

The Eastern Echo

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Community activist and Ypsilanti Township resident Leah Mills-Chapman speaks during a press conference protest held Oct. 1, before the University of Michigan town hall about the data center plotted for Ypsilanti Township. *Courtney Prielipp/ The Eastern Echo*

Residents protest data center at U-M town hall

Katherine Tatomir
Newsletter Editor

On Oct. 1, community members stood on the corner of South Huron Street and James L. Hart Parkway wearing shirts and holding signs that read: “No Blue and No Los Alamos Too.” Two and a half hours later, they sat in front of University of Michigan officials to voice their opposition of a data center being built in their township.

Held Thursday, the second town hall hosted by U-M took place with the purpose of addressing community concerns about the proposed U-M and Los Alamos National Laboratory data center project planned for a Textile

Road plot in Ypsilanti Township.

Outside the Marriott Ypsilanti at Eagle Crest where the town hall began at 5:30 p.m., a press conference and citizens protest was hosted by Leah Mills-Chapman, an Ypsilanti Township resident and community activist. Speakers at the conference discussed a lack of transparency from the U-M Board of Regents, concerns of environmental racism in the location choice of the center, and the involvement of LANL in the project.

U-M Regent Paul Brown spoke at the press conference about U-M’s responsibility to effectively communicate about the project and respond to fears and questions about how a data center would affect the

community. Brown was the only U-M Regent in attendance at the conference.

“It is inexcusable that the University of Michigan has not spent time in the community, door to door, neighborhood to neighborhood, living room to living room and answered every one of your questions,” Brown said in his speech.

The chosen location for the center is on the property next to Bridge Road and Textile Road, less than a mile from residential property and the Huron River. Speakers at the press conference, including Mills-Chapman and Brown, have raised concerns that the project location is just another instance of environmental racism.

“To place this project directly across the street from a low income,

Black apartment complex puts an immense burden and a threat onto a historically known marginalized and targeted population of people; this is what environmental racism looks like,” Mills-Chapman said during her speech at the press conference.

According to the Washtenaw County Community and Economic Development, Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township are rated among the lowest areas for access to opportunity in the county. Ypsilanti Township also has a greater percentage of residents of color than Ann Arbor; the difference is about 15%, according the U.S. Census Bureau.

**SEE DATA CENTER
PROTEST, PAGE 3**

ICE detains then releases green card holder, draws crowd in Ypsilanti



ICE officers were seen detaining a man at a Speedway gas station at the corner of West Michigan Avenue and South Hewitt in Ypsi Township.

Camryn O'Brien / The Eastern Echo

Camryn O'Brien
News Reporter

In the early morning hours of Sept. 30, Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers were seen making an arrest in Ypsilanti.

According to an informational release from Washtenaw County Sheriff Alyshia Dyer, members of the community gathered at the scene during the incident. The community members on-site showed ICE officers the green card of the individual being detained. The individual was released on scene.

ICE called 911 to report that the situation was unsafe from the crowd that gathered. According to Sheriff Dyer on Facebook, the crowd stopped officers from leaving, and deputies were called in to clear the scene. ICE officers left immediately after, and the community members soon dispersed as well.

SEE ICE, PAGE 3

Vinny's Bar & Grill soft opens

Sam Peterson
News Reporter

A new restaurant near Eastern Michigan University is looking to become a staple for students, sports fans and community members.

After more than a year of renovations and preparation, Vinny’s Bar & Grill, owned and operated by Vince Ankawi, opened Friday, Oct. 2. The restaurant is located at the former Wurst Bar location on West Cross Street. Wurst

Bar, which was known for its bratwurst menu offerings and karaoke nights, closed in August 2025.

Ankawi managed Wurst Bar for four months before deciding the community needed something different. When he bought the space, he set forth with a new concept.

“We needed something a little bit more elevated,” Ankawi said. “The food concept needed to be kind of change to make it more elevated: fresh food from the start.”

The Vinny’s menu will feature burgers, salads, soups, seafood and vegetarian options, with both lunch and dinner available.

The restaurant also plans to maintain a strong connection to the EMU community, with sports viewing and a relaxed atmosphere where students can eat, socialize or study.

Vinny’s Bar & Grill is at 705 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti.



Vince Ankawi, owner of Vinny’s Bar & Grill, stands in his restaurant during its soft-opening weekend, Oct. 3. *Sam Peterson / The Eastern Echo*

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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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- The Commons
- The Eastern Eateries
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- The Village
- Trinity Health IHA Urgent Care
- Walton and Putnam Halls
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- Basil Babe
- Benito's Pizza
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- Wild Side Smoke Shop
- Ypsi Real
- Ypsilanti City Hall
- Ypsilanti District Library
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Health groups offer vaccination clinics at EMU, in Ypsilanti as flu season begins



From left, volunteers Naaz Bhandari and Tess Wheaton prepare for the next patient at EMU’s flu shot clinic Monday, Nov. 17, 2025, in the Student Center ballroom. Matt Hodges / The Eastern Echo

AnnaBelle Favre
Managing Editor - News

As flu season approaches, Eastern Michigan University and local health groups offer vaccination clinics. Health officials report that getting an influenza vaccination is the most effective way to prevent spreading illness and getting sick yourself.

Flu prevention

The Washtenaw County Health Department lists the flu, or influenza, as a highly contagious respiratory virus that can be especially dangerous to pregnant people, the immunocompromised or chronically ill, young children and seniors.

The WCHD reports that between Aug. 30 and Sept. 26, 2026, 157 individuals have tested positive for influenza, and 10 have been hospitalized.

Flu immunization consists of a

yearly vaccine that is tailored to specific strains populating the current flu season. The WCHD lists vaccination as the best way to prevent serious illness from influenza.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that receiving a flu vaccine can reduce the risk of having to go to the doctor by 40-60%.

During the 2025-2026 flu season, 40% of Washtenaw County residents (149,687 individuals) were vaccinated for the flu, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Additional steps recommended by the health department are to wash hands and frequently used surfaces regularly, avoid contact with others and wear a mask in public spaces.

Susan Ringler-Cerniglia, program administrator at WCHD, told The Echo that the two most common barriers to people getting vaccinated for the flu are cost and misinformation.

While most insurances cover the

cost of vaccinations, those without insurance may struggle to afford the yearly cost. Most health departments and state governments have programs to help uninsured individuals get vaccinated.

Ringler-Cerniglia said that some people believe myths about vaccinations that simply aren’t true: “Lots of people think that the flu shot is unsafe or ineffective, but we have been using the flu shot for a long time, and it is effective, and it is safe.”

When to get your flu shot

The WCHD recommends all individuals over 6 months of age get flu immunizations each year.

Flu season typically begins in the fall, peaks in February and continues through May, according to the WCHD. The health department recommends getting the flu vaccine by late October, but later immunizations are still effective.

Looking at this year’s trends, Ringler-Cerniglia noted that she has seen indications that flu season may peak earlier this year, and she recommends residents get their vaccines as soon as they can. She recommended the website Your Local Epidemiologist to view seasonal trends.

Where to get a flu shot

There are many places to go for flu immunization. Individuals with health insurance can get their influenza vaccine for little to no cost. Those without insurance can visit free flu clinics or talk with their health department about free or low-cost vaccine programs.

EMU flu clinic

Students at Eastern Michigan University can visit a flu clinic held by the Dean of Students Office, Trinity Health and Student Government on the following dates:

Oct. 5, 2026, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom

Nov. 3, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom

Students who have insurance are encouraged to bring their insurance information, and those who are uninsured will have any costs covered by Student Government.

Dean of Students Aura Cazares told The Echo, “I strongly encourage students to participate in their well-being, whether it’s mental health or physical health. Getting a flu vaccine will potentially help you by not getting ill during the worst part of the semester. We don’t want you to go home and get people sick, and we want you to be protected if you do go home and other people are sick.”

U-M Community Flu Vaccine Clinics

The University of Michigan hosts annual traveling flu clinics in Washtenaw County and will be at the Ypsilanti Community Center on Oct. 8, 2026, from 1-5 p.m.

Health departments

Like most health departments, WCHD offers vaccines to all Washtenaw County residents at 555 Towner St., Ypsilanti. The department offers walk-in vaccinations Mondays and Wednesdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. or appointment scheduling by phone at 734-544-6700.

The health department will also be hosting an evening flu clinic for kids and their families Oct. 13, 2026. While walk-ins are welcome, appointments will have priority.

WCHD will ask for insurance or payment but will not turn anyone down for vaccines because of financial situation, Ringler-Cerniglia said.

Doctor or pharmacy

Most doctors offices and pharmacies offer flu shots to anyone who needs one, not only previous patients. The health department recommends using the VaccineFinder website to find a nearby vaccination center.

Opinion

The WellNest Watch

Medical debt: How the high cost of healthcare is preventing students from seeking help



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.

People everywhere, and at all times, need access to healthcare that protects and promotes their well-being. In a world where healthy grocery options seem unaffordable, it is only fair that healthcare bills do not lead us into bankruptcy. A Health Affairs report showed that the U.S. government spent about \$5.7 trillion (18.4% of GDP) on health care-related expenses in 2025. Despite this huge spending, an average American barely feels any of the benefits.

Medical debt is outstanding medical bills a patient owes, according to Undue Medical Debt’s dictionary of terms. It is a growing fear among Americans. High costs of medical expenses from seasonal illnesses, complicated surgeries, cancer treatment, debilitating illnesses and injuries that limit an individual’s ability to work. Assisted living and memory care can also create a financial burden that can predispose people to medical debt.

Furthermore, low health insurance reimbursement rates, high deductibles, high co-payments, and varying out-of-pocket fees at primary care, urgent care, and pharmacies create confusion, ultimately leaving many weighing health against survival, reported the Health System Tracker, which analyzed the burden of U.S. medical debt.

The Kaiser Family Foundation reports that most victims of medical debt resort to reduced spending on essential items for survival such as food and clothing, repurposing most or all of their savings to offset the debt, working extra hours or taking an entirely new job, delaying or forgoing buying a home, and, in dire situations, declaring bankruptcy or losing their home. Arguably, there is no price for better health; however, attaining it should not require mental and financial capabilities, especially for the world’s most advanced country.

Undue Medical Debt, a nonprofit organization, has erased over \$144 million worth of medical debt for nearly 210,000 Michigan residents, according to a report from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. This landmark achievement is a symbol of hope that could bridge the health inequity gap in the country, especially if replicated more broadly.

Students are reasonably vulnerable to medical debt for obvious reasons. From part-time, low-paying jobs to reliance on financial aid, there is little room for unexpected medical expenses. Minor injuries and unexpected urgent care visits can create financial strains that compete with tuition, housing and food.

Fortunately, ample resources exist. On-campus point-of-care clinics provide low-cost to no-cost options for students with insurance. Medical assistance programs also help eligible students manage or waive medical bills. These resources create a safety net that many use to navigate without risking dropping out of school.

Data center protest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ypsilanti Township attorney Doug Winters focused his speech at the press conference on the involvement of LANL in the project. LANL is federal research laboratory led by the U.S. Department of Energy, known for its role in the Manhattan Project and development of the atomic bomb. Winters has described the site as a potential high value target due to LANL’s role in national security and nuclear research, a sentiment which LANL has denied.

“As part of Los Alamos’ national security mission, some computational research conducted using the facility could relate to nuclear modernization,” LANL wrote in a letter to Ypsilanti Township residents. Copies of this letter were available to attendees of the town hall.

If built, 10% of the facility’s computing power would be used by U-M while the other 90% would be used by LANL, a fact which has

raised concerns about LANL being the primary beneficiary of the project.

U-M hosts second town hall

The town hall began promptly and featured the same panelists as the Sept. 9 town hall. The first 15 minutes consisted of a presentation from project lead Steve Ceccio that was meant to answer questions and provide further information about the project. The presentation addressed questions about the Textile Road location, U-M’s partnership with LANL, environmental studies and protections, and the impact on the local community.

Ceccio explained that the project as it is planned today would strike the best balance between advancing U-M’s ability to compete as a top research university and protecting and providing opportunity to the local community. Attendees in the crowd strongly rejected this idea, with several calling out during the presentation expressing

their distrust in the panel. One attendee called out, “Why should we trust you?” followed by another: “We don’t trust you.”

The next hour and 45 minutes saw a Q&A-style public comment where attendees lined up to address the panel.

Rory McGuinness, a U-M alum and resident of Ypsilanti Township, asked the panel why U-M is pushing ahead with the project despite such strong local opposition. He questioned the partnership between U-M and LANL, arguing that U-M investing hundreds of millions of dollars into a project where it will only control 10% of computing resources doesn’t make sense.

“Why are you misusing the privileges afforded to you under the state constitution in order to override and negate our right to local self-government?” McGuinness asked. “We need to know what you expect to gain so it can be weighed against what we stand to lose.”

Panelist Drew Smith, interim vice president of finance at U-M, explained that the university would not make money on the project; U-M would

finance the project then break even through a rental payment that it charges.

McGuinness wasn’t the only speaker to address the panel about local opposition. Carly Hissong asked the panel if U-M would back out of the project if the community continued to oppose it so strongly.

“We know exactly why you picked this community to do it; it’s an act of environmental racism,” Hissong said after her question went unanswered. The panel thanked Hissong for her comments and moved on to the next speaker.

The last speaker to address the panel was Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo. Stumbo asked for another meeting where members of the community don’t have to register to attend, like the two town halls. The panel agreed to another meeting that has yet to be scheduled. Stumbo criticized the panel for what she described as a lack of transparency with Ypsilanti Township officials and the burden it has put on the community.

“I’ve wanted to beg you, but I’ve already tried that,” Stumbo said during her comment. “I’ve already tried begging. So we’re gonna fight.”

ICE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The incident took place at approximately 7:30 a.m. outside a Speedway gas station on West Michigan Avenue, the informational release said.

Lanae Bass, a resident in Washtenaw County, said she was inside the building when she heard shouting and saw lights flashing. She said she went outside to see a man on the ground, handcuffed, with three immigration officers on top of him.

“I’m thinking, ‘This is not okay.’ I need to figure out what’s going on because this man is screaming, like a mother’s cry,” Bass said. “My heart is breaking, and they keep asking for his identification repeatedly after he already showed them.”

The man asked Bass to call his wife, so she ran to her car to get her device as a crowd gathered. The officers began to let the man off the ground and into the officers’ vehicle, she said.

Bass called the man’s wife and explained that her husband was being detained. Bass said she then tried to stall the ICE officers until his wife could arrive. When his wife got there, she showed her husband’s identification and green card. Bass said the officers then slowly released the detained man.

“He had a bruise on his knee, and his wrists were super red,” Bass said. She described the man and his wife as being in great distress as they attempted to leave the scene.

After the man was released, community members blocked the ICE officers’ vehicles from all sides to prevent them from leaving. The officers

turned on their lights and sirens before calling the sheriff’s office, saying the situation was unsafe.

“We just wanted [the ICE officers] to understand and sit down and take some time to think about what they did,” Bass said.

Washtenaw County Sheriff deputies arrived and dispersed everyone on the scene out of concern for public safety, according to the informational release.

“I felt heartbroken, and it was heartbreaking to actually watch in person,” Bass said. “I know we see videos, but to actually see it in person was completely different.”

Later in the day, the Washtenaw County Sheriff Office made a statement.

“We fully support our community’s right to peaceful protest. We also ask people not to physically block anyone from leaving a scene. That

puts everyone at risk, including the community members people are trying to protect,” Dyer said in the release. “These situations can be heartbreaking. We have had to grapple with many of them alongside our community, and we understand that none of this is easy. We also have to ensure that local laws are followed and safety is maintained.”

If in need of local support, residents can contact the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights, or WICIR, for general services and support. The Movement for Immigrant Rights Action, or MIRA, can be contacted at the hotline 734-222-3852. Both of these services are non-law enforcement and community-based.



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Ypsilanti theater group to present original 'Black Cat' musical for Halloween

What's the Move? Oct. 6 - 12

Lelaina MacDonald
News Reporter

Looking for something new to try or a fun activity? *The Eastern Echo* has its readers covered with some events happening this week.

One night only: A conversation with Jewish foodways expert, Nora Rubel! — Oct. 6

At Zingerman's Roadhouse, in collaboration with the Eastern Michigan University Center for Jewish Studies, author and historian Nora Rubel will discuss her new book. Rubel is coming to Ann Arbor from Rochester to be interviewed by Zingerman's co-founder Ari Weinzwieg about her new book "Recipes for the Melting Pot: The Lives of The Settlement Cook Book," the Zingerman's webpage states.

In "Recipes for the Melting Pot," Rubel explores the people, history and enduring legacy of "The Settlement Cook Book," which was published in 1901 by Jewish women. The cookbook offered a window into immigration, assimilation, Jewish identity, women's lives and the changing of American food, the event website said. Those who attend will hear Rubel and Weinzwieg explore the intersection of food, culture, immigration and identity. There will be appetizers, including one exclusively crafted from Rubel's book.

Zingerman's Roadhouse is at 2501 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor. The event is at 6 p.m., and tickets are \$45 for each individual. Tickets can be found on Zingerman's website on the event's webpage.

Wellness Fair — Oct. 7

The EMU Wellness Fair will promote open conversations about mental health by providing engaging activities, practical tools and resources to reduce stigma. The fair aims to help students, staff and faculty build confidence in caring for their well-being. There will be raffle prizes at the Wellness Fair.

This free event will be held in the Student Center from noon to 2 p.m. This event is LBC approved. More information can be found on the EMU Mental Health & Wellness Resources webpage.

EMU Field Day — Oct. 8

Do you find yourself missing the elementary school field days? Well, lucky for you, as part of the Weeks of Welcome, the Rynearson Stadium will feature tons of field games and activities. There will be more than 30 fun and friendly competitions, according to the EagleApp's Events page. Some of the activities include the 50-yard dash, tug-of-war, the egg toss and many others.

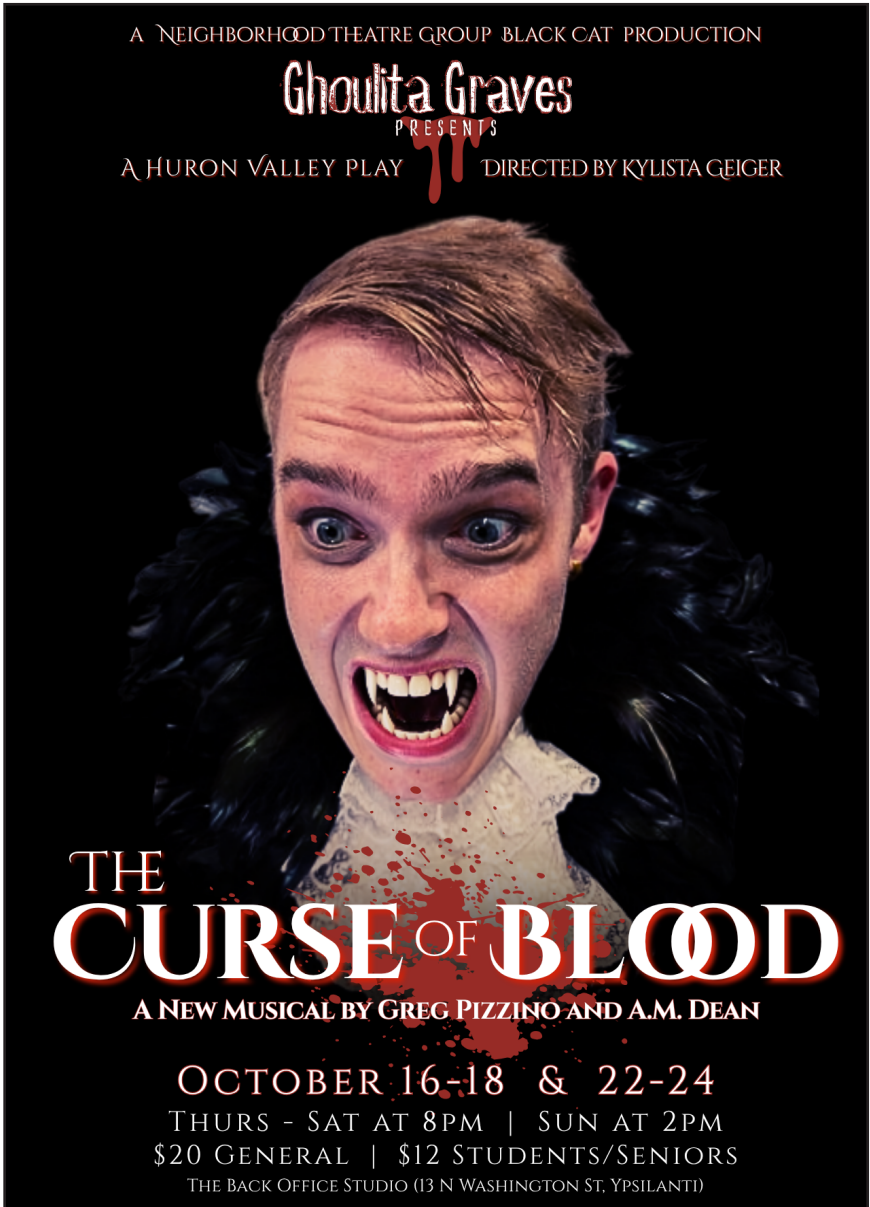
There will be a first-come, first-served clear fanny pack giveaway. Students will also be able to tie-dye a free T-shirt and enjoy some classic fair foods. This is a free event, and students can register for the EMU Field Day on the EagleApp.

Night Terrors — Oct. 9, 10, 11

Wiard's Orchards is hosting its Night Terrors event throughout the month of October, reoccurring weekly Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Night Terrors is a haunted thrill park that includes five haunted attractions: The Asylum, Hayride Of The Lost, Alien Caged Clowns In 3D!, The Ultimate Haunted Barn and The Mindshaft. The Night Terrors website, hauntedhousemichigan.com, has more information about each of the attractions. Tickets can be found on the ticket page of the site.

Stuff An Eagle — Oct. 12

From 3-6 p.m. in the Student Center first floor lounge, students and staff can stuff and decorate their own eagle. This is an annual homecoming event that is free to any and all students and staff.



Neighborhood Theatre Group will bring "Black Cat: Ghoulita Graves presents...The Curse of Blood!" to Ypsilanti for Halloween season. Poster courtesy of Marisa Dluge

Lelaina MacDonald
News Reporter

The Neighborhood Theatre Group

will present its annual Black Cat show, bringing cable access host Ghoulita Graves to its Huron Valley universe in the "The Curse of Blood!"

Performances run Oct. 16-18 and Oct. 22-24 at the Back Office Studio at 13 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti.

The Neighborhood Theatre Group is known for its original plays, sketch comedy and musicals. Each of NTG's productions are considered "theatre from scratch," as the website states. Kylista Geiger, NTG's development director and director of this Black Cat production, told *The Echo* that the Black Cat show is NTG's signature Halloween production.

"Every year we do a Halloween show, which is our Black Cat production. It started off as a cabaret, and then the last four years or so, we have been doing original productions," Geiger said. "This one is part of our Ghoulita Graves universe. So think Elvira, Svenghuli — those kind of horror television show hosts."

"Black Cat: Ghoulita Graves presents...The Curse of Blood!" is a musical set in NTG's Huron Valley universe, in which many of its shows take place.

"For this one, we've got Ghoulita Graves presenting an '80s vampire movie, which will be the play. So, the movie that is set in the universe that Ghoulita Graves will be presenting is called 'The Curse of Blood!' — vampires are descending upon Huron Valley, and we have our three teens that have to deal with this curse of blood while being high school students, and try and stay alive," Geiger said.

This is one of NTG's devised shows which the team began working on in June. The core production crew gathered together with various ideas and figured out what they wanted the show to look like. Geiger told The Echo that while putting the show together initially, they pulled from ensemble. All of the characters in this production

are made up by the NTG, with Ghoulita Graves being a reoccurring character in the Huron Valley universe. The main characters in this show, however, are original to this particular Black Cat production.

"We have an ensemble of artists," she said. "So we pulled from our ensemble to make this. So we wrote the show for the actors. We knew who we were working with and what characters we wanted."

Geiger's favorite part of NTG's devised shows is watching the collection of ideas turn into an actual finished script. Even with a fully written script, Geiger enjoys the ways in which the NTG members experiment and play around with the scenes and their characters. It adds more originality to the show, she said.

This show stars Jennifer Jakubowski, Jessica Lee, Patrice Linman, Dena Moscheck, Greg Pizzino, Josh Stewart and Drew Tallquist.

"Ghoulita Graves Presents...The Curse of Blood" will be performed Oct. 16-18 and Oct. 22-24 at the Back Office Studio at 13 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. The Sunday, Oct. 18 showing will be at 2 p.m., while the rest of the showings will be at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$12 for seniors and students. Tickets can be purchased online through NTG's website.

Water Tower Distilling Co. will offer show-themed cocktails before and after the production. Attendees of all ages are also invited to dress up for a costume contest hosted by Ghoulita Graves. There is no intermission for this production. The Back Office Studio is an ADA accessible building, organizers said on the show webpage.

Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra 'Playing Favorites' for 28th season

Allie Beecher
Copy Desk Chief

The Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra started small. In 1998, founding music director and Eastern Michigan University alumni Adam C. Riccinto and violinist Martha Kerns started talking about the need in the community for musicians to develop their skills and offer high-quality orchestral music. Then, in 1999, the YSO was officially incorporated as a nonprofit, according to the organization's website.

Now, nearly 28 years later, Riccinto is ready to lead the orchestra into its 2026-2027 season, titled "Playing Favorites." The season officially opened Oct. 4 with a performance "Entrances and Exits."

Riccinto explained that the YSO chose the title "Playing Favorites" because one of his goals for programming this season is to share music that resonates with the community or is familiar to listeners.

"Every program is going to have music on it that is classical music, but is familiar to the audience in some way ... or it's a story they can relate to quickly," he said.

This upcoming season, the orchestra will perform familiar music while also introducing the audience to new pieces with which they may not be familiar, Riccinto said. For example, at the holiday concert, Sunday, Dec. 13, the orchestra will perform Tchaikovsky's first symphony during the first half and then familiar holiday pops during the second half. The concert is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. at the Lincoln High School Performing Arts Center. Come 2027, concerts will take place



Music director Adam C. Riccinto stands in front of the Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. Courtesy of Quicknight Photography

Feb. 21 at 3:30 p.m., April 18 at 3:30 p.m. and May 29 at 2 p.m. The first two will take place at the Lincoln High School Performing Arts Center, while the third will take place at Riverside Park in Ypsilanti, the YSO website says. Riccinto explained that the rest of the season will aim to blend new and familiar music.

"I don't have all of the details of the second half of the season fleshed out yet, but you'll hear some John Williams, and you'll hear some things that are, again, that are familiar to folks throughout the entire season," Riccinto said.

Riccinto said he is most excited for the opening concert coming up Oct. 4. He said that taking a break from the orchestra as the season closes out

each May is emotional for him, and he always looks forward to its return.

"For 28 years, this orchestra has been not only a staple of my professional life, but in my personal life as well," he said. "Every single year, my favorite concert is the opener because it means we're back together, and we're playing music and ... we're getting the band back together, man."

All concerts are ticketed except for the May 29 Community Sponsored Pops concert, but Riccinto said that the YSO aims to keep prices accessible for all attendees. Tickets vary in price from about \$7-15 and can be purchased on the YSO website.

Riccinto added that the orchestra is always open to meeting new musicians. Those with orchestral backgrounds

who are interested in joining the YSO should send an email to personnel@ypsilantisymphony.org. Currently, the symphony orchestra has musicians of all ages, locations and walks of life united by their shared passion for music.

"We have musicians that come consistently, even though there is a higher concentration of community orchestras in southeastern Michigan than anywhere in the country," Riccinto said. "I think it just has to do with the fact that we really look out for our own, and we put people first."

Those interested in learning more can visit the YSO website, follow the orchestra on Facebook or follow on Instagram @ypsilantisymphony.



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NATIONAL NEWSPAPER WEEK

Local journalism reports facts amid information overload

Across the country, 212 counties have no local news source and another 1,525 have only one, according to a report published by Northwestern University. Nearly 40% of all local newspapers have disappeared from 2005 to 2025, the same report found. As Ypsilanti's only print newspaper, we at *The Eastern Echo* understand how important it is to fill the gaps in coverage, as communities across the country grapple with loss of dedicated community news.

This week marks the nation's 86th celebration of National Newspaper Week, highlighting the essential role of journalists to inform communities and hold power accountable.

In the age when information streams freely and can be shared by anyone, critical consumption of news is more

important than ever. Social media is ripe with unfettered access to inflammatory sound bites, hyper-partisan agendas, myths and half-truths. Here at *The Echo*, we strive to offer you an escape from the sensationalism, instead providing fact-based, accurate and thoughtful reporting on the issues that impact your life.

Amid information overload and screen fatigue, we hope to be the source you trust to help you unplug but stay connected.

Whether you are a member of the campus or Ypsilanti community, whether you like to flip through a print paper held in your hands or prefer to scroll on your phone, whether you are looking for heartwarming community stories or hard-hitting news, we are your community newspaper — and we

don't take that responsibility lightly.

As local journalists, we aim to stay dialed in the community issues and priorities that matter to you, whether that's the University of Michigan and Los Alamos National Laboratory data center planned for Ypsilanti Township, election coverage initiatives from Eastern Michigan University's new president, City Hall news, campus and local events in the area or new businesses that open in town.

Here at *The Eastern Echo*, we are committed to upholding ethics and responsibility in everything we do. Anyone can post their opinion or unvetted report online; we offer something more.

It is our mission to inform the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti community by highlighting

newsworthy content in a fair, accurate and timely manner. We do this by seeking truth and reporting it, even when there are barriers and the answers are hard to uncover. We work to minimize harm by balancing the public's need to know with our duty to protect those who are most vulnerable. We maintain our credibility by acting independently and preserving our editorial freedom — as a student-run newspaper, we are independent from our university and make our own decisions about content without outside influence. We are accountable and transparent, and publicly committed to these ethics and correcting our mistakes.

We can't do this work alone. We rely on you, our readers, to engage with us by reading *The Echo*, giving us feedback on how we are doing,

voicing your opinions through letters to the editor, and holding us to our commitment.

We invite you to join in our mission and make *The Echo* your own. Support us by picking up a copy, following us on social media and subscribing to weekly newsletters. Engage with our coverage by sending a news tip to news@easternecho.com or writing us a letter at editor@easternecho.com. Champion press freedom and news literacy by reading and sharing independent, fact-based news and encouraging your friends to do the same.

We know you can get news from countless sources these days. Thank you for choosing *The Echo* for yours. Happy National Newspaper Week!



Eagles silence the hype: Eastern Michigan dominates UMass 38-14



Eastern Michigan University football player No. 85 Kozy Isaac receives a 40-yard pass from No. 1 Noah Kim to score the second touchdown of the game against Sacramento State on Aug. 29, at Rynearson Stadium. Bradan Copeland / The Eastern Echo

Ruby Brannon
Sports Editor

On Oct. 3, the Eastern Michigan University Eagles traveled to Amherst, Massachusetts, to face a surging University of Massachusetts football team. Heading into Week 5, UMass was one of college football's most compelling turnaround stories. Following an 0-12 record during the previous season and a last-place

selection in the Mid-American Conference preseason poll, the Minutemen shocked analysts by racing out to a 4-0 start. This early-season surge earned UMass widespread media attention, culminating in the ESPN College GameDay crew unanimously picking UMass to win and oddsmakers listing them as 6.5-point home favorites.

Physicality and trench control
Despite the external hype

surrounding UMass, Eastern Michigan established total control at the line of scrimmage. EMU head coach Chris Creighton noted that his squad brought its signature blue-collar toughness and played true complementary football across all three phases. Backed by a healthy offensive line, EMU dominated physical execution, controlling the tempo through long, methodical scoring drives. EMU controlled the clock for 34:35 compared to UMass's 19:22, while accumulating 26 first downs to UMass's 18. Crucially, Eastern Michigan converted 11 of 14 third downs, keeping the chains moving all afternoon.

First-half execution
Eastern Michigan opened the scoring in the first quarter at the 5:38 mark. Quarterback Noah Kim orchestrated a 13-play, 80-yard drive that consumed 7:16 off the clock, finishing with a 27-yard touchdown pass to Kozy Isaac. EMU doubled its lead in the second quarter when Braydon Bennett capped a 13-play, 64-yard march with a 2-yard touchdown run at 01:55. UMass responded just before halftime with a 7-play, 75-yard drive, as William Watson III connected with Max Dowling for a 34-yard touchdown pass with 28 seconds remaining, cutting EMU's lead to 14-7 at the break.

Third-quarter surge
The Eagles pulled away decisively in the third quarter, scoring 14 unanswered points. EMU opened the second half with a 10-play, 75-yard drive, ending in a 2-yard touchdown pass from Kim to Joshua Long. On the ensuing stretch, EMU's defense forced a takeaway — one of two turnovers forced on the day against a UMass offense averaging over 36 points per game. Taking over at the UMass 9-yard line, Amareon Blue sprinted into the end zone on a 9-yard touchdown run just two plays later, extending the cushion to 28-7.

Fourth-quarter finish
EMU maintained control in the fourth quarter. Joey Mattord broke free for a 25-yard touchdown run at 14:13, capping a 10-play, 61-yard drive. Kicker Rudy Kessinger added a 26-yard field goal at 04:07 following an 8-minute drive to push the score to 38-7. UMass added a late score with 01:02 remaining on a 3-yard touchdown run by Curtis Kimmons IV, bringing the final score to 38-14.

- By the numbers**
- Total Offense: EMU outgained UMass 411 total yards to 316 yards.
 - Rushing Attack: EMU rushed for 192 net yards and 3 touchdowns on 39 attempts, led by Bennett, Blue, and Mattord. UMass managed 106 rushing yards on 25 carries.
 - Passing Efficiency: Noah Kim was highly efficient, completing 21 of 30 passes for 219 yards, 2 touchdowns, and 0 interceptions. William Watson III completed 20 of 27 passes for 210 yards, 1 touchdown, and 1 interception for UMass.
 - Red Zone & Turnovers: EMU went 5-for-5 in the red zone with zero turnovers, while UMass finished 1-for-2 in the red zone with two turnovers: one interception, one lost fumble.

Looking ahead
With the victory, Eastern Michigan improves to 3-3 overall and 2-0 in MAC play, securing its first 2-0 start in conference play since 2005. UMass drops to 4-1 overall (1-1 MAC). Postgame, Noah Kim credited the offensive line for creating run lanes and protection, emphasizing that the team must stay grounded as they prepare for their next MAC matchup against Akron.

Wide receiver Benson Prosper trades junior college for Rynearson lights

Jeffrey Ellingsworth
Sports Reporter

Two years ago, wide receiver Benson Prosper was playing football at Hutchinson Community College, a school in central Kansas about an hour outside Wichita. Prosper helped lead the Blue Dragons to the 2024 NJCAA National Championship, scoring on an eight-yard touchdown play in the third quarter to spark a comeback and defeat their main rivals, Iowa Western, in the championship game to capture the title. Hutchinson Community College is known as one of the top junior college programs in the country, helping develop players such as New Orleans Saints' Alvin Kamara and Pittsburgh Steelers' Cordarrelle Patterson before they reached the NFL. For Prosper, Hutchinson was another developmental step in his football career. Now, No. 3 Prosper plays for the Eastern Michigan Eagles.

But why would Prosper leave a national championship-winning program to come to EMU? Simply put, he wanted to prove he could play at the highest level and compete with the best of the best. In 2025, Prosper transferred to EMU, playing in 11 of 12 games while making two starts. He didn't fill the stat sheet, but he made his opportunities count, averaging more than eight yards per reception during his junior season. While the Eagles' season saw disappointment, Prosper showed that he belonged and was ready for a bigger role. Now, during his final collegiate season, Prosper is ready to showcase what kind of playmaker he can be.



Eastern Michigan University football player No. 3 Benson Prosper catches the ball during the game against Lindenwood on Sept. 26 at Rynearson Stadium. Bradan Copeland / The Eastern Echo

Through five games, Prosper has 21 receptions for 220 yards, with his biggest performance coming Saturday, Sept. 26, when he stepped up in place of injured wide receivers Kozy Issac and Nick Devereaux. Prosper delivered in a big way: He led the Eagles with 10 receptions for 109 yards, highlighted by a 26-yard touchdown catch in the first quarter that opened the scoring. It was a moment of firsts for Prosper, as it was also his first touchdown as an Eastern Michigan Eagle. Prosper, however, wasn't only important to the Eagles' passing game. He also made an impact on the defensive side of the ball when he turned into a defensive back to prevent

an interception. Quarterback Noah Kim threw an errant pass toward Prosper that was picked off by a defender. Prosper immediately reacted, ripping the ball away from the defender and forcing it to fall to the turf incomplete. After the game, Prosper discussed his big performance and the team's 29-3 victory over Lindenwood. "We had to come in and we knew the mission. We all knew what the mission was, to come in and get it done today. So that's what we did. I was glad that I contributed to that," Prosper said. Even with recent successes, Prosper knows the team cannot afford to dwell on its latest victories. He said future success means going back to the drawing board, sticking to head coach

Chris Creighton's plan for the team and bringing 110% to practice. With at least six games remaining on the schedule, the Eastern Michigan offense may have found a new reliable target in Prosper, especially if Devereaux is unable to return in the near future after the injury he suffered against Wisconsin on Sept. 19. When Prosper left a nation championship-winning program, he knew he wanted to prove he could compete at the highest level. Now in his final season at EMU, he isn't just proving that he belongs, he is rising to who his team needs him to be.

Eagle Sports Tips & Tales: Oct. 5 - 11

Jeffrey Ellingsworth
Sports Reporter

Oct. 5-6: Women's, men's golf away tournaments
Tale: On Monday and Tuesday, the women's team will travel to Wichita, Kansas for their third tournament of the season hosted by the University of Oklahoma. The men's golf team will be heading to Farmington, Pennsylvania for the Nemaquin Collegiate Invitational, hosted by West Virginia University.

Tip: The Wichita Country Club, where the women's team will be playing, features many holes that have doglegs due to the course moving in a circular motion. Golfers should watch pay careful attention during the practice round and shape tee shots carefully to avoid being blocked out on their approach. The men's team will visit the Mystic Rock course, known for serious elevation changes and blind spots. Golfers should take as much time as possible to understand all the tricks and challenges that have been included in the course.

Oct. 8-11: Tennis at ITA Midwest Regional
Tale: The Eagles will be traveling to Champaign, Illinois as one of 23 institutions participating in the ITA Midwest Regional Championships.

Tip: With the Regional being played four days straight, the athletes will need to make time for rest and recovery, especially playing so soon after the Spartan Invitational. The courts that Eastern Michigan will be playing on are hard courts so the Eagle athletes must keep their balance and ensure that they are properly warmed up before competing.

Oct. 9-10: Volleyball at Buffalo
Tale: The Eastern Michigan Eagles are back on the road for their fifth and sixth matchups against the Buffalo Bulls on Friday and Saturday.
Tip: EMU needs to make Buffalo work for every point. If the Eagles can consistently get good passes to their setter, they can keep their offense balanced and avoid becoming predictable. Keeping the sets close will help take away some of the home court advantage. The Eagles need to start fast and keep the advantage as they try to remain aggressive through every point.

Oct. 10: Rowing against Wisconsin
Tale: Wisconsin's rowing teams will visit the Boathouse at Ford lake to compete against Eastern Michigan's women's rowing and lightweight teams this Saturday.
Tip: The rowing team will need to stay together through each stroke, maintain their rhythm and avoid giving Wisconsin easy opportunities to gain separation. A strong performance against an established program could give Eastern valuable momentum heading into one of the biggest races of the fall next weekend. As a new program, the lightweight team is still building experience and learning how they stack up against established lightweight programs. Rather than getting caught up in the opponent or the significance of the event, Eastern should focus on maintaining its rhythm, communicating well and finishing each race strong.

Oct. 11: Soccer against Miami
Tale: For the second straight game, the Eagles will play in Ypsilanti at Scicluna Field. They will be taking on an uncharacteristically struggling Miami Redhawks. The Eagles look to continue their impressive run behind the Ella Holland's goalkeeping masterclass. Hollab was named MAC goalkeeper of the week Sept. 29.
Tip: Keep attacking. The Eagles must keep the Redhawks on their heels and on their own side of the halfway line. With a super goalkeeper and stout backline maintaining possession and keeping control, the game will be won by the Eagles continuing to attack a shaky and inexperienced Miami back line.



ELECTION 2026

Find more election coverage on easternecho.com

Meet the candidates running for Michigan House of Representatives District 32

Hannah Borders

News Reporter

This November, incumbent Democrat Jimmie Wilson Jr., Republican Mike Eller and two third party candidates will be on the ballot for Michigan House of Representatives District 32.

Michigan House of Representatives 32nd District represents Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, part of Superior Township and part of Pittsfield Township.



Mike Eller (Republican)

Mike Eller is running for Michigan House of Representatives District 32 as a Republican. He is a business

owner of more than 35 years. His business employs teams across southern Michigan and Northern Ohio. Eller is a member of the Washtenaw County Republican Party Executive Committee, state committeeman for the Michigan Republican Party, and precinct delegate, according to the Washtenaw County Republican Party website.

Eller wants to cut wasteful spending, eliminate state income tax, ease property tax burden, restore parental authority in education and return real power to local communities, the Washtenaw County Republican Party website says.

Ryan Sample (Green)

Ryan Sample is running for Michigan House of Representatives District 32 as a member of the Green Party.

Sample wants to repeal the Democrat's 24% state tax on marijuana, vote for \$1,500 monthly Black

Reparations and a \$1000 monthly universal basic income. He hopes for free college tuition and universal healthcare, according to a post on The Green Party of Michigan's verified Facebook account.

John Tatar (U.S. Taxpayers)

John Tatar is running for Michigan House of Representatives District 32 as a member of the U.S. Taxpayers Party.



Jimmie Wilson Jr. (Democrat)

Jimmie Wilson Jr. is a Democrat currently representing District 32 in the Michigan House of Representatives. Wilson is running for reelection this

November.

Before working in politics, Wilson attended Universal Technical Institute, formerly known Michigan Institute of Aviation and Technology, where he became a licensed aircraft mechanic. After graduating from UTI, he went on to work for Siemens Energy and later at the Ford Motor Company Rawsonville Plant. Wilson was elected to be a trustee for the UAW Local 898.

Wilson began his career in politics in 2016 when he ran for and was elected to the Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees and was reelected in 2020. Wilson then ran for state House of Representatives and has held his position since 2022.

Wilson's campaign focuses on eight main issues: housing is a human right, education, healthcare and mental healthcare, real public safety and criminal justice reforms, environmental justice, workers' rights and unions, civil rights for everyone and economic development.

Wilson hopes to expand access to homeownership and create a more

equitable and stable rental housing market. He wants to increase funding for K-12 schools so that they can hire more social workers and provide better pay for teacher, bus drivers and other support staff. He wants to add more technical and skilled trade programs into curriculum.

Wilson promises to protect reproductive healthcare as healthcare covered under insurance, lower prescription drug costs and make mental health care more accessible. He hopes to hold law enforcement accountable by ensuring they work collaboratively, transparently and fairly within the community. He wants to enforce universal background checks for firearm owners and reform Michigan's criminal justice system. He hopes to raise minimum wage, which he says will make it easier to attract well-paying jobs to the area and allow workers to join unions.

Editor's note: Candidate photos and information are gathered from publicly available online campaign materials. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order by last name.

Political science professor speaks on voting importance, elections, policy impact

Hannah Borders

News Reporter

Joshua Koss is a professor of political science with expertise and interest in Congress, presidency, elections, political media and political communications. During the current fall 2026 semester, Koss teaches American government and a political analysis of "Star Wars" course. In an interview with The Eastern Echo, Koss spoke on the importance of voting, midterm elections and local policy impact.

During the midterm election this November, an array of local proposals and positions, and state and federal office positions will be on the ballot.

Q: Why do you think voting is important?

A: Voting is the bedrock of American democracy. It's the way that voters primarily participate in the electoral process, the process through which decisions are made in this country. Races at every level of government are important. Even in the midterms, where the president is not on the ballot, there are still a lot of important local elections for the state and federal government. Oftentimes these are the people who make really critical decisions and can shape things in various ways with their support of different policies.

Q: Do you think voting has grown in importance over time?

A: I think it has always been important. Maybe in more recent years, there's been a heightened relevance because the awareness of how politics impacts us on an individual level has really increased.

Q: Why do you think there has been an increase in political awareness?

A: I think that awareness has increased because people are paying more attention to politics. Some of this lines up with a lot of the exposure that Trump earned when he first ran for office. He got a lot of people to pay attention, whether for good or bad reasons. I think a lot of people pay more attention now than they did historically, even though what government does has always been of equal importance. We've seen certain cabinet appointments that Trump has

made get a lot more attention than they would have historically. There's an increased salience that politics has as a whole, as a lot of different social identities have increased. People who identify from certain groups see how politics directly impacts things like who they can marry. All of that is relevant when people are making the decision of who they are going to vote for or whether they vote at all.

Q: Why do you think young people, including college students, are less likely to vote than older people?

A: There's a lot of reasons. Historically, one of the things that's always been pointed out is lack of a habit. Older people who vote have voted in every election for the past 30 plus years. There's a certain compulsion when you have that level of muscle memory — you sort of just do things. It's just something that's important. On other topics, there's a certain level of cynicism and a lack of understanding of what government does. I would hope that a majority of students in political science have a better sense of that, but many don't have that sort of exposure. If your only exposure is a high school American government class, maybe voting is something that interested you and it clicked as something important, other times not as much. Young people are also just very busy, and transportation is a problem in some cases. If you're registered to vote on campus, then it's more accessible, but not everyone does that. As much as I've seen an expansion of ways to vote — early voting is very common in Michigan now and several other states. It's much easier to vote today in Michigan than it was 20 years ago if you're a younger person, but just because that is true doesn't mean that it's going to solve all of the voting woes when it comes to turnout of the youth.

Q: What would you say to people who feel like voting doesn't do much to change the world around them?

A: After most elections, you're not going to see an immediate change in the world around you. However, the ability to change the trajectory of policy and have a positive impact in the direction you see fit takes sustained energy. Continuing to vote in election after election for the people that you feel bring about that positive change,

or at least oppose the people you feel are making it worse on the other side is really important for that. There's a lot of key issues you can point to depending on your political priorities that you do or do not like, and you can clearly draw a line between a particular election cycle and that particular shift. Making those connections will increase turnout.

Q: Why are midterm elections important and why is it important to vote in them?

A: With midterm elections, it varies state to state, but in Michigan right now we have a lot of key races going on. We have a race for the U.S. Senate and all of the House of Representatives goes up for election. That really forms the makeup of Congress. In this particular election, you can see the party shift in either or both chambers from Republicans to Democrats, and that will change the character of the legislation coming out. In Michigan, the entire state executive branch is up for election. All of those positions that are up for election have more of a direct impact and play a key role on state governments.

Q: Why are local elections important and how can local policies impact people's lives?

A: Local elections are admittedly some of the harder elections to follow because there is less dissemination of information about races. Maybe you've only seen yard signs about candidates running for school board and things like that. They're still important jobs and they can impact you in a lot of different ways depending on who controls your city or local government. It might influence property taxes, curfews, ordinances and things like that. Those are things the local government can shape. One of the hot button issues right now is data centers. Local governments do not have absolute control on that, but they can push back when there's efforts to build a data center or some other type of construction project that is not wanted by the constituents. We've seen that even with closing of certain schools and efforts to replace them with different things. There's a lot of different smaller issues. Local governments aren't able to give medicare for all, but you can get a lot of things that will impact your life from a local government.

Q: Why do midterm elections have a lower voter turnout than presidential elections?

A: When anyone thinks of politics, they think of the president first and foremost. I already highlighted that Trump has been a particular lightning rod, but even removing him from the equation, the president has always been this major lightning rod. Whoever the president is tends to inspire people to go to the polls, whether it is to support or oppose them. In the midterms you get a little bit of that. A lot of democratic races this election cycle point that they are a referendum against Trump. That is pretty consistent in every midterm, the out party is always looking to point at the bad things that the president has done and use that to get things through in terms of their elections. It obviously works for some voters, but other voters who feel more comfortable with the current administration don't feel the need to vote. Some of that, again, stems from a sort of misunderstanding of the importance of lower level races, and that the presidency sits at this fulcrum that demands turn out the way that midterms traditionally do not.

Q: What is important to know about this upcoming midterm election?

A: This specific upcoming midterm election can have a really big impact. We've already seen with the control of Congress that it will be really important, and with the state government as well. Whether those are in alignment with the current president or not can have a big impact on the political cohesion of them. That political cohesion is in some ways bad if you're opposed to the president and his party, you would want to force a shift there and we're at a really key point of doing that. We've seen some indicators in some policies that are seen out of the other party. Whether those are implemented with the president is less likely, but you might get more resistance toward things like the Iran war. At the local level and state level, traditional importance is maintained there as well. In Michigan, we have a Democrat governor and split representative bodies in terms of who is in control. That could shift depending on who wins these races. You either go with a pattern of continuation or you try to mix it up as far as state executive branches are concerned.



Joshua Koss is a political science professor at Eastern Michigan University. He has a master's degree in political science from Michigan State University. *Courtney Prielipp | The Eastern Echo*

Q: What advice would you give to someone looking to become more civically engaged beyond election season?

A: There's a lot of different ways to do it. I highly encourage looking at what local party chapters are doing, whether it is state level, county or township in some cases. Getting involved there can highlight what the priorities are and if they are in alignment with your own. Public service is an important thing. There are a lot of public sector jobs within the government that are really important and need to be done. Some of those are appointed positions or hired secretarial positions, but they often do a lot of the core governance. One of the misunderstandings that exists is how important the bureaucracy is to maintain things. Implementing what the elected officials do and being part of that infrastructure could be a really impactful way to get yourself involved with civic engagement. I would encourage anyone interested to find some sort of specific cause to latch onto. Just because the election happens doesn't mean all of these battles are over. You need to continue to pressure policy makers to continue to fight for things you want, fight against things that you don't want and stop others from doing things you don't want them to do. Finding ways to get involved with the groups that are doing on-the-ground work and advocating for things you care about is really meaningful.



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Last week at a glance: Sept. 29-Oct. 3



T'Mae Puckree hands out a raffle passport stamp at the Eastern Michigan University Cultural Expo! on Oct. 3, in the EMU Student Center. *Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo*



Jihoon Jeong and Vy Ai Le watch the performer on stage at the Eastern Michigan University Cultural Expo! on Oct. 3, in the EMU Student Center. *Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo*



Saucy Chicks owner Tamara serves a mac and cheese sample to a customer during Ypsiween on Oct. 2 in downtown Ypsilanti. *Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo*



The team from Sweetz by Summer operates their Ypsiween booth in downtown Ypsilanti on Oct. 2. *Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo*



cre•Ade marketing director, Arun, and the cofounder, Ziyad, work together to serve samples at YpsiTasty on Sept. 29 in Ypsilanti. *Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo*



Eastern Michigan University starting volleyball players huddle before the game against Central Michigan on Oct. 3 at George Gervin GameAbove Center. *Bradán Copeland / The Eastern Echo*



Eastern Michigan University volleyball player No. 1 Lina Govoni serves the ball into play in the match against Central Michigan on Oct. 3 at George Gervin GameAbove Center. *Bradán Copeland / The Eastern Echo*



Eastern Michigan University volleyball player No. 5 Maddie Herman sets the ball over the net to Central Michigan on Oct. 3 at George Gervin GameAbove Center. *Bradán Copeland / The Eastern Echo*

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Election Day	November 3



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