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# The Eastern Echo

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 Serving EMU and Ypsilanti since 1881 easternecho.com

## New measles cases, exposure sites identified amid Washtenaw County outbreak

**Lilly Kujawski**  
 Managing Editor - News

Washtenaw County has officially declared a measles outbreak in the area, with three confirmed cases and one suspect case as of March 21.

The new suspect case, as well as the other cases, were close contacts of the first case announced March 11. The suspect has symptoms consistent with measles and known exposure. The disease has not yet been confirmed with laboratory testing, the Washtenaw County Health Department announced in a March 21 statement.

The health department has also identified new exposure locations connected to the suspect case, its statement said. The measles virus is highly contagious and can live up to two hours in the air, the health department reported.

The new exposure locations and times have been identified as the following, all on Tuesday, March 17: in or around Room 241 in the Crane Liberal Arts and Science Building, Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; in or around Room 332 in the Gunder Myran Building, Washtenaw Community College, 1-5 p.m.; and Kroger, 2010 Whittaker Road, Ypsilanti, 5-7:10 p.m.

Anyone at these locations during the specific times and dates listed should monitor themselves for measles symptoms for 21 days after exposure, the statement said. If symptoms appear, individuals should call their health care provider and should not seek in-person medical treatment without first calling the doctor's office, urgent care or emergency room.

These new locations are in addition to the nine originally reported exposure locations. Those include the following.

Wednesday, March 4: Crunch Fitness at 3020 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti, 5-8:40 p.m.; and Sidetrack

Bar and Grill at 56 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti, 7:45 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Thursday, March 5: Briarwood Mall at 100 Briarwood Circle, Ann Arbor, 3-6:30 p.m.; T-Mobile at 2044 Whittaker Road, Ypsilanti, 6-8:40 p.m.; and Cricket Wireless in Roundtree Place Shopping Center at 2547 Ellsworth Road, Ypsilanti, 6:55-8:55 p.m.

Friday, March 6: CVS Pharmacy at 1415 E. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, 4-6:07 p.m.; and Cricket Wireless in Roundtree Place Shopping Center at 2547 Ellsworth Road, Ypsilanti, 7-10 p.m.

Saturday, March 7: Ypsilanti Urgent Care Walk-In Clinic at 301 W. Michigan Ave., Suite 100, Ypsilanti, 7:15-9:27 p.m.

Sunday, March 8: Canton Urgent Care Walk-In Clinic 43033 Ford Road, 4:30-7 p.m.

Symptoms typically begin between seven and 14 days but can start up to 21 days after exposure. Symptoms include high fever, cough, runny nose, red, watery eyes, tiny white spots on the inner cheeks, gums and roof of the mouth two to three days after symptoms begin, and a rash that is red, raised and blotchy that usually starts on the face and spreads to the trunk, arms and legs three to five days after symptoms begin.

The statement said that the MMR vaccine, which protects against measles, mumps and rubella, is highly effective and very safe.

Vaccination is available from health care providers, pharmacies and health departments. Children eligible for the CDC's Vaccines for Children program could receive the vaccine from a provider enrolled in that program at no cost.

The Washtenaw County Health Department accepts Medicaid, Medicare, Washtenaw Health Plan and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, the statement said. While vaccines



A sign posted to the front door of the Washtenaw County Health Department, located at 555 Towner St., Ypsilanti, alerts people of the measles outbreak in the county and provides instructions for those experiencing symptoms on March 19. Lilly Kujawski / The Eastern Echo

from the health department are not free, they are provided on a sliding fee scale, and no one will be turned away for being unable to pay, Susan Ringler Cerniglia told *The Eastern Echo* in a previous interview. Ringler Cerniglia is the public information officer for the county health department.

People can call 734-544-6700 to set up a vaccine appointment at the Washtenaw County Health Department. Walk-in vaccinations are available at 555 Towner St. in Ypsilanti at the following times: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Anyone not fully vaccinated against measles is encouraged to do so as soon as possible. About one in five unvaccinated people who get measles will be hospitalized. Serious

complications include pneumonia, encephalitis (swelling of the brain), death, and complications during pregnancy," the health department statement said.

Individuals with two, appropriately spaced doses of the MMR vaccine, which prevents measles, mumps and rubella, are considered immune to the disease, the health department reported. For fully vaccinated individuals, the measles vaccine is about 97% effective in preventing the disease. A single dose of the measles vaccine is about 93% effective at preventing measles.

Additionally, adults born before 1957 or those who have evidence of prior measles illness are considered immune, the health department reported. Typically, babies are vaccinated at 12 months old. However,

people with infants can talk to their health care provider about vaccinating their child as early as six months old, especially in the event of an outbreak, Ringler Cerniglia said.

People who grew up in Michigan can check their vaccination status through the state's immunization portal online. Records can also be requested from one's health care provider or through the county health department. The Washtenaw County Health Department can issue an immunization record for any Michigan resident and can be reached by calling 734-544-6700 and pressing No. 3, its website said.

A blood draw can also confirm immunity, Ringler Cerniglia said. She added that there is no harm in getting an additional MMR vaccine if immunization is difficult to confirm.

## Ypsilanti mourns community leader, farmer Melvin Parson



We the People Opportunity Farm is a non-profit organization that provides paid internships, life skills and financial literacy training to the formerly incarcerated. The farm has had over 30 interns who help for its nine-month growing season. (Courtesy of We the People Opportunity Farm)

**AnnaBelle Favre**  
 News Reporter

The Ypsilanti community is mourning the loss of Melvin Parson, a transformative local leader whose life and work reshaped countless others, who died Thursday, March 5, at age 61.

Parson is the founder of the We the People Opportunity Farm in Ypsilanti, as well as a community leader in the area.

Parson lived a life marked by both hardship and transformation, and he used his story to uplift others. For 13

years, he experienced homelessness, struggled with addiction, and cycled in and out of prison, the WTPOF website said. His turning point came when he moved into an Avalon Housing community in Ypsilanti that included a shared garden. When the resident who had cared for the garden died, others encouraged Parson to take it over. Though he had no prior experience, he accepted the challenge.

Parson decided to start from the very beginning: the soil. He began by adding compost and nurturing the soil, and was surprised and delighted when

in the next season the garden was filled with healthy produce.

This inspired Parson, and he often reflected on gardening as a metaphor for life: good soil produces strong plants. He would say that even a healthy plant can wither in poor soil, while a struggling one can recover in the right conditions, the WTPOF website said. Having considered himself an unhealthy plant, he saw the prison system as poor soil, an environment difficult to grow in, creating a cycle he couldn't get out of. His work became rooted in breaking that cycle for others.

In 2015, Parson rented a small plot of land from a local church to expand his farming endeavors. In an interview for Ypsilanti District Library's Ypsi Farmers and Gardeners Oral Project, he recalled growing from a three foot by nine foot vegetable bed to a quarter-acre farm within two years.

"I guess I was just naive enough to forge on," he said in the interview, remembering his early days navigating farmers markets and trying to figure out what kale and radishes were after being so disconnected from the world for so long.

A few years later, Parson founded We the People Opportunity Farm, a

non-profit organization that provides paid internships, life skills and financial literacy training to the formerly incarcerated. The farm has had over 30 interns who help for its nine-month growing season, its website said.

The We the People Opportunity Farm's website states that "Our No-Cost Food Distribution initiative, launched in 2020, has provided over 35,000 pounds of food to our neighbors at no cost."

Parson's legacy continues through the farm and his latest project, The Good Soil Cafe, which is expected to open this spring.

### Awards and accomplishments

In 2019, Parson became The Henry Ford's first William Davidson Entrepreneur-in-Residence, where he helped develop youth programming, workshops and Innovation Labs to encourage young people to become entrepreneurs.

He also was a member of The Henry Ford's Carver-Carson Society, supporting initiatives in edible education, agriculture and foodways. In 2023, he was honored with the George-Washington Carver Prize, which honors leaders in agriculture innovation and

environmental stewardship, said a tribute from The Henry Ford.

Parson and We the People Opportunity Farm also partnered with The Henry Ford to bring fresh produce to The Henry Ford Academy's school lunch program as a part of the Farm to School Lunch Across America Initiative, the tribute said.

In 2022, Washtenaw Community College honored Parson with the WCC Equity in Action Award, recognizing community members who embody the advocacy, leadership and service exemplified by Martin Luther King Jr., said a statement from the college.

Zingerman's Roadhouse uses fresh produce from Parson's farm, and he worked with staff to raise awareness about underrepresented producers, food sustainability and nutrition, said its website.

Shortly after his death, the FECK, Forgiveness Empathy Compassion Kindness awards announced that Parson would receive the 2026 national award for empathy. He will be honored at a ceremony in Chicago on April 4, 2026.

**SEE MELVIN PARSON, PAGE 3**

## The Eastern Echo

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

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### THE ECHO MISSION

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

### HOW TO REACH US

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Winter 2026  
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### CORRECTIONS

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

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



# CALENDAR

**MAR 24** **Registration Blitz**  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Rec/IM Building — Gymnasium

**MAR 25** **Women of Excellence Award Ceremony**  
4:30 - 6 p.m.  
Student Center — Room 310 A/B

**MAR 26** **Basketball League Games**  
6-10 p.m.  
Rec/IM Building — 3rd Floor Courts

**MAR 27** **46th Annual Undergraduate Symposium**  
9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.  
Student Center

**MAR 28** **Winter Choral Concert**  
7:30-9 p.m.  
Pease Auditorium

**MAR 29** **EMU Baseball vs. Central Michigan University**  
1 p.m.  
Oestrike Stadium

**MAR 30** **Co-Ed Soccer League Games**  
9-11 p.m.  
Indoor Practice Facility — Fields 1 and 2

## WEATHER FORECAST

**Tuesday, March 24**  
High: 51 | Low: 34  
Partly sunny / Mostly cloudy

**Wednesday, March 25**  
High: 53 | Low: 39  
Mostly cloudy / Mostly cloudy\*

**Thursday, March 26**  
High: 67 | Low: 28  
Mostly cloudy\* / Mostly cloudy\*

**Friday, March 27**  
High: 43 | Low: 23  
Partly sunny / Mostly clear

**Saturday, March 28**  
High: 48 | Low: N/A  
Sunny / N/A

\*Chance of precipitation

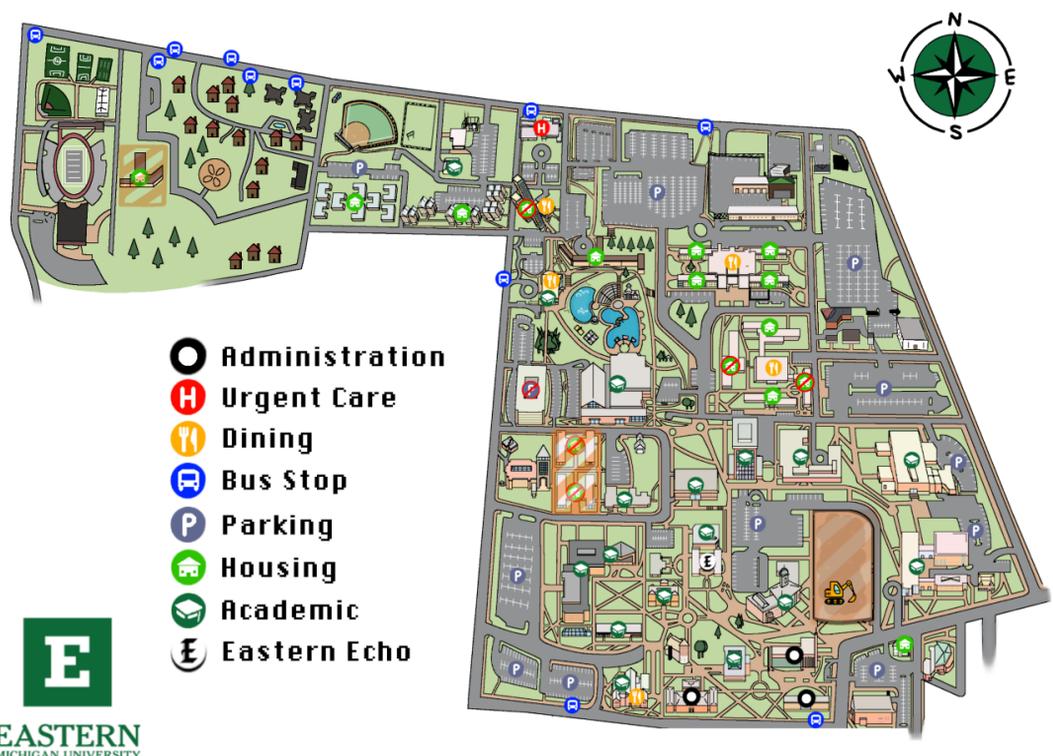


Source:  
The National Weather Service

### Where to find The Echo:

- On Campus:**
- Mark Jefferson Science Complex
  - Marshall Building
  - McKenny Hall
- Off Campus:**
- Cafe Liv, 202 N. Washington St.
  - Chef Restaurant Mediterranean Grill, 1098 N. Huron River Drive
  - Cottage Inn, 2407 Washtenaw Ave.

### Where to find our links:



# EMU remembers Jennifer Fisher, School of Music and Dance professor

# What's the Move?

March 24-30

Allie Beecher

Copy Desk Chief

## Latin Social Dance Workshop, March 25

On Wednesday, March 25, the Superior branch of the Ypsilanti District Library will host the Latin Social Dance Workshop, a dance and music workshop led by University of Michigan lecturer and theater artist Emilio Rodriguez. The event's page on the library's website states that the workshop will feature music from the musical "Salomé," which celebrates Caribbean and Puerto Rican folklore.

People of all ages are welcome to attend, and no prior dance experience is required. Participants will learn dances at a level suitable for learners of all experience levels.

This workshop will take place from 1-2 p.m. in the Superior Meeting Room at YDL Superior, located at 1900 Harris Road. It is free to attend, and no registration is required.

To learn more about this event, visit its page on the YDL website.

## YDL Repair Clinic, March 26

On Thursday, March 26, the Michigan Avenue branch of the YDL will host a repair workshop, during which attendees can get help with mending and suggest ideas for future Repair Clinics. The library staff have sewing skills but are eager to learn about what other things community members would like to get help repairing, the event's page on the library's website states.

The Repair Clinic will take place 10-11:30 a.m. in the Michigan Avenue Program Room at 229 W. Michigan Ave. This event is free, and no registration is required. To learn more, visit the event's page on the YDL website or email smorrison@ypsilibrary.org or asmith@ypsilibrary.org.

## River Givers Gathering and Trivia in the Watershed, March 26

On Thursday, March 26, the Huron River Watershed Council will host the River Givers Gathering, which celebrates the council's 2026 stewardship awardees, the River Givers page on the HRWC's website states. From 4-7 p.m., attendees can connect with fellow community members and learn about the HRWC's initiatives, such as the Pen Dam removal and Trinity Health Ann Arbor natural areas restoration project. This event is free, and no registration is required. It will take place at Corner Brewery at 720 Norris St., Ypsilanti.

Those who would like to try their hand at trivia might also want to stay for Trivia in the Watershed, which will take place at Corner Brewery at 7 p.m. directly after the River Givers Gathering. The trivia questions will test participants' knowledge of the Huron River as well as pop culture and current events. Trivia in the Watershed requires a \$35 ticket, which includes a complimentary beverage, light appetizers, the chance to win prizes and a one-year membership in the HRWC. Tickets are available for purchase on the HRWC's website.

To learn more about either of these events, visit the HRWC website at www.hrwc.org or its Facebook page.

## Love, Lather, and Lines, March 28

On Saturday, March 28, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., the Riverside Arts Center will host an arts workshop at which participants will explore self-love through poetry and melt and pour soapmaking. Each participant will make at least one bar of soap to take home and explore themes including self-worth and self-care through guided poetry prompts.

A donation of \$10 is suggested, but no one will be turned away for a lack of funds. Those interested in attending or learning more can RSVP on the RAC's website at www.riversidearts.org/love-lather-lines/. The RAC is at 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti.



Eastern Michigan University professor Jennifer "Jenny" Fisher is remembered for her musical talent and kind spirit. (Courtesy of Eastern Michigan University)

AnnaBelle Favre  
News Reporter

Professor Jennifer "Jenny" Fisher died Wednesday, March 18, 2026. Fisher, 55, was a lecturer in keyboard studies at Eastern Michigan University for 18 years.

Fisher was born Feb. 28, 1971, in Morrison, Illinois, and was raised on her family's farm, her obituary said. She graduated from Eastland High School in Lanark, Illinois, in 1989. Fisher earned a Bachelor of Arts in music therapy from Western Illinois University in 1994. Later, she graduated with a Master of Arts in piano pedagogy from EMU, a statement from the university's school of music and dance said.

Fisher began her career in music

therapy, using her talents and passions to help those in need, before following her calling in ministry.

"Jenny moved to Michigan to serve with Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, where she invested deeply in the lives of college students. She was lovingly known as 'Pastor Jenny,' a name that reflected the care, guidance, and spiritual leadership she offered and one that remained with her throughout the years," stated the obituary.

She ultimately decided to change her path to teaching music when her professor, Garik Pedersen, encouraged her to teach, said Hyun-Jin Lim, a lecturer of piano at EMU.

"She graduated from Eastern with her master's in piano pedagogy and after that started teaching for us. She has been teaching as a part-time lecturer for 18 years. All music majors took her fundamental classes. Everybody knew her, and her students liked her ... she knew probably 90% of music majors for the last 18 years," said Christopher Barrick, director of the School of Music and Dance.

Fisher, or as her students lovingly called her, "J Fishie," was known for her kindness and would frequently go out of her way to help her students, family and friends.

Senior music education student Willow Hazucha described the supportive nature of the classes Fisher taught.

"Overall, she was just a very kind and warm and good-hearted person. She was very sweet, and she ran class in a way where there was a lot of information and learning, but it felt like low-stakes. She never made us feel

stressed about our performance tests or like it was the end of the world if we messed up," Hazucha said. "Another thing she absolutely did not have to do, was when a lot of the freshman in her class were struggling in our music theory class, she would take time out of the lesson to re-explain concepts to us, and some students would even go to her office hours to get help on assignments for other classes."

Fisher's colleagues noticed her effect on students, too.

"She was very easy to work with and come to for anything. I could just see the students loving her. She was a very passionate and energetic educator and teacher," said Bing Li, a professor of piano at EMU.

Fisher's care and selflessness extended to anyone she met. In an email to *The Echo*, Lim wrote, "Jenny was more than just a colleague to me; she was a dear friend — the only one I felt I could truly open my heart to. Regardless of how busy her own schedule was, she was always 'open' and available whenever I needed someone to talk to."

Lim described how her academic relationship with Fisher became a friendship after Lim started regularly buying eggs from Fisher, who had chickens.

"Usually, academic relationships stay within the confines of the school, and we often don't see colleagues during the four-month summer break. But it was different with Jenny. Using the 'egg hand-offs' as an excuse, we were able to meet and catch up even during the vacations. Whenever I needed someone to consult with or

lean on at school, Jenny was the only person I turned to," Lim wrote in an email. "Her selfless and open nature was evident even during her battle with illness. I remember a short message she shared while she was suffering; her prayer request wasn't for her own pain, but for her family and friends who would one day have to face her sudden absence. I sincerely hope that the kindness, love, and devotion she poured into her students will continue to live on and be remembered by all of us."

Fisher's positivity and supportive nature were evident in her workplace and her impact on students, her colleagues said.

"She's the kind of person you always see in the hallway, always a smile on her face. In her job, she was responsible for teaching a class that is not always easy for students. She was just so talented at making the kids feel welcome, safe and that success was possible for them. She was always chipper and bright and never had a complaint," said Joel Schoenhals, another professor of piano at EMU.

As well as a professor, colleague, and friend, Fisher also was deeply involved with Eastern Michigan University's Community Music Academy. She taught music lessons and group classes to children ages 4-10 for many years. She was a teacher, mentor and friend to her students, young and old.

The School of Music and Dance is working to celebrate and honor her memory in a future event, Barrick said. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Fisher's honor to Trinity Home Hospice, the obituary said.

# Ypsilanti resident reveals secret behind citywide scavenger hunt

Gray Connor  
Managing Editor - Operations

Since January, Ypsilanti and Washtenaw County residents have been exploring local landmarks and competing for prizes through a citywide scavenger hunt.

The Ypsi Winter Games, which runs until April 15, 2026, has brought players to notable places like the Ypsilanti Freighthouse, Riverside Park and the Ypsilanti Water Tower. At each location, participants in the event use clues from the event's website to scan codes hidden there, which can then be cashed in for Ypsilanti-themed prizes.

First founded in 2023, the Ypsi Winter Games was created by a group of passionate residents inspired by the Ann Arbor Summer Games, an annual scavenger hunt hosted by the Ann Arbor District Library. With the support of competitive badge hunters, the Ypsi Winter Games, according to their website, has become a staple in the Ypsilanti community — or so participants thought.

In reality, the Ypsi Winter Games are more than a scavenger hunt; they were first and foremost a scheme hatched by Ypsilanti resident Christopher Kok to propose to Julian Ho.

"We always loved the Ann Arbor Summer Games," Kok said. After seeing how Ho had enjoyed the Ann Arbor District Library's scavenger hunt, Kok decided to create a similar one throughout Ypsilanti. From the

beginning, its website, which features some fabricated information, was all created with the hope of throwing Ho off of Kok's plan, while promoting community-based fun at the same time.

While the Ypsi Winter Games' website says that the scavenger hunt is the product of multiple passionate individuals, in actuality, the work was mostly done by Kok. The FAQ section also states that the 2026 Ypsi Winter Games is on its third year, when in reality it is in its first.

However, the prizes offered by the Ypsi Winter Games are real, and can be obtained by participants once the event ends, either at a meet-up spot, or personally delivered to them by Kok. The prizes are sponsored by the Ypsilanti Township, which offered Ypsilanti-themed items for the prize pool. Some of the prizes that participants can earn by cashing in the points they receive are an Ypsilanti-themed tote bag, journal and pen, and a handmade water tower token.

Updated only a couple of weeks prior to the hunt's conclusion, a handful of new badges appeared on the website, leading participants to find more codes at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse.

"I always knew I wanted the Freighthouse to be a center point for where I proposed, because that's where she started her art market, and art markets have become a huge part of our lives in the last year," Kok said. "One of the badges is set there, and I only released it towards the last couple weeks so that she wouldn't accidentally



Christopher Kok surprises Julian Ho with a proposal in front of the Ypsilanti Freighthouse. (Courtesy of Christopher Kok)

go there ahead of time."

On March 15, Kok led Ho to the Ypsilanti Freighthouse before what Ho believed to be a small gathering at a local restaurant. Prior to arriving, Kok had programmed the code to have an easter egg where if a certain sequence of numbers was pressed into a phone, a secret message would appear. According to Kok, the message told her that he had a question for her.

"That's when I proposed," Kok said. "She definitely didn't expect it ... it had been going on for a while ... I think she really liked that a lot of our friends were involved in testing the games, tricking her to coming out for lunch and dressing up."

Ho said she was excited to see Ypsilanti embracing a similar idea as Ann Arbor, encouraging residents to engage with the local area.

"I thought vaguely that a city wide scavenger hunt would be a really cute engagement idea, but I had no idea he

was planning this," Ho said.

Ho started crocheting around the winter of 2024, with her first table event taking place at the Ypsi Flea Market in the Ypsilanti Freighthouse.

"I'm very much self-taught, and a very avid crafter. For the past few years, I've done a lot of fiber art, and have fallen in love with how fun and tactile it is," Ho said. "I wanted to share that with people, and I think that's when I decided to open a small business and do some art markets ... The Freighthouse [was my] first milestone with it."

Badge hunters wishing to participate can still get in on the action. The scavenger hunt will officially close on April 15.

For more information on the event and how to participate, instructions on getting started can be found on the Ypsi Winter Games' website. To view the website in its entirety, users are required to sign up with an email and password.

# Melvin Parson

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## Ypsilanti City Council formally honors Parson

At its March 14 meeting, the Ypsilanti City Council issued a formal proclamation honoring Parson's life.

Mayor Brown delivered the proclamation after her own remarks. She said, "Melvin believed deeply in the possibility of people. Not just in theory, but in practice. He believed

that a past mistake should never define someone's future, and he dedicated his life to proving that second chances are not only possible, but they are powerful."

She added, "I recognize that this loss is huge for the entire community. The ripple effect that it had just shows how deep and wide Melvin's reach has been and his connection to so many. I hope that folks are taking the opportunity to grieve in a healthy way to find healing

and find peace." She urged community members to seek support using local resources if they feel they need it.

Each city council member spoke in honor of Parson. Councilor Me'Chelle King extended condolences to his family, his community and We the People Opportunity Farm.

Councilor Desirae Simmons commented that the council's two proclamations being about Earth Day and Parson was fitting, because he loved the earth and was born on Earth Day 61 years ago.

"He told me that if I want my life

fulfilled and to be as happy as I want to be, I need to go around and pluck the weeds in my life. I encourage everyone to take his advice and pluck the weeds," said Councilor Roland Tooson.

Councilor Patrick McLean noted, "He was one of those quiet people who got a lot of work done without a lot of fanfare. He was a quiet power."

Parson requested that no memorial service be held. Those wishing to honor his life are encouraged to volunteer with or donate to We the People Opportunity Farm or Good Soil Cafe.



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Opinion

# The WellNest Watch



**Racism in healthcare: How strengthened public health systems influence policy and healthcare access for racial minorities**

**Ebrima Jobarteh**  
Contributor

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

Health outcomes are contingent on numerous factors that fall within the umbrella of the Social Determinants of Health, or the SDOH. Race as a social construct has been used to negatively impact individuals' access to health care services, treatment options, and their voices on policies that affect their health.

From the non-anesthetic surgical treatment of enslaved Black women using the Sims speculum, the Tuskegee experiment that observed the natural history of untreated syphilis in Black men, the unconsulted usage of Henrietta Lacks' stem cells for cancer treatment, to the current high rates of chronic diseases like hypertension and diabetes among Latino and Black populations, historically, racial minorities have endured much with the advancement of health care.

Moreover, racial minorities face an inadequately advanced health infrastructure, and along with the high cost of health insurance, the health outcomes of racial minorities are significantly affected.

Through public health, there has been the recognition of social determinants of health, as well as the introduction of health policies that expanded Medicaid access for low-income adults, especially in racial minorities. Examples include the Affordable Care Act, federal funding provided to local communities to implement healthcare interventions that reduce chronic disease burden, like the REACH Program, and implementation of substance abuse prevention and harm reduction strategies to improve healthcare for all segments of society.

Public health must persist in its efforts to provide health equity for racial minorities. Improving healthcare access through better, more affordable insurance policies, culturally appropriate healthcare delivery, and protection of vulnerable groups with comprehensive vaccination and immunization programs rests on the shoulders of public health advocates.

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

# Echo alumna, Sally Wright Day, to be inducted into *The Eastern Echo* Hall of Fame



One of the three 2026 inductees to *The Eastern Echo* Hall of Fame is Sally Wright Day. She said that *The Echo* was a big part of her and her kids' lives. Courtney Prielipp / *The Eastern Echo*

**AnnaBelle Favre**  
News Reporter

On April 2, *The Eastern Echo* will induct Sally Wright Day, along with two other *Echo* alumni, into *The Eastern Echo* Hall of Fame during its annual Student Media Gala.

Day arrived at Eastern Michigan University as an art major, moving into Downing Hall during the summer semester with what she fondly described as a group of hotshots from high school. While her academic path initially centered on art, her experience co-editing her high school yearbook alongside her best friend had already sparked an interest in publishing.

That interest deepened during her first fall on campus, when a close friend encouraged her to join *The Eastern Echo's* advertising department. There, she found herself drawn to the collaborative energy of the newsroom: working with editors and helping lay out the weekly print edition.

As Day grew more comfortable, her sharp eye for language began to stand out.

"Because I was good in English class, I'd see all the mistakes," she said. "I started doing things in blue pen, making edits. Eventually, they convinced me to start writing too, after I corrected all their mistakes."

From there, she immersed herself fully in the work. "I just kind of rolled into it from writing to editing to layout and design."

She quickly began to rise at *The*

"Sally was intrepid from a very early age. We had a lot of kids in our neighborhood, and nobody would mess with her. Not even us. She was tough. No barrier scared her," Wright said.

Day looks back on her rough-and-tumble childhood fondly.

"We would have fights right out in the streets, and I would fight with all the boys," she said with a laugh in her voice.

That boldness carried into adulthood. When Wright was initially rejected from EMU, Day marched him to the admissions office and insisted he contest the decision. He did, and was accepted. He later followed in her footsteps in the advertising department at *The Eastern Echo*.

"That leadership and courage — she's ballsy," he said. "And that spirit has stayed with her all this time."

After graduating, Day and several fellow *Echo* alumni began their careers at local publications. She worked as a news reporter at the Ypsilanti Press for two years before moving to the Livingston County Press, where she was reunited with former *Echo* colleague Dave Miller as her managing editor.

During this time, she married her college boyfriend, who had served as sports editor during her tenure as editor-in-chief. After Day became pregnant, the couple returned to the Detroit area to raise their family.

Back in Ypsilanti with her son, Alex, Day took on a role as a college media adviser at EMU's Faculty Center for Instructional Excellence from 1987-90, a position she held for many years. During this period, she also navigated a divorce.

Her personal and professional life continued to intertwine in unexpected ways. While at *The Echo*, Day had befriended Julie Carlson, who was one of only two applicants to score 100% on her typing test during the hiring process. The two became a news writing duo: Day writing, Carlson typing. Years later, their friendship led to a memorable double-blind date, where each brought a potential match for the other. Both women would go on to marry the men they met that night.

When Day became pregnant with her daughter, Lia, she shifted into freelance work at an advertising agency, where she wrote and designed ads, newsletters and corporate communications. She thrived in the role, maintaining steady clients while taking on additional projects and remained in the field for more than a decade.

Though she loved advertising, she couldn't pass up an opportunity to become world editor for the MSNBC website.

"That was the best job ever," she

said. "I had two years working from home. Everyone else was in New York City, and I was working from my bed."

The role allowed her to engage with major global stories and breaking news.

She later launched her own business, designing ads and writing newsletters for various clients. Her work expanded to include editing a friend's book and designing its cover. During this time, she also worked as a typesetter for the *Ann Arbor Observer*.

Eventually, Day took a position as a receptionist at a real estate firm before retiring, though she has continued to pursue freelance projects and sell her artwork.

Throughout her career, Day carried *The Echo* with her.

"*The Echo* gave me my best friends. It gave me good work to do, and I felt that *The Echo* was more my college than any of my classes were. That's where I learned what was important: in that hands-on environment. The people that I hung out with were intelligent and go-get-em folks and that pushed me to learn more," she said.

It also taught her the power of journalism. While reporting on allegations of misconduct at the Ypsilanti Health Clinic, Day uncovered claims that women were being sexually assaulted during medical exams.

"It was a hard story to write," she said. "But the man running the health center came to *The Echo* the next morning and wanted to know everything."

She shared her reporting, and within days, the doctor in question was dismissed. That was the moment she realized how much power she held as a journalist.

Despite the hardships, Day reflects on her time at *The Echo*, and always thinks about the late nights she would spend with the production team.

"I just remember the all-nighters we spent putting hours into the print. Just about every production day, we would buy a case of beer and a pack of cigarettes. We would turn up records and just dance around the newsroom. Sometimes we would work so late that when we went to deliver the print, the day shift would beat us there," she said.

Now retired and living in Ann Arbor, Day is enjoying a slower pace of life.

"I read the newspapers in the morning, I watch television, I play the guitar — I do whatever I want," she said. "It's wonderful to be retired."

Still, her identity as a journalist endures. She remains close with many former *Echo* colleagues and continues to see the world through a reporter's lens.

"*The Echo* is still reverberating in my life," she said.

# Women's Resource Center to host annual Women of Excellence Award Ceremony

**Lauren Holloway**  
News Reporter

The Women's Resource Center of Eastern Michigan University will hold its annual Women of Excellence Award Ceremony and luncheon event Wednesday, March 25.

The university's Women's Resource Center has been putting on this event for years, said Kimberly Ferrell, the current coordinator of the WRC. The purpose of the ceremony is to celebrate great work that's been done by students, faculty, staff and community members.

"This is a very inspiring and empowering event for our students, faculty, staff and community members, and it's always in the theme of a celebration of accomplishments," Ferrell said.

The event is meant to highlight the positive impacts women have made on campus or in the community, Ferrell said. The ceremony recognizes individuals who contribute to women's empowerment through projects or

their involvement in a leadership role.

Before the awards ceremony, the WRC puts out a call for nominations where students, faculty and staff have the chance to nominate one another. The nominations go to a committee that uses a rubric to decide who will be recognized at the event.

The rubric has qualifications, such as that awardees must be individuals or organizations that have made a positive impact on women and gender equality. The committee looks for consistent engagement on campus or in the community in support of women's development, Ferrell said.

"We look for those that demonstrate leadership initiative beyond the role that they are currently doing and innovative approaches to women's rights," Ferrell said.

Last year, some of the acknowledgements went to student organizations and sororities that did work centered on women's issues. The groups worked on awareness and prevention concerning domestic violence, sexual assault and breast

cancer, Ferrell said.

The Women of Excellence luncheon will take place in Room 310 A/B of EMU's Student Center on March 25 from 4:30-6 p.m. The maximum capacity for the room is around 190-200; last year, the event had around 180 attendees, Ferrell said. This year, there are currently 150 RSVPs, most of which are from people there to support and celebrate the award winners, Ferrell said. The event is open to the public, so there will be community members present as well.

The general schedule of the program is subject to change, but currently, it will open with a welcome address from Ferrell. Next, attendees will hear from the keynote speaker, Tiffany Mensah, the founder and executive director of D.O.V.E.S Network, an organization that works to prevent domestic violence.

Following the keynote speaker, Diane Longwood, the first director of the WRC, will explain the history of the event and the center, which

is celebrating its 35th anniversary, Ferrell said. Finally, the awards will be presented, and graduating students will participate in a processional, during which they will receive a rope, a stole and a certificate of achievement from the WRC.

While some of the other events put on by the WRC are about notable women from history, this ceremony is meant to highlight the great work being done by women today, Ferrell said. Women's History Month often celebrates famous and impactful women, but Ferrell said she hopes that people understand that smaller actions can be important, too.

"Movements and coalitions start small, and so if you can impact the campus and the local community in any way, shape or form, I think that's innovative. I think that is a woman that is a trailblazer and a pioneer that is worth being acknowledged and recognized for the work that they're doing," Ferrell said.

More information about the WRC can be found on its website.



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# Eagles secure fourth place finish at gymnastics MAC Championships

## Eagle Sports Tips & Tales: March 24-30

**Darrell Justice**  
Sports Reporter

### Men's golf March 23-24: The Bridgestone Collegiate

The Eagles will head to Napa, California, as one of 15 teams competing in the Bridgestone Collegiate Invitational event, hosted by in-state rival Central Michigan University. Eastern Michigan University last met CMU at the Jim DeLapa Collegiate, where the Eagles finished in 10th place, two spots ahead of Central's 12th-place finish. Fans can follow live scores on the Clippd Scoreboard website.

### March 26-28: The Goodwin

After competing in the Bridgestone Collegiate, the Eagles will travel to Stanford, California, to compete in The Goodwin, hosted by Stanford University. EMU will be one of 30 teams in the field. The Eagles are coming off a second-place finish at the All-American Intercollegiate. Fans can follow live scores on the Clippd Scoreboard website.

### Baseball

#### March 24, vs. Youngstown State

The EMU baseball team will take on Youngstown State University in a home game at Oestrike Stadium. The last time these teams met in 2025, the mercy rule was invoked. The Eagles led by 10 runs heading into the seventh inning, resulting in a 14-4 win for EMU. If fans are unable to attend the game live at Oestrike Stadium, they can view this matchup on ESPN+.

#### March 27-29, vs. Central Michigan

The Eagles will be hosting the Central Michigan Chippewas in a three-game series at Oestrike Stadium. The Eagles are leading the historical matchup against CMU 99-55. A win in this series would break the century mark barrier for EMU, giving them 100 all-time wins against the Chippewas. If fans are unable to attend the game live at Oestrike Stadium, they can view this matchup on Eagle All-Access.

### Women's lacrosse

#### March 28, vs. Akron

The EMU women's lacrosse team will be heading to Akron, Ohio, to take on the University of Akron Zips in an Mid-American Conference matchup. Goalkeeper Maddy Porter has been a key asset for the Eagles, earning MAC Goalkeeper of the Week honors in multiple consecutive weeks. Live stats can be accessed on the Sidearm Sports website.

### Women's golf

#### March 30-31: Silicon Valley Showcase

The EMU women's golf team will be traveling to Millbrae, California to participate in the Silicon Valley Showcase, hosted by Santa Clara University. Janae Leovao recently earned her third MAC Golfer of the Week award for the season, making her the third eagle in program history to secure three within a single season. Fans can stay up to date with the scoring on the Silicon Valley Showcase website.

### Women's tennis

#### March 27, vs. Buffalo

The EMU women's tennis team will be hosting the University at Buffalo Bulls at the Chippewa Club. The last time these teams met in Ypsilanti was in 2024. The matchup resulted in a 4-3 win for EMU. If fans can't make it to the Chippewa Club, live stats for this matchup will be available on the StatBroadcast website.

### Track

#### March 26-28: Raleigh Relays, Hurricanes Collegiate Invitational

The EMU men's and women's track teams will compete in both the Raleigh Relays, hosted by North Carolina State University, and the Hurricanes Collegiate Invitational, hosted by the University of Miami. Fans can tune into MileSplit to see results for both the Raleigh Relays and the Hurricanes Collegiate Invitational.



Eastern Michigan University gymnast Macy Nihart jumps on the balance beam during her routine in the meet against Central Michigan University at the George Gervin GameAbove Center on Feb. 8. Bradan Copeland / The Eastern Echo

**Ruby Brannon**  
Sports Editor

The Eastern Michigan University gymnastics team traveled to Bowling Green, Ohio, on Saturday, March 21, to compete in the 2026 Mid-American Conference Championships. In a highly competitive field hosted by Bowling Green State University, the Eagles finished the afternoon with a team score of 194.675, securing fourth place overall. While Central Michigan took home the conference title with a score of 196.025, Eastern Michigan managed to finish ahead of Western Michigan University (194.525), Bowling Green (194.275), and Northern Illinois University (193.675) to cap off their season.

### Individual stars shine on the podium

The afternoon was highlighted by exceptional individual efforts that placed EMU athletes among the conference's elite. Kyrie Lowe continued her dominant season by posting a 9.825 on the uneven bars, earning a tie for third place overall in the event. Lowe's performance was

a continuation of her recent success, having been named the MAC Gymnast of the Week just days prior on March 17.

Joining Lowe on the podium was Katin Childress, who delivered a stellar routine on the balance beam. Childress recorded a 9.850, which also earned her a tie for third place overall. These top-three finishes provided the Eagles with the momentum needed to stay competitive throughout the multi-rotation meet.

### Event breakdown: Consistency across rotations

#### Uneven bars and balance beam

The Eagles began their quest for the title with a bye before moving to the uneven bars for their first active rotation. The team posted a 48.500 on the bars, led by Lowe's 9.825. Contributing to the solid start were Jacquelyn Patterson and Keeley Kohler, who both recorded scores of 9.750. Gwendelyn Cantu and Genae Daniel rounded out the primary scoring with a 9.625 and 9.550, respectively.

Moving to the balance beam, the Eagles improved slightly with a team

score of 48.525. Childress was the standout here with her 9.850, followed closely by Lowe, who remained consistent with a 9.800. Kendall Landry added a valuable 9.750 to the event total, while Patterson contributed a 9.625.

#### Floor exercise and vault

Following a second bye, Eastern Michigan transitioned to the floor exercise, where they posted a team score of 48.800. Abby Brushwood led the way for the Eagles on the floor, scoring a 9.875 to tie for fourth place overall in the event. Macy Nihart followed with a strong 9.800, while Priya Karle and Landry added scores of 9.775 and 9.700, respectively.

The Eagles saved their best team rotation for last, closing the meet on the vault with a score of 48.850. Brushwood once again led the charge, recording a season-best score of 9.825 to tie for seventh in the event. Cantu followed with a 9.800, while Landry and Georgia Slack each contributed scores of 9.750 to solidify the Eagles' fourth-place standing.

### Season accolades, looking ahead

The 2026 season has been defined by significant individual growth and conference-wide recognition for the EMU roster. In addition to her podium finish at the championships, Lowe was named to the All-MAC Second Team on March 17. Freshman Macy Nihart was also honored earlier in the week, earning a spot on the All-MAC Freshman Team for her contributions throughout the regular season.

Lowe also competed as an all-arounder during the championships, finishing with a total score of 37.875. Her consistency has been a hallmark of the team's performance this year, particularly following the Eagles' regular-season finale, where they posted their best beam performance of the year on March 15.

With the MAC Championships concluded, the focus for the program shifts toward the upcoming NCAA Regionals, which are scheduled to begin on Wednesday, April 1. The Eagles' performance in Bowling Green serves as a strong final chapter to the 2026 conference season, showcasing a team capable of competing with the best in the MAC.

# A new flight path: Billy Donlon takes the reins of EMU men's basketball

**Ruby Brannon**  
Sports Editor

On a pivotal Tuesday afternoon, March 17, the halls of the George Gervin GameAbove Center buzzed with a renewed sense of anticipation. Vice President and Director of Athletics Scott Wetherbee announced what many in Ypsilanti had been waiting for: Billy Donlon, a veteran strategist with deep Midwest roots and a resume spanning 26 years of collegiate coaching, is the new head coach of Eastern Michigan University men's basketball.

Donlon, 49, arrives at a critical juncture for the Eagles. He replaces Stan Heath, who's contract ended earlier this month following a five-year tenure. With the program facing the longest NCAA Tournament drought in the state of Michigan, dating back to 1998, the hire represents a high-stakes commitment to restoring EMU to the top of the Mid-American Conference.

### A proven architect of success

Donlon is no stranger to building winning cultures. His career reflects a steady trajectory of program growth and defensive excellence. As a head coach, he has compiled a 155-133 overall record across nine seasons at Wright State University and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

His tenure at Wright State, from 2010-16, was particularly notable. Donlon led the Raiders to three 20-

win seasons and three appearances in the Horizon League Tournament title game. In 2013, after his team was picked to finish last in the preseason, he was named Horizon League Coach of the Year after guiding the squad to a school-record 23 wins.

At Kansas City, Donlon proved his ability to orchestrate a rapid turnaround. He took a program that had won only 11 games prior to his arrival and led them to a 19-12 record by his third season, including a landmark road victory over Mizzou.

### The Clemson connection and defensive identity

Donlon comes to Ypsilanti directly from Clemson University, where he served as associate head coach during one of the most successful stretches in Tiger history. Over the last four seasons, Clemson secured 98 wins and advanced to the 2024 NCAA Tournament Elite Eight.

Known as a defensive mastermind, Donlon's strategies helped Clemson rank in the top 30 nationally in defensive efficiency. During their 2024 Elite Eight run, his defensive schemes limited opponents to a staggering 18.7% from 3-point range. He is also credited with developing elite guard talent, including Chase Hunter and Joseph Girard III.

"Billy quickly separated himself," Wetherbee said in a written statement from EMU Athletics. "His experience in elite conferences, along with his

ability to build a strong culture and connect with student-athletes, made him the clear choice to lead our program."

### Transformational leadership: A new culture

In his opening remarks to the EMU community, Donlon emphasized a philosophy that extends beyond the scoreboard. In the EMU Athletics statement, he articulated a vision of a program that prioritizes the transformational over the transactional.

"We're committed to developing young men of character, fostering a family atmosphere, and creating an environment where players grow on and off the court," Donlon said in the written statement. He promised fans a product that is tough, disciplined, unselfish and relentless in its pursuit of excellence.

This vision aligns with the goals of president-elect Brendan Kelly, who noted that the hiring reflects a commitment to attracting talent that strengthens both the athletic department and the broader university mission. Kelly, a proud EMU alumnus himself, will officially start his role April 1.

### Navigating the road ahead

The challenge before Donlon is significant. EMU has not seen a winning season since 2017-18 and has struggled with consistency in recent

years. The search for a new coach was competitive; Donlon reportedly beat out candidates such as former EMU star Earl Boykins. To support this new era, EMU is leveraging resources from the GameAbove Sports Group, a well-funded booster organization dedicated to making the Eagles competitive for MAC titles.

While terms of the contract have not been officially released, reports indicate Donlon is expected to sign a six-year deal worth at least \$400,000 annually.

For now, Donlon has one final task before arriving in Ypsilanti. He will remain with Clemson for their NCAA Tournament first-round matchup against the University of Iowa on March 20. Once the Tigers' run concludes, the focus shifts entirely to Washtenaw County.

### A message to the Eagle Nation

Donlon's arrival is a call to action for the alumni and the local community. He described the fans as the heartbeat of this program.

"Together, with your energy behind us, we'll build something special that makes every Eagle proud and brings championships back to Ypsilanti," Donlon promised.

As the Eagles prepare for the 2026-27 season, the message is clear: the drought has lasted long enough, and with Donlon at the helm, Eastern Michigan is ready to fly again.



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# Creative Washtenaw announces 2026 medalists for arts, sciences, humanities



WEMU Operations Manager and Host Michael Jewett prepares to broadcast from the WEMU office in Halle Library, Feb. 12. Jewett is a medalist recognized for outstanding service by Creative Washtenaw. Courtney Prielipp / The Eastern Echo

**Hannah Borders**  
Arts Reporter

Creative Washtenaw awarded six individuals who have made outstanding contributions to arts, sciences and humanities in Washtenaw County. Creative Washtenaw is a professional association for artists or a chamber of commerce that serves artists across Washtenaw County. Anyone can become a member, with new member and student member prices being \$35 a year, and renewing membership prices being \$55 a year. "We have those individual memberships, we have the organizational memberships, and then we have ally business memberships. Each ... serves a different function. At

the core, it's all about being part of a cohesive creative community. And then membership also means access to the resources that we host online for members," said Chloe Crowther, executive director of Creative Washtenaw. Membership comes with opportunities such as access to calls for art, auditions, workshops, events and more, Crowther said. Each year, Creative Washtenaw recognizes individuals to win one of three different awards. The awards are Lifetime Achievement, Outstanding Service and Ignitor. This year, Creative Washtenaw accepted community nominations for medalists, then their committee members chose from those nominations. Committee members consist

of arts leaders in the community and community members who are very knowledgeable about the arts, Crowther said. "It means that we, as a representative of the creative community in Washtenaw County, are celebrating you. We want to say you have done significant work to further, basically, what is our mission, which is to have a more connected arts ecosystem," Crowther said. The recipients of the Lifetime Achievement medal are Susanne Stephenson and Nancy Margolis. David Fair and Michael Jewett were awarded the Outstanding Service medal. Judy Dow Rumelhart and Don Rumelhart jointly won the Ignitor award for philanthropy. Stephenson is a ceramic artist.

Her work has been displayed at various exhibits across the country, including in permanent collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and other major institutions, a biography published by Creative Washtenaw said. She was a professor of ceramics at Eastern Michigan University from 1963-91. Margolis has spent her career building community by organizing people of different races, religions and classes, her biography said. She co-founded Jewish Family Services and the Corner Health Center. More recently, she founded Embracing Our Differences Michigan, a juried, outdoor art exhibit featuring billboard-sized images that explore themes of diversity. Fair has a long history of working on the radio. He has worked for WEMU, Washtenaw County's NPR station that features jazz, blues and local news, for 32 years. He served as the local host of NPR's "Morning Edition," the station's news director since 2012, developed "Washtenaw United," "Issues of the Environment," "Cinema Chat," "First Friday Focus on the Environment" and co-hosted "creative:impact" with Creative Washtenaw's Deb Polich, his biography said. Jewett has been a host on WEMU for 42 years. His work is primarily with the jazz and blues program. He created "Sunday Best," the station's classic jazz program, highlighted local musicians and releases through his "Bluestime" hour and "New at Two" shows, and is regularly on stage at the Detroit Jazz Festival and Blue Llama Jazz Club in Ann Arbor, his biography said.

Both Fair and Jewett plan to retire June 30, closing out WEMU's 60th anniversary. Judy and Don Rumelhart are philanthropists. Judy Rumelhart's work is mostly in performing arts. She was the chairperson of the Michigan Theater Foundation, a founding member of Concerned Citizens for the Arts in Michigan and chair emeritus of the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County. She was an associate producer of the Broadway production of "Sweeney Todd," a Tony award-winning musical, her biography said. Don Rumelhart is a member of The Ark, Ann Arbor's folk and roots music venue. Creative Washtenaw hosts a fundraising event to honor medalists called THE pARTY. The theme for THE pARTY this year is A Garden of Expression Cultivating Community. This year, the event coincides with World Art Day on April 15. THE pARTY will be 6-8:30 p.m., with the private reception from 5-6 p.m. at the Morris Lawrence Building at Washtenaw Community College, 4800 East Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor. "I'm so glad [THE pARTY] lined up [with World Art Day], because we are taking a focus on, you know, although this celebrates specifically arts and culture in Washtenaw County, it affects all parts of the world, and all parts of the world's culture affect how we make art here," Crowther said. "We're really excited about this event. It's a legacy event that's been around since 2015; we don't want it to go anywhere, and we're excited to honor these medalists, specifically."

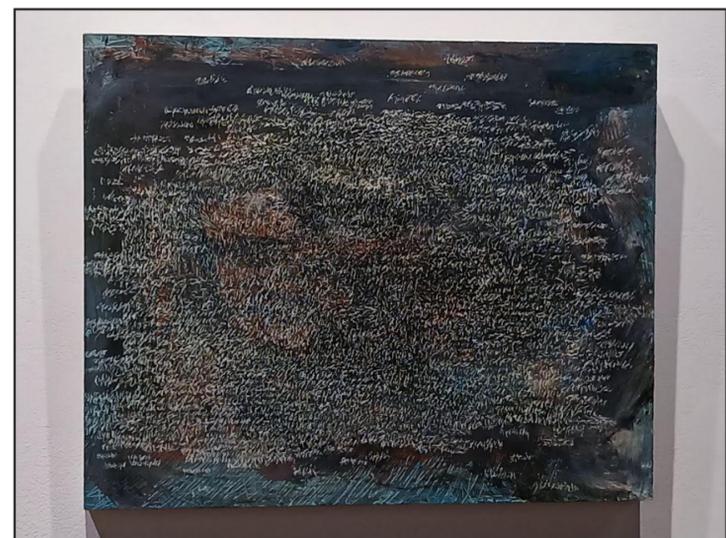
# 22 North Gallery showcases EMU MFA students' work in 'Visceral Soup' exhibition

**Hannah Borders**  
Arts Reporter

Each academic year, graduate students in the Critique Seminar course at Eastern Michigan University showcase their work in a combined exhibition. This year's exhibition, "Visceral Soup," includes the work of 11 Master of Fine Arts students at EMU's School of Art and Design. The exhibition is at 22 North Gallery, located at 22 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. The gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays, 2-5 p.m., and the exhibition will run April 3-14. The public reception will be April 3 from 5-7 p.m. The show includes a variety of different art forms, including ceramics, sculptures, furniture, printmaking, animation, paintings and one installation piece.

Nan Plummer, the director of 22 North Gallery, and Brian Spolans, Critique Seminar professor, work together to select artwork that students submitted to be in the show, Plummer said. The name "Visceral Soup" highlights the range of work included. "Things that are visceral sort of hit you in the guts. We have a lot of different aspects of our art going on," said Ginger Chase, an MFA student and featured artist. "Visceral Soup' is what we came up with." Among the many works of art, there is one installation piece. The piece includes natural and man-made elements, many of which are found objects. "It's an iteration of something called Ecstatic Abundance, so I'm really thinking about how we have a sense of scarcity and some disconnect from the

natural world, and also kind of a weird relationship between human-made objects and natural spaces. So, there's this conversation between shape, form and material, and creating a relationship between these things," Chase said. MFA student Sean Harris has both a painting and a sculpture in the show. His work is largely inspired by his grandmother and great aunt, who both recently died from cancer. His painting, "Crushed into the Cave," is meant to represent the crushing feeling of a cancer diagnosis. His work is meant to honor and uplift those with cancer and their loved ones, Harris said. "Through abstraction and symbolism, I convey the physical and emotional devastation that affects both the individuals experiencing illness and their loved ones. The trees serve as a metaphorical space for the resilience of cancer patients," Harris said.



An untitled abstract painting by Master of Fine Arts student Colin Cathcart will be featured in the "Visceral Soup" exhibition at 22 North Gallery, April 3-14. Hannah Borders / The Eastern Echo

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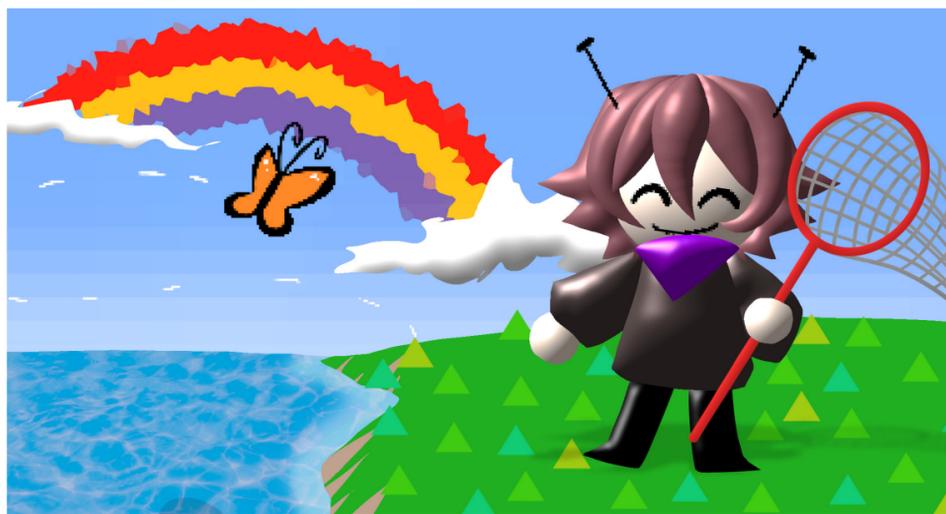
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Moonlight 13 | FunkyL0af



Happy Sunshine | Rylee Curley



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Can you find all the spring words?

A	S	J	K	L	X	G	C	F	W	G	T	L	M
E	P	B	F	L	M	G	N	I	D	D	U	B	P
W	R	B	R	K	N	H	Y	T	N	L	J	F	T
Q	O	D	O	I	P	Q	N	Y	K	M	K	G	X
F	U	F	G	R	E	E	N	V	B	O	L	F	E
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Frog      Bloom      Green      Butterfly  
Bunny      Sprout      Verdant      Budding  
Breeze      Vernal      Equinox      Daylight



Scan to read more comics!

# Last week at a glance, March 14-18



Bradley Cross gives out plants grown from the EMU greenhouse to students for free at the Mosaic Collective Symposium in the Student Center Ballroom on Tuesday, March 17. Owen Cardenas / The Eastern Echo



Student Government candidates Yasrib Farook (left), running for president, and Mirna Shehab, running for vice president, speak to each other at the candidate forum on March 18. Courtney Prielipp / The Eastern Echo



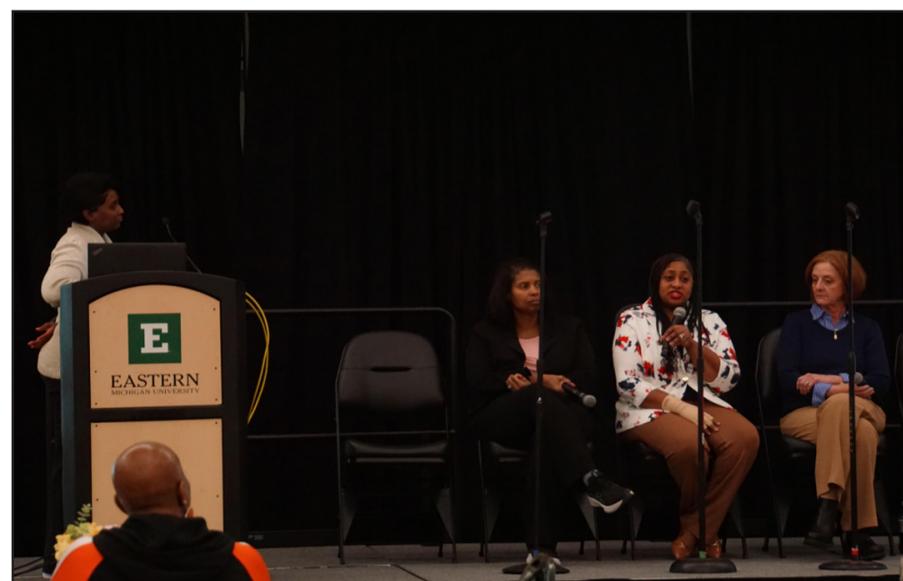
Student Government vice president candidate Eva Orlich Rojas (left) looks on as her running mate, presidential candidate Nina Freeman, speaks at the candidate forum on March 18. Courtney Prielipp / The Eastern Echo



To spread awareness for their "Pokémon Go to the Polls" Voter Registration event, Pi Sigma Alpha invited Pikachu to The Commons on Wednesday, March 18. Lee Hammock / The Eastern Echo



Eastern Michigan University women's lacrosse player Mackenzie Blackwell faces off with Kent State University at Scicluna Field on March 14, where EMU won 12-6. Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo



Pathways to Leadership panelists answer questions from Barbara Patrick at the Mosaic Collective Symposium in the Student Center Ballroom on Tuesday, March 17. Owen Cardenas / The Eastern Echo



Eastern Michigan University students gather for the 2026 Spring Job Fair in the Student Center Ballroom on Wednesday, March 18, to explore the tables and network with potential employers. Bea Dingman / The Eastern Echo