

EMU football heads to Ford Field

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EMU students highlight the importance of voting ahead of the midterm election



Student and president of EMU Democrats Joe Garris casts his vote early at a City of Ypsilanti ballot dropbox. *(Photo courtesy of Joe Garris)*

Laleh Walker
Features Reporter

On Nov. 3, students across college campuses, including Eastern Michigan University, will line up to hit the polls to vote for the midterm elections.

A 2024 report from the Sate of Michigan reports in the 2022 midterm election, 40.8% of Michigan residents aged 18-29 that were registered to vote actually cast a ballot. Washtenaw county had the highest youth voter turnout in Michigan with 56.3% of 18-29 registered year-olds casting a ballot.

Here is what Eagles think about voting and the factors that contribute to student voter turnout.

Lyndia Edwards, a senior, values a candidate who is humane.

"I'm looking for somebody who is people-first. I'm looking for somebody who's willing to put in the work to make sure that our communities are thriving and not selling out to people who want to make sure that they're getting a dollar. I just want somebody who's humane; somebody that is for us," Edwards said.

Acknowledging that many people across the world do not have the right to vote, Edwards emphasized that voting is a privilege and students should take advantage of that.

"It is such a privilege to be able to go vote and show your voice. It's something that so many people around the world cannot say that they have. Because of that, we need to be able to speak up and make a change where we can," she said.

Edwards addressed how students' attitude towards voting can influence those around them.

"I definitely feel like once a student says they're not going to vote, it spirals off. It becomes this huge butterfly effect essentially. If one person doesn't vote, nobody does," said Edwards. "I think just being able to spread the message and normalize younger people and people around us, people in our community, going out, going to the polls, or even sending in a mail ballot, is extremely important to make sure people are aware that they have a voice."

Freshman Lexie Hankinson considers Christian values when deciding which candidate to vote for.

"Somebody who is moral based. Personally, I'm a Christian, so I think Christian values and also somebody who's for the people," Hankinson said.

Hankinson also looks for a candidate who considers different points of views and isn't quick to shut other perspectives down. Hankinson believes EMU makes an effort to encourage students to vote, but there are areas where the university could improve.

"I think EMU does a really good job about it. They have people outside Pray Harrold and stuff like that to help you register to vote. They didn't really make it super known where you specifically should vote, like what building you're supposed to go to," Hankinson said. "I had to Google it and put in my information to figure out where I was going to go vote, but I do think they make it easier that they have people out there with the sheets that you can fill out."

Hankinson suggests that universities create more dialogue about voting and educate students on the importance of participating in elections.

"I think they could talk more about the benefits of voting and the downsides of not voting more and just talk about it. I know a lot of people don't vote or they just write random things on there. And it's like, you have a say. There's a democracy," Hankinson said.

Senior Kayla Robinson points out that voting is essential for real change to happen.

"It's important for people to vote, because there's not going to be any real change if people don't vote. I know people who don't want to vote, and I told them, well if you want things to actually happen, then vote for the person that's going to do them. If you don't want things to change, then vote for the person that's gonna vote for the things not changing," said Robinson. "Regardless, it's gonna help whatever you're leaning towards, but not voting it's just going to end up where it could be easily a tie and now we have to do this whole thing again because that one person didn't vote. It's always better when everybody votes."

To get students involved in voting, Robinson believes universities should organize events that incorporate political elements from a variety of topics to shift their mindsets. Robinson said it is not simply enough for people to table on university campuses and ask if students are interested in voting; instead, Robinson wants to see more debates and opportunities for engagement.

For information on how to vote, individuals can check their voter registration status and find their polling location by visiting Michigan.gov/vote. Learn more about candidates and proposals and follow live election results by visiting EasternEcho.com.

Democrat Haley Stevens endorses Mike Rogers in last-minute reversal

Laura Meriweather and Lilly Kujawski
Managing Editor - Operations and Editor-in-Chief

In an eleventh-hour bombshell announcement on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026, U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens, a Democrat, endorsed Republican Mike Rogers for Senate, less than 48 hours before Election Day.

Stevens, who lost the Democratic primary to Abdul El-Sayed, was initially slotted to appear with him in the final days of his campaign, but those plans were abruptly reversed after reports of renewed rift between Stevens and El-Sayed, with U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Michigan, telling Stevens not to go through with attending the events amid public backlash.

In a video post on X, Stevens shared her endorsement of Rogers and elaborated on her reasoning.

"As you may have seen, our Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, Abdul said that I was no longer welcome in his campaign and that I should stay away, and he's right," Stevens said. "And that's why I am endorsing Mike Rogers for the United States Senate."

As for the reasons behind her decision, Stevens cited El-Sayed's former association with controversial leftist livestreamer Hasan Piker. She also denounced hatred in politics, which she said the El-Sayed campaign was fostering. In the video, Stevens said she is still a proud Democrat.

Stevens endorsement came after she was seen attending a Detroit church service with Rogers. Shortly after, less than 10 miles away, El-Sayed addressed the press before an appearance at Northend Church of God in Christ.

"At the end of the day, I actually don't think about Haley Stevens. I think about the 900,999,998 people who are not those two," El-Sayed said, "Because, you know what? I'm just less interested in the politics of it all than I am in the policy of it all."

Representatives for Stevens, El-Sayed, Rogers and Dingell, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Eastern Michigan University political science professor Joshua Koss said a cross-party endorsement like Stevens' is exceptionally rare. He said if the Senate election ends in a close race between El-Sayed and Rogers, the endorsement could have some impact on results. However, the last-minute timing of the endorsement comes as many voters have already made up their minds or even cast their votes, he said.

"This is truly at the eleventh hour," Koss said. "There is always this common trope of the October Surprise; well, it is no longer October anymore. You typically need those to occur during October."

Koss also said the concerns Stevens raised about El-Sayed's campaign in her endorsement of Rogers didn't differ much from issues she raised during the August primary, making the move particularly peculiar in his eyes.

"Based on the communication that she's given, the reasons don't really raise that level of stakes, right? It's not like his campaign has actively done something completely unconscionable," Koss said. "These sort of issues that she has with the campaign are things that she raised in the primary. It didn't seem to phase her when she endorsed him immediately after losing on election night."

EMU political science professor Jeffrey Bernstein said he doesn't see the endorsement having significant impact on election results.

Bernstein added that it was already unlikely for El-Sayed to receive votes from all of Stevens' supporters, especially when the candidates demonstrate such stark differences on hot-button issues, such as their stances on Israel. These differences were already part of the equation for many voting blocs within the Democratic Party, he said.

SEE ENDORSEMENT, PAGE 6

Letter from the Editor

Opinion: Vote this midterm to make your voice heard

Election Day is here, which means if you haven't already cast a mail-in ballot or voted early, today is your last chance to exercise your democratic right to make your voice heard this midterm. While midterm elections tend to be less glamorous than presidential elections, resulting in historically lower turnout, they are no less important.

Voters will decide key races, such as the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, that can determine the party majority in Congress, which has a significant impact on making decisions for our country.

Voters will also choose Michigan's next governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and secretary of state, the top elected officials in the state, with the power to lead the charge in its future political direction.

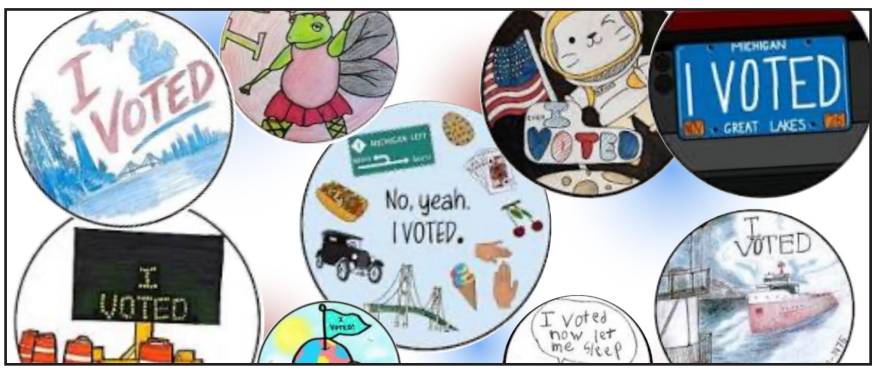
In addition to these statewide offices, voters will also see a slew of local candidates and proposals. All of which play a role in determining local policies and priorities within communities. In many cases, it is these local offices that have the most effect on our day-to-day lives.

To learn more about what's on the ballot this Election Day, Ypsilanti voters can find everything they need to know at EasternEcho.com.

Voting is your right, and it's a right that many communities have fought hard to secure. While some might feel that their vote doesn't count, that's not the case. Democracy is at its strongest when we all make our voices heard, and voting is one of the most effective ways to do that.

This election, be sure to go out and vote. Who you select on the ballot is up to you, but civic participation is a responsibility all of us share.

Sincerely,
Lilly Kujawski
Editor-in-Chief
The Eastern Echo



A collection of the winning "I voted" stickers created by Michigan residents.
AnnaBelle Favre /The Eastern Echo (Images courtesy of Michigan Government)

The Eastern Echo

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

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

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CORRECTIONS

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

Where to purchase *Cellar Roots Vol. 52*, EMU's Fine Arts and Literary Magazine:



WEEKLY VOTER TIP

Today is Election Day!

Polls are open from 7am - 8pm

Find your polling place at michigan.gov/vote

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WASHTENAW COUNTY

VOTE 411

VISIT VOTE411.ORG

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

We are looking for **Visual Art, Creative Writing, Poetry, Music, and Time Based Media** from EMU Students and Alumni for **Cellar Roots Volume 53!**

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: DECEMBER 16TH





Scoop says...

Don't forget to vote Nov. 3!

Plus, follow along at EasternEcho.com for live election results Tuesday and Wednesday.

Where to find *The Echo:*

On-Campus:

Alexander Music Building
Boone Hall
Downing Hall
Counseling and Psychological Services
EMU Department of Public Safety
EMU Rec/IM
Ford Hall
Halle Library
Judy Sturgis Hill Building
King Hall
Lakeview Apartments
Mark Jefferson Science Complex
Marshall Building
McKenny Hall
Phelps and Sellers Halls
Pierce Hall
Porter Building
Pray-Harrold Building
Rackham Hall
Roosevelt Hall
Sherzer Observatory
Sill Hall
Strong Physical Sciences Building
Student Center
The Commons
The Eastern Eateries
The Honors College
The Village
Trinity Health IHA Urgent Care
Walton and Putnam Halls
Welch Hall
Westview Apartments
Wise Hall

Off-Campus:

Aubree's Pizzeria & Grill
Bank of Ann Arbor
Barber-Me-Locz
Basil Babe
Benito's Pizza
BIGGBY Coffee
Black Stone Bookstore & Cultural Center
Book Love Bar
Bridge Community Café
Café Liv
Candy Coated Creamery
Chef Restaurant Mediterranean Grill
Cottage Inn Pizza
David's Books
Domino's Pizza
Eagle Crest Golf Club
EMU Credit Union
Insomnia Cookies
Jet's Pizza
Jimmy John's
Laundry Pro
Luca's Coney Island
Lucky Garden
Ma Lou's Fried Chicken
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Miny's Mexican Restaurant
Northern Grind
Peninsular Place
Plant Based Coneys
Sidetrack Bar and Grill
SPARK East Innovation Center
Speedys Big Burger
Standard Printing+Design Co.
Subway (Eastern Plaza)
Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea
The Golden Egg
Thompson & Co.
Trinity Health Ann Arbor Hospital
U-M Health Ypsilanti Health Center
Washtenaw Auto Care Center
Wild Side Smoke Shop
Ypsi Real
Ypsilanti City Hall
Ypsilanti District Library
Ypsilanti Food Co-op

Honors College celebrates Halloween



Nick Malendowski poses in his Shrek costume at the Honors College Halloween Party on Friday Oct. 30 in the Honors College Lounge. *Lee Hammock / The Eastern Echo*



Administrative secretary Lisa Thorn, left, and Ann Eisenberg, Honors College dean, select a raffle winner at the Honors College Halloween Party on Friday Oct. 30, in the Honors



Ami Kuzemka shows off the prize she won from the raffle at the Honors College Halloween Party on Friday Oct. 30 in the Honors College Lounge. *Lee Hammock / The Eastern Echo*



Students enjoy a movie in their costumes at the Honors College Halloween Party on Friday Oct. 30 in the Honors College Lounge. *Lee Hammock / The Eastern Echo*



Students enjoy coloring, snacks and conversation at the Honors College Halloween Party on Friday Oct. 30 in the Honors College Lounge. *Lee Hammock / The Eastern Echo*



From left, Ann Eisenberg, Honors College Dean, and Gabe Muro pose for a photo at the Honors College Halloween Party on Friday Oct. 30 in the Honors College Lounge. *Lee Hammock / The Eastern*



Dean Ann Eisenberg and Lisa Thorn show off their costumes at the Honors College Halloween Party on Friday Oct. 30 in the Honors College Lounge. *Lee Hammock / The Eastern Echo*

EMU job fair connects students with career support, opportunities



Employers inside the Student Center Ballroom at the EMU Fall 2026 Job Fair talk to students and alumni. *Camryn O'Brien / The Eastern Echo*

Camryn O'Brien
News Reporter

Eastern Michigan University held a job fair on Oct. 28 in the Student Center Ballroom. Over 60 employers lined the room as students dressed for success networked and handed out their resumes.

Ready rooms were available to students to learn how to talk to employers, practice handshakes and get free, professional headshots.

April Calkovsky, career coach at EMU, said that coming to job fairs is important because they offer connection and a chance to develop professional relationships with people in certain fields. The main goal of an EMU job fair is for students to directly interact with employers, Calkovsky said.

EMU also offers boutique fairs that are more focused on a certain area. Previously this semester, EMU has hosted STEM- and accounting-specific job fairs. Calkovsky said that employers are trending back to these boutique fairs, so EMU plans to continue hosting them.

Calkovsky explained in the past few years, job fairs have become more crucial to the student population. Calkovsky said the pandemic hurt people's ability to get out and be social, and also to learn social and professional networking skills.

"We notice students having more hesitancy coming to job fairs and not really understanding the benefits of that," Calkovsky said. "We really want students to come; we have the ready room to help practice and relax before talking to employers. We don't want students to go into a scary situation feeling unsupported."

The Career Development Center at EMU encourages students to come to job fairs to get a sense of the space and learn more about what support is offered.

EMU student Aylin Amaro said she came to the job fair to look at careers that she's interested in and get her resume out there to employers to look at.

"It makes me feel more prepared for interviews and gets us ready and prepared for when we have to talk about our background and find a good job," Amaro said.

Another student, Emma Moore, said she was hoping to walk away with career choices and ideas that she may not have thought of before.

"It's much easier because it's on campus, so it's more accessible to students. They do a whole debriefing before you enter to get you ready for what to expect," Moore said.

EMU has several resources within the Career Development Center, located in 200 McKenny Hall. The center has three career coaches and three job and internship specialists. Calkovsky said the career coaches can help students figure out who they are, what students want to do, and how students are going to get there.

According to the UACDC website, the job and internship specialists can help students tune their resumes, cover letters and interview skills. They will also help with LinkedIn profiles, networking and internship and job search tips. The Career Development Center serves EMU alumni for life; people can come and use these resources after they graduate, including the job fairs.

Another resource offered by the UACDC is the Career Closet, located in McKenny Hall 251. Students can come and get at least four free items of professional clothing each semester, and this, as well as all UACDC services, continues after students graduate.

The next fair at EMU is the Internship Fair is Feb. 10 in the Student Center Ballroom from 2-5 p.m. The Spring Job Fair will be held March 10 from 3-6 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

Eastern Michigan University IT staff offers advice for better on-campus connection

Ari Simpson
News Reporter

Some students and faculty at Eastern Michigan University described an ongoing love-hate relationship with campus Wi-Fi.

"The Wi-Fi is generally good, but there are some days where it doesn't seem to work right for us. The fact that you don't know when you start your day if you're going to have connection issues or not is what's frustrating," Bill Heinze, director of forensics, told *The Eastern Echo*.

Eastern Michigan's campus Wi-Fi turns digital data into radio waves transmitted between devices and wireless access points stationed throughout every building. There are 3,400 access points that connect directly to Eastern Michigan's high-speed wired network, Rocky Jenkins, director of IT network and system services, told *The Eastern Echo*, in an email.

"At Eastern Michigan, all of the access points to the wired networks are equivalent throughout campus," Ralph Fitzpatrick, assistant director of IT infrastructure systems said in an email.

Jenkins says exterior green spaces, lawns and walkways are not fully covered by EMU's Wi-Fi. Exterior Wi-Fi is only available in the Pierce through McKenny Hall green space and the McKenny through Porter green space.

In most locations on campus, devices will likely disconnect from Eastern Michigan Wi-Fi and switch over to mobile carrier data services as users leave a campus building. The Wi-Fi will automatically connect the device back to Eastern Michigan Wi-Fi when entering a different building.

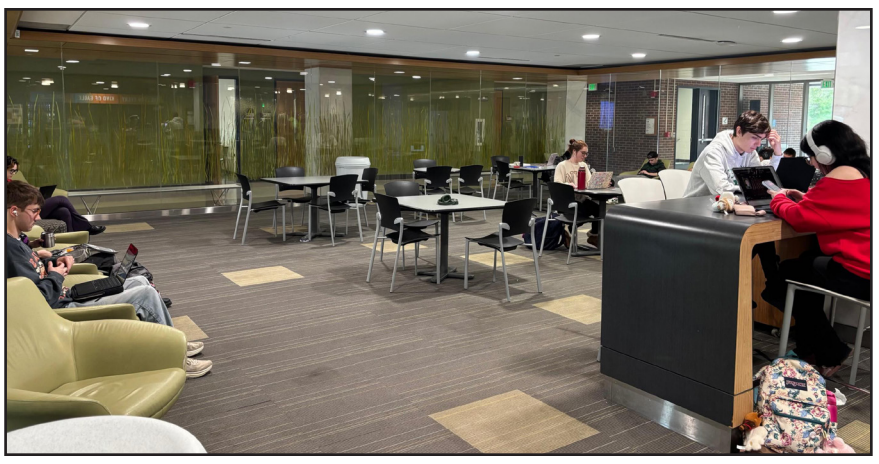
"EMU-Wireless-Secure is the recommended Wi-Fi network for all students and employees. It is available in all academic and administrative buildings," Jenkins wrote.

Students living in the residence halls should use EMU-ResNet, which has a slightly different configuration that lets them add devices like TVs, tablets and gaming consoles to their personal wireless network, Jenkins said.

The EMU-Guest network is intended for guests visiting campus for a few hours, Jenkins explained. It allows access to campus Wi-Fi, but is more restricted than EMU-Wireless-Secure and requires re-connecting every few hours.

Anna Forsyth, a first-year nursing student who lives in the Sellers residence hall, said, "The Wi-Fi itself is really good in my dorm, but it affects my academics negatively when I'm in class trying to research material that I need clarification on, and by the time it loads, my professors are moving on to the next topic."

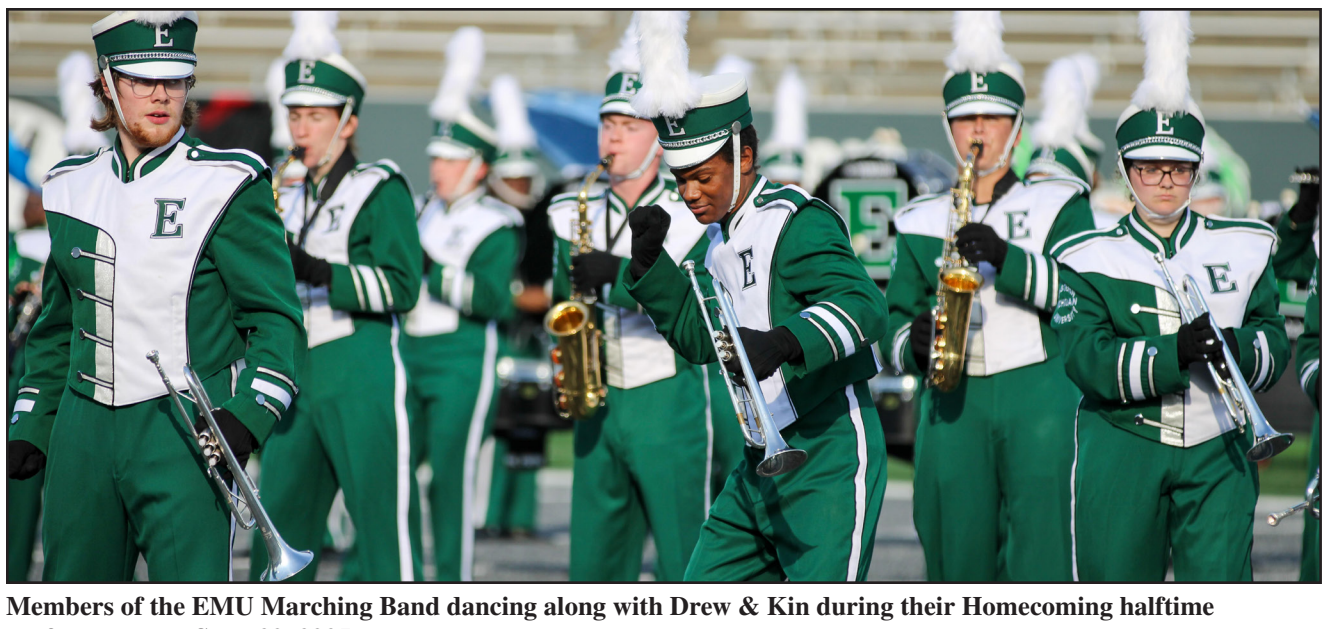
Jenkins noted that although there are many causes of Wi-Fi issues, students can minimize Wi-Fi disruptions by applying software updates routinely and making sure they are connected to one of the main Wi-Fi networks. He also advised users to forget the EMU Wireless network on their device and re-connect anytime they change their EMU NetID password, avoid installing apps from unknown sources, close applications when not in use and restart the device.



Students in Pray-Harrold study on their laptops. *Ari Simpson / The Eastern Echo*

Those having issues with the internet can report them to the IT Help Desk. To ensure effective troubleshooting and assistance from IT, the staff asks that reports include the time, date, building and room where the issues occurred.

Marching band members to earn $1,000 yearly scholarship



Members of the EMU Marching Band dancing along with Drew & Kin during their Homecoming halftime performance on Sept. 20, 2025. *Bradan Copeland / The Eastern Echo*

Daniel Obiagbaoso
News Reporter

Eastern Michigan University is offering eligible students a $4,000 marching band scholarship, allowing students of any academic major the opportunity to join the Pride of the Peninsula.

The scholarship provides $1,000 per year for four years and is available to all students who meet the marching band requirements, according to EMU Today. The scholarship is available to students regardless of their intended major; there is no music major requirement.

Thomas Crispell is a third-year student majoring in music education who has played the trumpet for 10 years and a member of EMU's marching band.

He told *The Echo* he felt this scholarship shows adequate appreciation for marching band, which is typically a thankless job taken by those who share a passion for excellent musicianship.

Crispell explained that some academic majors require students to be in the marching band for a minimum of two years, but this scholarship could be a beneficial incentive for those who aren't required to join the band.

Crispell said that current marching band members will not receive this scholarship, and the incoming freshman class will be the first to receive the scholarship.

EMU's marching band, known as the Pride of the Peninsula, has a 132-year history of marching reported on its website. It has famously collaborated with groups such as the internationally known piano-rock duo and EMU alumni Drew & Kin and Grammy Award-winning artists such as The Temptations.

Crispell said that marching band members find a greater purpose in serving Eastern Michigan University. He mentioned that they serve the school by performing at more than just football games. This year, the marching band has performed at high school exhibitions, homecoming week campus events and the EMU Block Party.

For more information about the EMU Marching Band and scholarship opportunities, visit the band webpage. To view the band's past performances, visit the band's YouTube page.

Motor City MACtion: Rivalry to take center stage at Ford Field



Eastern Michigan University mascot Swoop runs out after the players at the homecoming game versus Toledo on Oct. 17 at Rynearson Stadium. *Bradan Copeland / The Eastern Echo*

Ruby Brannon
Sports Editor

A marquee stage in Detroit

The rivalry between Eastern Michigan University and Central Michigan University moves to a national stage on Nov. 4, as the Eagles and Chippewas collide in the "Motor City MACtion" game at Ford Field in Detroit. Playing inside an NFL venue, the home of the Mid-American Conference Football Championship Game, elevates this annual rivalry into a premier event on national television. Athletic Director Scott Wetherbee and EMU athletic leadership worked to turn this matchup into a showcase event. Competing inside a dome eliminates wind and late-fall weather factors, offering an ideal setting for high-level execution for student-athletes who have dreamed of playing on an NFL field.

Rest and recovery in the midweek break

Eastern Michigan enters the contest benefiting from an 11-day gap between games. After a tough, down-to-the-wire contest against Ohio, the Eagles used fall break to rest, heal, and reset. With classes paused, the program adjusted its schedule, allowing student-athletes extra sleep, extended hot and cold tub treatments, and recovery time before starting official game preparation. Head coach Chris Creighton noted that the extended break provides physical relief for a team navigating autumn injuries, setting up a refreshed roster for the final stretch of the regular season.

Eastern Michigan quarterback dynamics and offensive rhythm

Brogan McCaughey steps up under center

Eastern Michigan's offensive spotlight centers on the quarterback position following roster injuries. With starter Noah Kim being monitored week to week, quarterback McCaughey stepped into the starting role against Ohio and delivered a strong performance, completing 27 of 39 passes. Beyond his passing accuracy, McCaughey brings dual-threat mobility that extends plays and pressures defenses, an element he showed against Toledo. McCaughey credited his readiness to the mental reps he took on the sideline throughout the season, standing behind the line of scrimmage, tracking defensive reads and visualizing throws in real time. That preparation fostered deep trust with his receivers, keeping the offense confident regardless of who takes the snap.

Roster health and target connections

The Eagles' offense is also positioned to regain key target options. Cole Dellinger, who was close to returning against Ohio, is expected to be in better shape for the Ford Field matchup. Reintegrating key pass catchers will help restore the offensive rhythm built over recent weeks. Coach Creighton praised the offensive unit's belief, noting how the group sustained drives and produced late-game scoring opportunities despite early execution hurdles. The controlled dome environment inside Ford Field gives the passing attack a clean environment to execute routes and throws.

Scouting Central Michigan: Scheme adjustments and matchup challenges

Ground-and-pound evolution

Central Michigan comes to Detroit with a heavy ground-and-pound offensive identity. Traditionally reliant on power running schemes to control time of possession and the line of scrimmage, the Chippewas present a physical challenge for the Eagles' defense. However, Central Michigan faces quarterback adjustments, with its starting dual-threat quarterback expected to miss the game due to injury. This forces the Chippewas to adjust their offense under backup signal-callers.

Defensive preparation for a dual-threat backup

Despite the starting quarterback's absence, Central Michigan showed scheme flexibility against Miami, featuring an effective passing attack led by an athletic backup quarterback. Coach Creighton emphasized that Eastern Michigan's defense must prepare for multiple looks. Whether Central Michigan runs quarterback-designed plays or opens the field with more passing sets, the Eagles' defense will focus on diagnosing formations quickly, setting the edge, and tackling cleanly in space.

Keys to victory: Complementary football and the 1-and-0 mindset

Building complementary synergy

Coach Creighton highlighted Eastern Michigan's programmatic growth into a well-rounded, complementary football team. While the defense established a strong foundation early in the season, the offense and special teams have steadily improved. Achieving synergy across all three phases, controlling field position, sustaining scoring drives and securing defensive stops remains the formula for success in Detroit.

Composure under bright lights

Central to Eastern Michigan's preparation is its 1-and-0 philosophy: approaching every rep and execution attempt with isolated focus. Broen and team leaders emphasized remaining calm and collective, refusing to let the NFL venue or national broadcast distract from assignment execution. By focusing on fundamental execution, Eastern Michigan aims to capture the "Motor City MACtion" victory at Ford Field.

Eagles split high-stakes series with Akron as five-set comeback highlights weekend action

Ruby Brannon
Sports Editor

In a compelling Mid-American Conference series against the University of Akron Zips, the Eastern Michigan University volleyball squad experienced the full spectrum of collegiate athletic drama. After a hard-fought four-set loss, the Eagles regrouped in spectacular fashion to stage a thrilling five-set comeback victory, demonstrating remarkable perseverance and team resilience.

The back-to-back encounters offered a vivid contrast between individual excellence amid collective adversity and an all-around team triumph when pushed to the brink.

Akron takes game one in four-set battle

The weekend action opened with Akron securing a four-set victory, putting Eastern Michigan on the defensive early in the series. Despite the setback, the Eagles showed sustained, high-caliber execution, staying competitive through extended rallies and keeping sets tightly contested against a formidable conference rival.

Individual excellence amid team setback

Even in defeat, Eastern Michigan saw outstanding individual contributions that kept the Eagles within striking distance. Outside hitter Natalie Slusher and middle blocker Taeley Mahler emerged as primary focal points for the Eastern Michigan attack, delivering standout performances that anchored the squad across all four sets.

Slusher consistently found holes in the Akron defensive block, delivering key scoring strikes when the offense needed momentum. Meanwhile, Mahler established a commanding presence at the net, pairing sharp offensive timing with critical defensive touches to slow Akron's transition attack. Their individual brilliance provided a crucial silver lining for the head coaching staff, proving that Eastern Michigan possessed the net-front firepower to contend directly with Akron's frontline.

EMU answers with dramatic five-set comeback

Refusing to let the opening setback dictate the overall weekend narrative, Eastern Michigan returned to the court with renewed urgency in the series finale. What unfolded was a dramatic, five-set marathon that tested the mental fortitude, execution and physical conditioning of both rosters.

After falling behind early, the Eagles mounted a stubborn rally. Eastern Michigan adjusted its defensive posture, tightened court communications, and capitalized on key transition opportunities to force the contest into a deciding fifth set.



From left to right, Taeley Mahler, Maddie Herman, and AshleeKay Christensen block pass from Miami University on Oct. 15 at Eastern Michigan University's women's volleyball match at the George Gervin GameAbove Center.
Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo

Resilience on display in marquee victory

The fifth set showcased Eastern Michigan's ultimate athletic triumph. Facing intense pressure in the decisive final frame, the Eagles executed under pressure, stringing together crucial points at the net to close out Akron and secure a hard-earned victory.

The final whistle marked a celebration of perseverance and collective achievement. Overcoming a set deficit and the emotional weight of their Oct. 30 defeat, Eastern Michigan showed the poise needed to close out tight conference matches. The victory highlighted the squad's growth, showing an ability to adapt mid-match and deliver under maximum competitive pressure.

As Eastern Michigan continues its conference schedule, the contrast between the two matches serves as a structural blueprint. While individual stars like Slusher and Mahler provide a dependable foundation, the collective determination demonstrated in their Oct. 31 five-set rally proves that the Eagles can beat quality conference opponents when every unit functions in sync.

The split series against Akron shows a program that can turn disappointment into momentum, a defining trait for any squad pursuing long-term success in collegiate volleyball.

WEEKLY VOTER TIP
Today is Election Day!
Polls are open from 7am - 8pm
Find your polling place at michigan.gov/vote
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Ypsi City Council approves $100K for winter shelters



City Hall is at 1 S. Huron St., Ypsilanti and hosts Ypsilanti City Council meetings. *Lilly Kujawski / The Eastern Echo*

Lelaina MacDonald
News Reporter

At the Oct. 20, Ypsilanti City Council meeting, council members approved an allocation of $100,000 to the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County for winter sheltering services in the city. The proposal was approved unanimously, but some changes to the winter shelter options sparked discussion between city leaders.

In 2022, the City of Ypsilanti and the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County, worked together to provide a daytime warming center at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse. St. Luke's Episcopal Church then began providing overnight shelter during weekdays. Last year, Second Baptist Church provided the same service during the weekends.

This year, SAWC negotiated with St. Luke's to provide daytime warming services and overnight shelter. This service would be available Mondays through Thursdays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. from November 2026 until March 2027.

The proposal that City Council discussed requests additional funding from other partners. The proposal would also include programs brokered by day shelter staff and meals with existing partners. It requests $100,000 for the SAWC, which councilors discussed upon approval.

Council Member Desirae Simmons, Ward 3, voiced her concern about the time change within the warming center this year.

"It might be the same cost, but it's less time because the daytime warming center went into 5 p.m. and this only goes until 3 p.m.," Simmons said.

People would be able to return for overnight shelter at 5 p.m., which would mean they would not have a place to go for two hours, which Simmons commented on, as well.

"Where will people go during that time?" Simmons asked. "That's one of the things, too. I know in several conversations in this space that I've had with folks over the years, that there was always the sense that people needed different places for daytime and nighttime. In part, because of this break, but also because ... who wants to be in the same place 24 hours a day?"

Simmons was concerned about what the options will be for people during that break time and if there will be other locations available in addition to St. Luke's.

"I would have loved to have someone from there [SAWC] to talk about this because it is a pretty big change," she said.

Another topic that was brought into discussion was the spatial differences between St. Luke's and the Freighthouse. Council is unsure of how much access to the building St. Luke's is going to offer, adding that the Freighthouse has had plenty of space when providing these daytime warming centers and overnight shelters, but St. Luke's is significantly smaller.

"I think it's important to know what the plan is because the number of people is actually going up, who are seeking services, not going down," Simmons said. "That would be my concern because if they're not able to be located within spaces that are available in providing programming, then they will be out and about."

Council Member Amber Fellows, Ward 3, said she received some information that there will be an additional daytime warming center at the Methodist Church in downtown Ypsilanti on and off from December 2026 to April 2027.

"We will be rotating with Ann Arbor churches, as well," Fellows said. "So, some weeks will be in Ypsi, some weeks will be in Ann Arbor."

She said that in her estimation, this may be a slight increase in services during the winter than previous seasons in the city of Ypsilanti.

"Still, I think the Freighthouse was a destination for people to feel a sense of home and stability and community," Fellows stated. "As there was always food and activities and lots of space. So we'll see how this goes."

Fellows added that she shares the same concerns as Simmons about the single site being able to accommodate all the escalating needs for the community.

Endorsement

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"If you look at the Jewish vote that typically goes 75% Democrat, it is unlikely to go that Democrat in this particular election," Bernstein said. "A lot of that was already baked into the polls and already baked into the analysis that we have been doing."

Koss also said if Stevens' goal was to benefit Rogers' campaign and help lead him to victory, the move to endorse him could actually backfire.

As for Stevens' political future in the Democratic Party following her Republican endorsement? "She's toast," Bernstein said. "She's toast in the party.

Bernstein said bitter primaries are not uncommon, but the assumption is that when the primary is over, the losing candidate will back the party's nominee.

"If she believes the issues she's fighting for are that big that she can't do that and she has to go her own way on this, that is certainly her prerogative. But it doesn't help her in the future as a Democrat," Bernstein said.

Democratic National Convention chairperson Ken Martin called Stevens' endorsement disappointing in a statement posted to Instagram, saying it was a betrayal of the values of the Democratic Party.

"At a moment when Democrats are united in fighting for Michigan's families and standing up to Trump's agenda, we reject these efforts to sow division within our party," Martin said. "We will not allow last-minute political stunts to derail our momentum and we will triple down on our efforts to elect Abdul El-Sayed on Tuesday."



Political signs for both sides of the ballot stand in front of the Ypsilanti Freighthouse. *AnnaBelle Favre - The Eastern Echo*



What's the Move?
Nov. 3 - 9

Lelaina MacDonald
News Reporter

There is always something fun going on in Ypsilanti. Here are some events and activities that are happening in Ypsi this week.

Sweater Weather and Paint Together — Nov. 3

In the Marshall building on campus, in Room 201, the College of Health and Human Services will be hosting a cozy fall event for students. Those who attend will be able to enjoy paint by number activities and fall treats.

This is a free event that will go from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Murder Mystery Night — Nov. 5

The Children's Healing Center, an organization that provides a safe and clean environment for children with weakened immune systems, is hosting a murder mystery night. Guests are encouraged to try to uncover clues, question suspects and work to solve the mystery before the night comes to an end.

This event will include appetizers and drinks. Guests should arrive at 6 p.m., the mystery will begin at 6:30 p.m. and conclude at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are $45 per person.

Attend the Murder Mystery Night at 7400 Kalitta Court, Ypsilanti, to have fun and support kids and families of the Children's Healing Center.

Family Pains by Erin Osgood — Nov. 5-8

PTD Productions is performing "Family Pains" by Erin Osgood, a six person show taking place around Thanksgiving, right before the holiday arrives.

The production revolves around Pippa Matthews who has not visited her family in the Detroit suburbs for two years. Her strict, conservative father and her germophobic, eccentric mother are not fans of Pippa's New York life as a playwright. Despite their views, Pippa has important news to share, so she decides to surprise visit her family at Thanksgiving.

Nov. 5, 6 and 7 shows will be at 7:30 p.m. The Nov. 8 show will be at 2 p.m. All viewings of "Family Pains" can be seen at The Riverside Arts Center, located at 76 N Huron St., Ypsilanti.

Pineview Craft Show — Nov. 7

The Pineview Church, located at 6400 Textile Road, Ypsilanti is having a craft show featuring 50 artisans. In addition to the homemade goods for sale, there will also be door prize drawings for customers, concessions, face-painting and a kids craft corner.

The craft show will run from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Tickets to attend are $2 per person. Kids 12 and under are free.

A portion of all proceeds will be donated to Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti.

Celebrating American Song and Piano — Nov. 8

From Gershwin to The Beatles, pianist and singer Matthew Ball will bring a musical smile to listeners with his Jazz and Blues-n-Boogie twists to classic American songs.

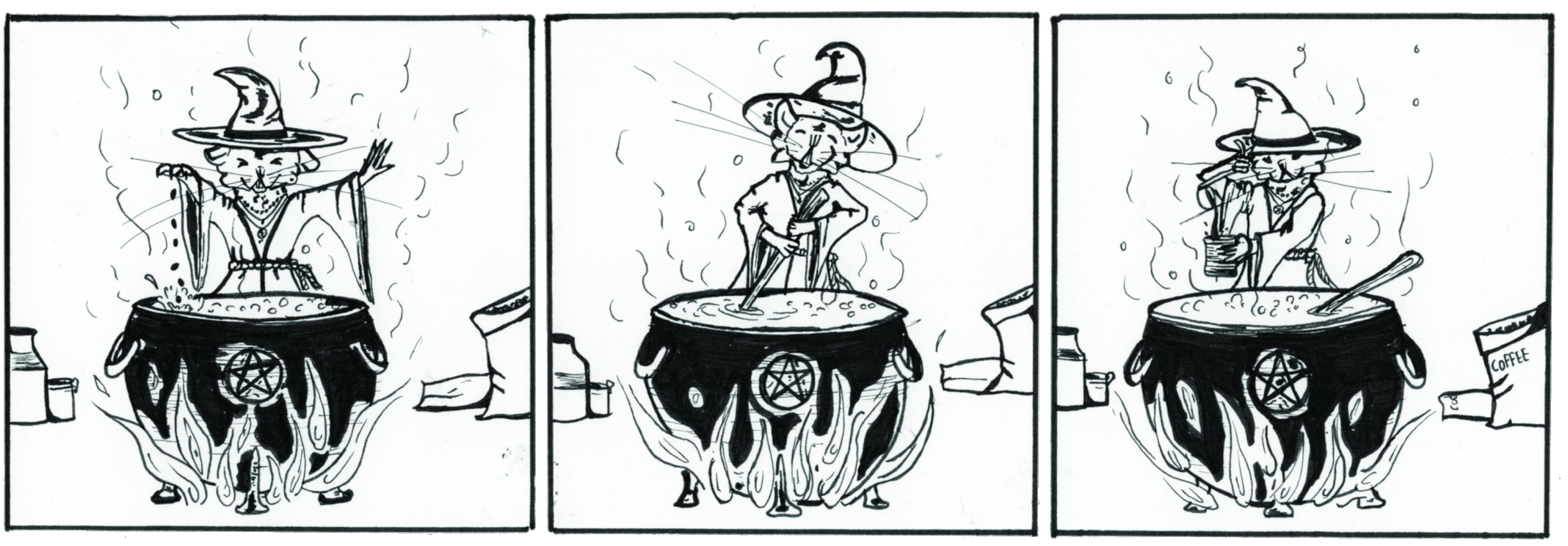
All ages are welcome at this free event. No registration required. Those interested can go to the Ypsilanti District Library at the Whittaker Road location.

Board Game Meet Up — Nov. 9

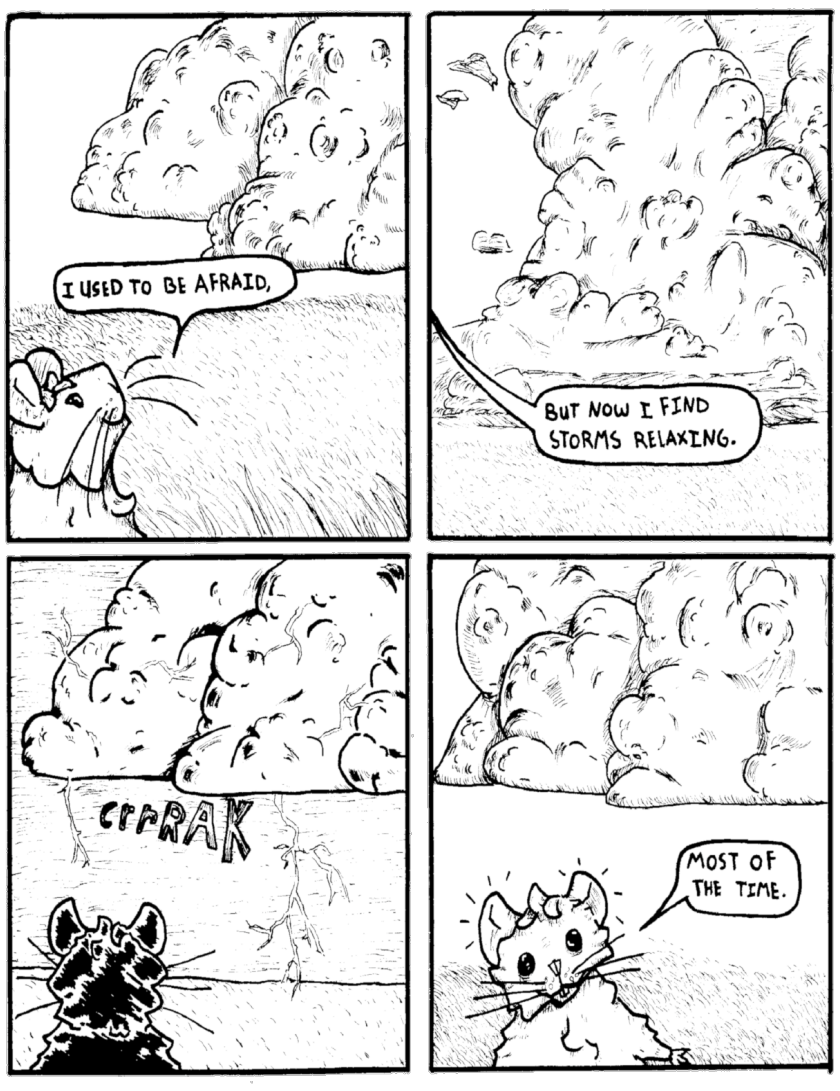
The YDL has a board game night on the second Monday of each month. The library will have a rotating selection of mostly lighter-complexity board games. Those who attend are welcome to bring their own board games to play, share and/or teach.

This is a free event intended for those 13 years and older. The board game night will take place at the Whittaker Road location.

Coffee Break | Jamie Owens



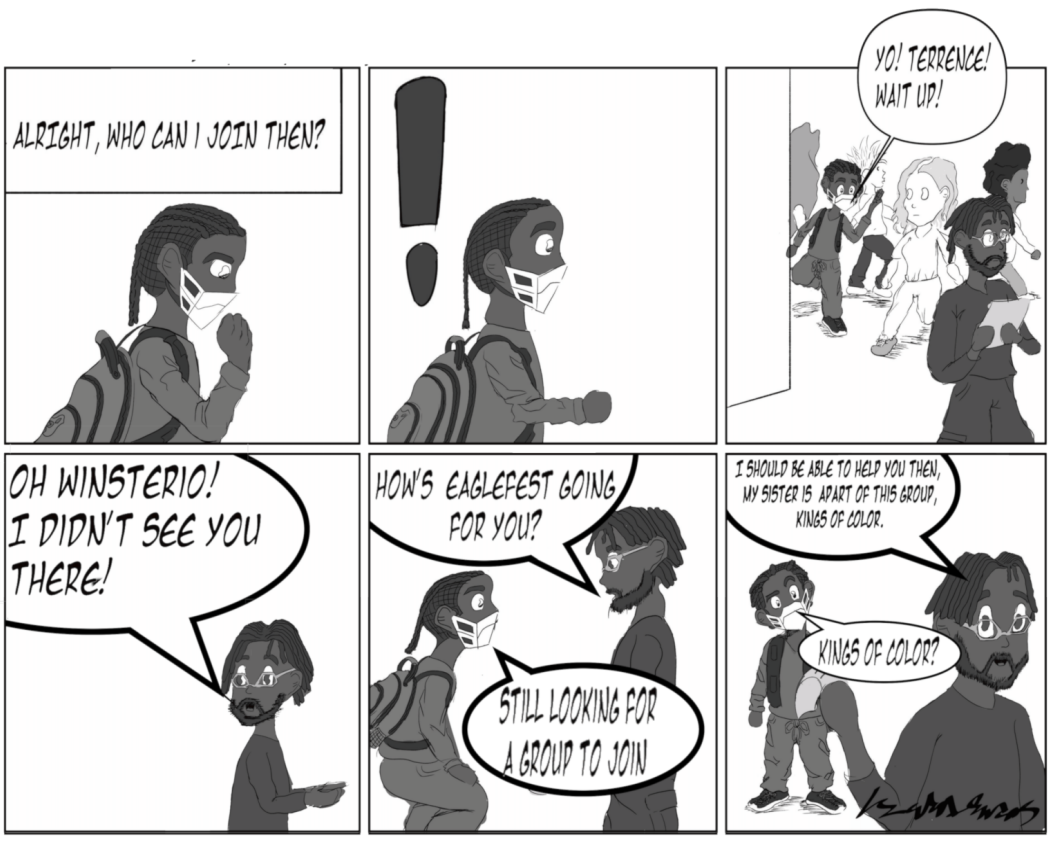
Thunderstorms| Jamie Owens



Moonlight: Part 1 - Our Warm Welcome | AJ Grams



Something about a Freshie #12 | Isaiah Sanders



Ghost Hunting | Katelyn Hollis



The Color Red | Yiri



Scan to read more comics!

ABDUL FOR US SENATE

It shouldn't be this hard.

I know what's competing for your attention. Exams. An extra shift. Rent that keeps going up. So thank you for a few minutes. I'll make them count.

On November 3rd, Michigan picks its next United States Senator. In 2024, this race came down to 20,217 votes out of millions. That margin isn't somewhere far away. It's in your dorm. In the lecture hall. In the group chat. So let me tell you what I believe:

It shouldn't be this hard to get a good education — and to know that at the end of your journey, there are good jobs with living wages, not an endless race to the bottom against robots and AI agents.

It shouldn't be this hard to see a doctor. When I ran Wayne County's health department, we built a program to cancel up to $700 million in medical debt and got thousands of kids free glasses. Rogers backed Trump's Medicaid cuts, raked in over $1 million from Big Pharma, and called himself the champion of the opioid industry while Michiganders were dying of overdoses. I want Medicare for All. He wants more money.

It shouldn't be this hard to get your tax dollars spent on *you*. For most of your lives, this country has been at war. Now Trump has us in another one — a war Rogers supported. I want to end the war in Iran and the genocide in Gaza, and bring that money home to our schools, hospitals, and communities.

Here's what I want you to remember: the way things are is not the way they have to be. Not the costs. Not the wars. Not the corruption. So many of the rights we have today were won by young people who refused to accept the world as it was. Democracy was never meant to be a spectator sport.

So: register. Make a plan. Find your polling place. Then bring three people: your roommate, your lab partner, the friend who complains about politics and has never voted. Those three are the margin. Vote by November 3rd, then hold me accountable.

Money out of politics. Money in your pocket.
Medicare for All. Taking on a rigged system,
and finally making it work for all of us.

Join us.

Abdul El-Sayed
Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate, Michigan



FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

PAID FOR BY ABDUL FOR U.S. SENATE