mid-American Conference foe 20-7 during the final 30 minutes and pulling away to claim a dominant 48-23 victory over the Eagles.

Before the game, Kentucky head coach, Mark Stoops, announced a quarterback change: redshirt freshman Cutter Boley would lead the team into battle as the starting quarterback over seventh year senior, Zach Calzada. The spark provided by the former being inserted into the lineup was immediate.

Boley's two passing touchdowns were the first through the air for Kentucky all season and his 240 pass yards paved the way for the Wildcats' ground attack to shine, Seth McGowan posted over 100 yards along with punching in three rushing touchdowns, and Jason Patterson adding in an additional 80 yards with a touchdown to the stat sheet.

Kentucky's 252 rushing yards and 7.3 yards per play continued the trend of early season struggles for Eastern Michigan's defense at large; now having given up 128 points in the opening three contests thus far.

The Eagles are now giving up an average of 42.7 points per game, and



Eastern Michigan running back Dontae McMillan breaks away for a touchdown under the lights at Rynearson Stadium. *Julius Stewart / The Eastern Echo*

are also one of a few teams in the country that have failed to force a turnover during that stretch as well.

The bright side for Eastern Michigan on a gloomy and rainy night was the offense continuing to find its footing.

Noah Kim put together statistically his best game as an Eagle thus far with 330 yards through the air. His biggest play of the night was a 64 yard dime for a touchdown to Terry Lockett Jr. late in the second stanza that brought the green and white back into the game for the moment.

Kim also added an additional 19 yards and a touchdown on the ground late in the going, while Dontae McMillan contributed 83 rushing yards to the statsheet on 13 carries.

Freshman kicker Rudy Kessinger also shined under the bright lights of Kroger Field, the Ohio native making three of his four kicks in damp conditions, including a 50 yarder right before the end of the first half.

The win improves Kentucky to 2-1 on the new year, while Eastern

Michigan falls to 0-3 to begin a season for the first time since 2020.

Next week, the Eagles return home to Rynearson Stadium for an early Homecoming date against the Rajun' Cajuns of Louisiana-Lafayette.

With their backs against the wall and season on the line entering their final non-conference contest of 2025, "Operation Go Green" will commence for Eastern Michigan on Saturday, Sept. 20 at 3:30 p.m. Viewers can stream all the action live on ESPN+.

Eagle Sports Tips & Tales: Sept. 16-22

Caleb Henderson
Sports Editor

With fall sports in full swing, here's a look at some of the top Eastern Michigan sports storylines to keep eyes on this week.

Football | Eastern Michigan returns home for Homecoming vs. Louisiana-Lafayette

Off to their worst start to a season in half a decade, Eastern Michigan's football team returns home following a 48-23 loss at the University of Kentucky desperate for a win in their final nonconference test of 2025.

This year's Homecoming celebration at Rynearson Stadium has been affectionately labeled "Operation Go Green." For the upcoming game, the Eagles welcome Louisiana-Lafayette's Rajun' Cajuns to town on Saturday, Sept. 20 at 3:30 p.m. Viewers can stream all of the action live on ESPN+.

Eastern Michigan have played ULL three times over the past two decades, most recently in 2022, where they were dispatched on the road in Louisiana by a score of 49-21.

Volleyball | Eastern Michigan downs Southern Illinois, Oakland in Golden Grizzlies Invitational

The Eastern Michigan women's volleyball team continued their red hot start to the campaign over the weekend, leaving the Golden Grizzlies Invitational hosted by Oakland University with a 2-1 record as the program continues to embark on its best start since 2018.

A loss to Xavier University was avenged by back to back 3-1 wins over Southern Illinois and the home Golden Grizzlies, boosting the team's record to 7-3 after 10 matches.

The Eagles have now won more games this year than they did the entirety of Head Coach Kevin Foeman's first season in Ypsilanti just two years ago, and now travel to Indianapolis for the Butler Invitational next on their schedule from Sept. 18-20.

Soccer | Eastern Michigan begins conference play against Buffalo

Off to a streaky 2-4 start to open the season, the Eastern Michigan women's soccer team aims to right the ship at home with their opening conference play against the Buffalo Bulls to kick off Homecoming week at Scicluna Field.

The Eagles are 1-7-2 against the Bulls over their last 10 meetings, with the lone win coming at home in 2019. Last year, the University of Buffalo knocked off the green and white at their home pitch in a close match, 1-0.

Viewers can catch all the action on Thursday, Sept. 18 at 4:30 p.m. live on ESPN+.

Women's Golf | Janae Leovao takes maiden win in The Southern as EMU takes team crown

For the 30th time in program history, the Eastern Michigan women's golf team has come out on top.

The Eagles dominated The Southern on Sept. 8-9 to take home their first program victory since 2022, with new transfer Janae Leovao stealing the show.

Leovao, who finished ahead of her sister Jasmine Leovao in third, came out on top in a tie with TK Kongthong of Georgia State, marking her first individual win in her collegiate career after finishing runner up three times over the past three years with her old school, Long Beach State University.

Two other Eagles also finished in the top 10 on the leaderboard: Baiyok Sukterm in seventh, and Erina Tan who finished tied for eighth.

Eastern Michigan will next return to action in the Leadership & Golf Invitational, hosted by Seattle University and the University of Washington.

Belcher, Welker named MAC players of the week as EMU volleyball shines at home



The team celebrates win over Western Michigan at the Convocation Center on Friday Nov. 3. *Janina Pollatz / The Eastern Echo*

Caleb Henderson
Sports Editor

The last time that the Eastern Michigan University volleyball team completed a home tournament with a clean sweep was in 1993.

That was prior to this year's EMU Tournament from Sept. 4-6. The Eagles

dominated, posting successive victories over Purdue University Fort Wayne, Valparaiso University and Niagara University to continue their red-hot start to the 2025 campaign, boosting their season record to 5-2 overall.

Eastern Michigan's milestone performance did not go unnoticed by the national media, with senior

Ashlynn Belcher being featured on SportsCenter's top 10 plays of the day for her creative "kick kill" in the home team's match against Valparaiso.

With an assist from teammate Ava Siefke, Belcher instinctively kicked the ball over the net before it touched the ground, counting on the scoreboard and breaking the 10-10 tie between the two teams at a critical point in the match, one that the Eagles would go on to win 3-1.

This wouldn't be the only recognition that the former Old Dominion transfer received for her play, with Belcher also being named a Mid-American Conference player of the week for her overall tournament performance along with teammate Hatteras Welker.

Belcher posted gaudy numbers throughout all three days of the tournament. With 137 total assists accumulated and 42 digs on the defensive end, the senior earned her first MAC player of the week honors in her collegiate career.

Welker was equally a force for the green and white throughout the three-day outing, posting 26 blocks to

go with 28 kills and 47.5 total points accumulated during that stretch. The sophomore takes home the conference player of the week award for the second time in her budding career, the first being in September of last year.

In 2023, the Eagles only won five games throughout the entirety of the season, Head Coach Kevin Foeman's first in Ypsilanti. Last year, it took the team 12 matches to arrive at the five-win mark.

This year, they've reached that milestone in just seven games, the best start to a season the program has seen since 2018, which was also the last time Eastern Michigan took home the MAC Tournament championship.

The Eagles will next return to action on the road in Indianapolis, Indiana, participating in the Butler Invitational from Sept. 18-20. Eastern Michigan will face contests from IU Indy, Oakland University, and home team Butler University over the three day stretch, aiming to keep their hot start to the season alive.

Women's soccer loses to Loyola Chicago 2-0

Caleb Henderson
Sports Editor

Despite outpacing their opponent in total shots and shots on goal at the end of 90 minutes, the stat sheet did not match up with the scoreboard for the Eastern Michigan University women's soccer team.

The Eagles ultimately fell to Loyola University Chicago in their final non-conference match of the year, 2-0, dropping their record to 2-4 overall to open the 2025 campaign.

Zoe Hevey proved to be the home team's kryptonite on this day, the junior putting in both goals for the Ramblers, one in the first half and one in the second.

Hevey's goals for Loyola were her first two of the season and otherwise spoiled a standout performance from

Eastern Michigan goalkeeper Ella Holland.

The redshirt junior defended three shots on goal in the opening 10 minutes for the green and white, saving four shots total during the outing.

Eastern Michigan's offense also came to play, landing 70% of their shots during the match on goal, but seven saves from Rambler goalie Allison Deardorff were enough to keep the green and white scoreless throughout the duration of the game.

In six games this year, the Eagles have now been shut out in four of them. They have lost all four of those games and won both matches in which they've scored at least one goal.

Last year, Eastern Michigan also finished the year with their first undefeated season at home this



EMU forward Lindsey Shira dribbles down the field at Scicluna Field. *Zach Sturgill / The Eastern Echo*

millennium. This year, they have now dropped to a 1-3 mark at Scicluna Field.

The next time the Eagles return to the pitch, they will be doing so to open Mid-American Conference play.

The University of Buffalo looms

large as the first conference test of the year for Eastern Michigan, a test they will have the opportunity to pass at home on Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. Fans can attend the match for free at Scicluna Field or stream the game live on ESPN+.



Commuter Cookout 2025 brings transfer students together



On Tuesday, Sept. 9, Eastern Michigan University students, faculty and staff gathered for the annual Commuter Cookout in front of the Student Center. This event is designed to bring together commuter students.

The event this year featured a variety of food, music, games and prizes. Food options included chicken and rice bowls, sliders, and macaroni and cheese with pulled pork.

Check out the photos below to see some of the event's highlights.

Photo Gallery by
Max Taylor



Paying More for Less! | Rylee Curley, Design Chief



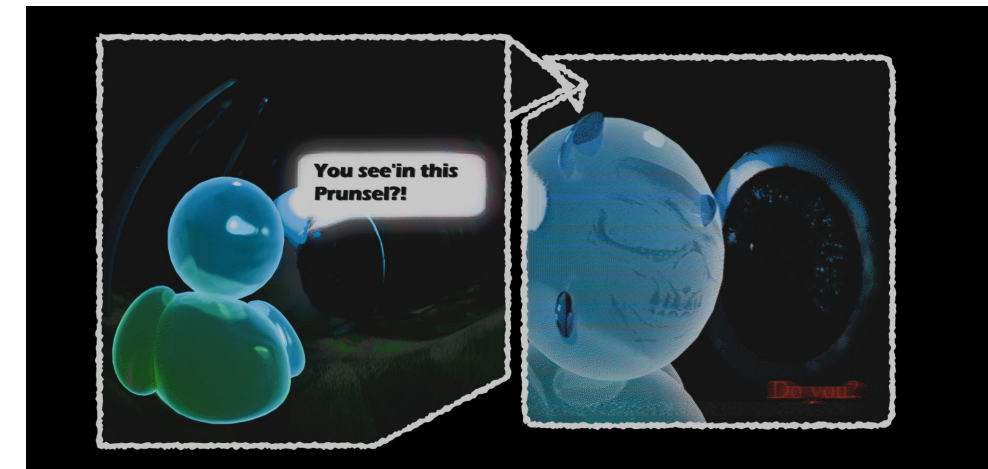
Hot Fries | Julia Bartlett, Comic Artist



Moonlight 10-3 | Funkyl0af, Comics Artist



Are You Seeing This? | Yiri, Comics Artist



Scoop says...



HOMECOMING

PAINT IT GREEN

Here's to 104 years of EMU Homecoming



Students cheering on EMU football team during the 2021 100th annual homecoming game. *Echo Archives*



Myranda Wiggins, celebrating as the 2024 Black Homecoming Queen. *Jaida Hawkins*



Eastern Michigan University eagle mascot celebrates homecoming with cheerleaders in 2010. *Eastern Michigan University*



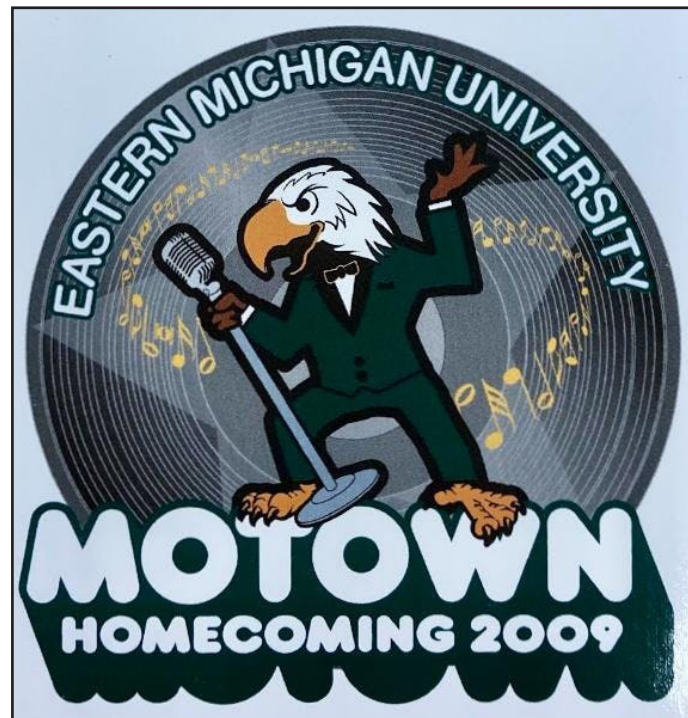
EMU Marching Band performs for audience members at the 2019 homecoming game. *Echo Archives*



Dancer eagle mascot magnet from 2007 homecoming. *EMU Archives*



Cowboy eagle mascot magnet from 2008 homecoming. *EMU Archives*



Magnet from 2009 Motown homecoming 2009. *EMU Archives*



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