

Eastern Illinois University

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October

2022

10-26-2022

Daily Eastern News: October 26, 2022

Eastern Illinois University

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Recommended Citation

Eastern Illinois University, "Daily Eastern News: October 26, 2022" (2022). *October*. 6.
https://thekeep.eiu.edu/den_2022_oct/6

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THE HALLOWEEN EDITION

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

'TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID'

OPEN IF YOU DARE

If you're brave enough to look inside, you'll find stories of haunted houses, paranormal investigations and terrifying costumes.



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Students share plans, costumes for Halloween

By Adriana Hernandez-Santana
Junior Features Editor | @DEN_News

With Halloween just around the corner, students all across campus are excited to get dressed up, go to parties and have a fun time.

However, not everyone has the same plans.

Some student's nights will be filled with scary movies or a trip to the pumpkin patch, but all the students at Eastern seem to be gearing up for a fun night.

Connor Mellott, a sophomore interpersonal communications major, hasn't decided on his costume yet. But that doesn't mean that he doesn't have plans for Halloween night.

"My plans for Halloween are to watch 'Over the Garden Wall' TV series with my brother," Mellott said. "It's gonna rock."

Bailey Annan, a senior television and radio production major, has some Halloween plans with her friends that she is very excited to experience.

"My friends and I are gonna play 'Until Dawn', a horror game," Annan said. "It's a single player game, but we are going to play it with 7 people, it's gonna be wild."

As for her costume, Annan is kicking it back to the 1960's with hers.

"I am going to be a hippie because I have these really cool overalls with flowers with them," Annan said. "I'm really excited."

Sereniti Ross, a senior digital media major, is not planning on dressing up this year, but still plans on having fun.

"This year, I'm going to a haunted house on Halloween," Ross said.

Alexia Myers, a junior year digital media technology major, is planning to have Halloween makeup the main feature for her costume this year.



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

People on various platforms like Tik-Tok and Instagram adapted and added their own personal style to the simple and cheap white sheet ghost costume by adding a variety of accessories.

"I'm going to do some pumpkin face makeup.. I'll [also] be [going] home for that weekend to visit my siblings," Myers said.

Chelli Hall, a sophomore who's double majoring in psychology and human services, has no idea what she should do for a Halloween costume. And as for plans, even though there was so last minute planning, she expresses excitement about what she's hoping to do.

"I was supposed to go to a Halloween party but I'm not," Hall said. "Instead, I'm going to the L & A haunted maze with some of my friends from work."

Matt Williamson, a freshman year television and video production major, is going to a Halloween party dressed as Micheal Myers, a fictional character from the movie "Halloween," and related sequels.

John Wills, a junior broadcast jour-

nalism major, is planning to be Mario from the Mario Brothers.

Paeton Hagen, a junior year television and video production major, expressed a lot of excitement for his Halloween costume this year.

"I'm going to dress up as one of those blow up guys," Hagen said. "I'm gonna be a tubeman."

As for his plans, Hagen is going to a Halloween party.

Jeff Owens, the director of television and radio at Eastern, does not have any major plans for Halloween. However, he still has a personal favorite costume.

"My favorite Halloween costume I ever dressed up as was a party cow," Owens said. "It was a big hit and it was a good time. It was the 90's."

Adriana Hernandez-Santana can be reached at 581-2812 or at aihernandez@eiu.edu.

FRONT PAGE COVER ART BY LUKE TAYLOR AND ROB LE CATES

WHAT'S HAPPENING OCT 26-NOV 2

WEDNESDAY

Student Government
7 p.m. - Arcola/Tuscola Room, MLK Jr. University Union

THURSDAY

Council on Academic Affairs
2 p.m. - Witters Conference Room, Booth Library
Art Mix
3:45 p.m. - Tarble Arts Center

FRIDAY

Family Weekend Begins
L&A Family Farms Haunted Corn Maze
7 p.m. - L&A Family Farms, Paris IL
Down in the Valley: Opera by Kurt Weill
7:30 p.m. - Doudna Fine Arts Center

SATURDAY

Writing Your Life: the Craft of Memoir
10 p.m. - Mattoon Train Depot
Family Fun Fest
11p.m. - Library Quad
ELU vs. Tennessee Tech
2 p.m. - O'Brien Stadium
L&A Family Farms Haunted Corn Maze
7 p.m. - L&A Family Farms, Paris IL
Down in the Valley: Opera by Kurt Weill
7:30 p.m. - Doudna Fine Arts Center

SUNDAY

YOUR EVENT COULD GO HERE!

MONDAY

Halloween

TUESDAY

Native American Heritage Month Begins
Finding Your Get Up and Go
1 p.m. - LifeSpan Center
Art Mix
3:45 p.m. - Tarble Arts Center
Percussion Ensemble
7:30 p.m. - Doudna Fine Arts Center
Charleston City Council
6:30 p.m. - Charleston City Hall

WEDNESDAY

Student Government
7 p.m. - Arcola/Tuscola Room, MLK Jr. University Union

Send your event information to dennewsdesk@gmail.com to be added to our online and print calendars!

About

The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published weekly on Wednesday, in Virden, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and online during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations. One copy per week is free to students and faculty. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents each in the Student Publications Office in Buzzard Hall.

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Pemberton brings back annual haunted event

By Elaina Boss

Campus Reporter | @DEN_News

Pemberton Hall delivered another year of terror for people looking for a scare this weekend with its annual Halloween haunted house event.

The event began with an elevator that took students down to the basement floor to volunteer actors in make-up and costumes. Students gave many different reasons for their fear.

Brook Ozier, a sophomore biology major, said the actors trailing behind her scared her the most.

"You can't see what's going on behind you," Ozier said.

The actors also scared Nicole Suci, a senior exercise science major.

"My heart is literally beating out of my chest right now," Suci said. "What made it so scary was that everyone was screeching and just pounding and everything."

Isabella Guidry, the president of the Pemberton Hall Council and a history education major, explained the process for organizing the haunted house.

"Well, I think it really is just one making sure you give yourself enough time to plan ahead, and that you come up with an idea and making sure that you assign people within your organization roles that they can fulfill," Guidry said. "That way, you're not doing everything by yourself, and you have a team that you can work with and assign roles. But they can also all ask questions and work together to do these things."

Guidry said the events this weekend would not have been possible without the volunteers.

"I think it's also making sure that you give enough time for volunteers when really volunteers are really helping this entire thing," Guidry said. "All the stairs, all the people who are collecting the money, the people who are working in the waiting rooms, everybody, it's really just volunteers. And so really organizing a good haunted house for charity like this is just reaching out to the community. Making sure that you have these volunteers who are going to help, and they're going to be your backbone for creating this."

Alissia Rivera, a senior English education major, noted this year's high participation.

"There were definitely a lot



BY HANNAH FERGURSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Chronicle Nagel, a junior music education and vocal performance major, chases people down the hallway to scare people at the Pemberton Hall haunted house.

of volunteers this year," Rivera said. "The decorations were really cool, and it felt long. Definitely better than the previous years I have gone."

Although this year has been especially exciting, the event has always been popular with Eastern students.

Anne Flaherty, Eastern's vice president of student affairs, said that the event was crowded last year as well.

"It's a popular annual tradition," Flaherty said.

Like many on campus, Flaherty believes that Pemberton is haunted.

"The stories I've heard, there's a ghost that lives here," Flaherty said. "I think that she's a nice ghost though."

Tickets cost \$2, and all of the proceeds will be donated to GirlForward.

GirlForward is a non-profit community support group. Their mission is to create and enhance opportunities for girls who have been displaced by conflict and persecution.

Arielle Kindred, the associate resident director of Pemberton Hall and advisor of the Pemberton Hall Council, explained the decision to donate to GirlForward.

"I think it's very important that we support everything, every area, every female that needs that empowering, that needs that extra help," Kindred said.

Elaina Boss can be reached at 581-2812 or at edboss@eiu.



BY HANNAH FERGURSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Emmie German, a freshman history teacher education major, scares people at the Pemberton Hall haunted house.



BY HANNAH FERGURSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Nycee Springfield, a sophomore fashion merchandising and design major, works as a scarer at the Pemberton Hall haunted house.

Students' scariest paranormal experiences

By **Kyara Morales-Rodriguez**
Campus Reporter | @DEN_News

Every town comes with ghost stories or urban legends that everyone seems to know, Eastern students shared their scariest experiences with the paranormal.

Within every town there is the creepy bridge, the haunted house, the eerie residence hall—the stories surrounding these allegedly haunted places seem to take on lives of their own.

They can spook even the biggest skeptics.

Some students came to Eastern with ghost stories of their own, stories they heard growing up from their relatives or classmates.

One such student is Kingsford Onyina, a graduate economics student, who knew an urban legend from West Africa, specifically from Ghana.

“It’s a high school story whereby the girls’ dormitory,” Onyina said. “It’s being described that there is this Madam who was in the school and passed away and used to come and pass through the girls’ dormitory when they are asleep. She normally wears heels, and you hear the sound of the heels, and in Africa, we call it ‘Moke.’”

Onyina said he first heard this legend about Madam Moke when he was in high school.

“It’s kind of a common story in the country,” Onyina said.

Onyina said that when he came to Eastern, he heard “Pemberton was experiencing a similar issue.”

“It’s scary from the onset, but I don’t like listening to ghost stories, sincerely,” Onyina said.

Faith Young, a freshman elementary education student, said she heard a ghost story about Urbana High School.

This ghost story is specifically about the fourth floor, which she said was locked up the entire time she attended school there.

“There’s been multiple legends, but the main one that we know of is that someone committed suicide there, and ever since then, they have locked the fourth floor,” Young said.

Young said that although it is locked, teachers have been on the fourth floor, as well as those who go up there to clean.

“People have talked about how they always heard someone talking to them,” Young said.

Young said that people from her high school would often try to find ways up to the fourth floor.

There was only one known door to reach it, so students would often try breaking its lock.

“People would always get in trouble because of that, but it was very funny,” Young said. “People are just trying to get scared.”

Joey Dhom, a freshman criminology student, said he had a ghost story that was a bit close to home, literally.

Dhom’s ghost story came from his childhood home in Newton, Ill., the house he lived in for about 10 years.

Dhom said that he was certain



BY ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Kingsford Onyina, an economics grad student, says that a ghost story he remembers from Ghana is similar to the one told on campus about Pemberton Hall.



BY ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Joey Dhom, a freshman criminology major, says that his childhood bedroom was haunted by something that would make the room cold and give him nightmares.



BY ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Faith Young, a freshman elementary education major, says that she’s heard ghost stories about Urbana High School. Like the stories about Pemberton, they involve a mysterious locked floor.

there was a ghost in his room, which was freezing cold year round.

Dhom said that their room also had a crawl space with a small door that would “randomly swing open, swing close, swing open, swing close.”

“What really got me into actually, fully believing that there was something wrong was the fact that I had severe nightmares every time I was in that room, and when I slept out of that room, there was no nightmares at all,” Dhom said.

He said that the nightmares were so bad that they would wake up feeling “like somebody was choking me, or there’s somebody crawling on my back.”

Dhom said that he and his family moved out of that house about three or four years ago “because it was really creepy and broken down and super old.”

Young said she had a similar experience, hearing multiple stories from her older sister about their childhood home, the one she lived in when she was around five years old.

This ghost story takes place in the basement of Young’s old house near St. Louis, Mo., a basement she said was always freezing cold.

She said that her whole family felt there was something off about the house.

They always felt like they were being watched, they could hear stomping, and even her mom refused to go down to the basement by herself.

Young said that when they lived there, her grandmother had a rocking chair she no longer wanted, so they put it downstairs in the basement.

Young said that one day, her sister went down to the basement and the rocking chair had vanished. The next day, it reappeared.

At first, she said, the family thought someone was just messing with them.

“[My sister] goes back down in the basement, and she sees this person standing on the rocking chair,” she said. “Apparently, she was nine-years-old looking, I don’t really know, but it was really creepy. My sister started running up the steps screaming and yelling. I remember that to this day.”

Young said that they moved out of that house after about five years of living there “because there was always other creepy stuff going on in other rooms, but it was mostly just the basement.”

Kyara Morales-Rodriguez can be reached at 581-2812 or at knmorales-rodriguez@eiu.edu.

Stories like this one are often shared on the News’ TikTok account, @dailyeasternnews, as well as our Instagram Reels, @thedailyeasternnews. If you’d like to be included in future articles and videos, keep an eye out for reporters on campus.

Halloween looks different around the world

By Cam'ron Hardy
Junior Campus Editor | @DEN_News

Halloween is celebrated differently around the world. It is believed to be a crossover between the world of the living and the dead.

In America, Halloween was formerly known as a Sahnain, which means “summers end.” The Celts or Celtic, a group of Indo-Europeans, treated the day as the beginning of a new year.

Halloween honors the day before the Western Christian feast of All Saints and begins the season of Allhallowtide, according to britannica.com.

As time has passed, the way that the holiday was celebrated has changed.

Today, Americans celebrate Halloween by partying, dressing up in costumes, typically as pop culture figures that are known for their roles in cinema, sports, or have made an impact in society, and watch horror films.

Children are the main participants in the annual tradition of trick-or-treating.

They go from house to house collecting candy in their costumes all throughout the night.

In Latin American countries, Halloween is known as Dia de los Muertos, which means Day of the Dead, and honors loved ones who have died.

The commemoration takes place from Oct. 31 through Nov. 2.

Families celebrate the dead by setting up an altar and decorating it with pictures, flowers and candy.

Their favorite foods and beverages are also left out with fresh water.

Sometimes a wash basin and a towel are left out. It is believed that the spirit can clean themselves before eating.

Candles and incense are burned to assist the dead in making their way back home.

Relatives also clean the gravesites by cutting weeds and fixing the paintings and headstones. It is then decorated with flow-



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern Illinois University students representing the Office of International Students and Scholars walk in the 2022 Homecoming Parade in the Square on Oct. 15.

ers and wreaths.

On the last day of the celebration, family members may drink tequila and have a mariachi band present while having a picnic at the gravesite, according to history.com.

In Japan, Halloween is called Obon or Bon.

Halloween continues to increase in population. It is mainly celebrated in Tokyo and Osaka.

The people dress up in cosplay and walk around in areas where other people participate, according to jpass.com.

Halloween first started in Japan around 20 years ago.

It was started in Tokyo Disneyland with the intention of gathering more people for the fall season, according to jpass.com.

In general, events related to Halloween take place between September and October.

There are street parties and costume parties held in different locations to celebrate the event.

For example, Shibuya Halloween is an unofficial event in Tokyo where over one million people join that takes place on Oct. 31.

Although both Japan and America celebrate Halloween, there are some things that are not the same.

For example, in Japan they do not participate in trick or treating.

It is fairly new, so they really put their attention to the costumes that they wear, which allows them to show off their creativity and things that they are involved in.

Halloween is not an official holiday but allows people to express themselves in costumes.

There are different ways that people celebrate the holiday around the world, with different meanings behind the holiday.

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Friday ‘Scare on the Square’ costume contest, pet parade

By Adriana Hernandez-Santana
Junior Features Editor | @DEN_News

The Charleston Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Scare on the Square on Friday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

This free Halloween event is designed for the families of Charleston to come out to the town square, spend some time together and go trick-or-treating.

The “trunk of treat” idea has grown a bit. Now, exhibitors are offering a parking space around the courthouse to decorate.

While car trunks are still allowed, promoters are also welcome to set up a table display, or even use a tent to create a spooky atmosphere.

Everyone is encouraged to decorate their displays to show-off their style.

While all the local businesses and organizations are going to be present in decorating their parking spots and handing out candy, more people are always welcome.

For those who have a business they would like to promote and meet your community on Friday, contact the Charleston Chamber of Commerce to become an exhibitor for this year’s event.

To contact the Chamber, send them an email at cacc@charlestonchamber.com or call at 217-345-7041.

And for everyone who is worried about their furry friend missing out, there is a canine costume parade followed by a costume contest. There will be separate contests for big and small dog breeds.

The winners will receive a prize at the awards ceremony at 6:30 p.m.

The registration fee is \$5, and all proceeds will go to the Coles County Animal Shelter, Charleston Area Dog Club and shop local promotional materials. In addition to the pet costume contest and Halloween display, the Charleston Square will also be offering an outdoor movie at 7:15 p.m.

It will take place on the corner of 6th St. and Jackson Ave.

Everyone is invited to bring some lawn chairs, pillows and blankets as the square offers a showing of the movie “Hocus Pocus.”

Adriana Hernandez-Santana can be reached at 581-2812 or at aihernandez@eiu.edu.



ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

A photo illustration of someone taking candy out of a bucket.



THE GROOM ROOM

820 Lincoln
Charleston, IL

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As I put on a blindfold and noise canceling headphones, I felt a chill run through me.

It might have only been the temperature dropping to near freezing as the clock struck midnight.

In my hands, connected to the headphones, I held what paranormal investigators call a “spirit box.” The device quickly skims radio frequencies, reversing the audio to avoid radio chatter and allow possible ghosts to speak through it.

The static and blips of radio noise were the only thing I could hear, depriving me of all other senses. This way, I wouldn’t be influenced by questions asked by investigators. I’d only say out loud whatever words I thought I heard. This is called the Estes Method, named after the park where it was first used in an investigation of the Stanley Hotel.

But it didn’t matter, really, what they called the gadget when I started hearing sounds that assembled together for words – or, at least that’s what I believe I heard at the Airtight Bridge midst farm fields and the occasional home in the Northeastern part of Coles County with a group of young, enthusiastic ghost hunters.

Finding the Specter

Bradyn Wambach stood a few paces away from me on the one-lane steel bridge that spans a narrower stretch of the Embarras River, almost directly over the spot where a body was found sans head, feet and hands in 1980. The head of the murdered woman was never found – although the person who killed and decapitated the body was ultimately captured decades later.

Wambach, the lead investigator, founded the group Finding the Specter, a paranormal investigator group, in part because of his fascination with local history and the stories behind haunted locations. Wambach credits his interest in the paranormal to watching “Ghost Adventures” as he grew up.

“I think people forget that they [spirits] were real people,” Wambach said. “We try to find out their stories.”

Many ghost stories in central Illinois have been somewhat overlooked by big-name investigators in lieu of more famous locations, so Wambach organized FTS Paranormal with the idea of looking into those spots.

Staying in the area also allows members to participate while still working day jobs. Traveling to famous haunts can get expensive, though the group has some ideas about where to go when they can.

Alongside Wambach, FTS Paranormal includes three investigators: Tristen Marlow, Lizzy Mowen, Gentry Copsy and a technical lead, Hunter Brooks.

While his main focus is editing videos and manning equipment on investigations, Brooks has had his share of scary paranormal experiences.

At the so-called Witch’s Grave at St. Omer Cemetery in Coles County, Brooks believes a spirit tried to demonstrate to him the way in which she died. The Witch’s Grave is an orb-shaped headstone which actually marks four graves: Granville and Sarah Barnes, their son Marcus, and Marcus’ wife, Caroline are all buried there. While little reliable history about this family has stuck around, the headstone lists that Caroline died in 1882. Specifically, the stone marks her death date as Feb. 31, 1882, a day which never existed. Skeptics blame the date on a typographical error, but some believe it was marked to avoid the resurrection of this accused witch.

As the story goes, Caroline was hanged for her crimes of witchcraft, but foretold that she would come back to life on the anniversary of her death. Marking the date as one that didn’t exist would prevent her from returning.

“We had spread out some, and I stayed at the grave to try some communication myself,” Brooks said. “About 10 minutes in, I felt a tightness around my throat, and I was having a hard time breathing. It got to the point I had to step away from the grave to catch my breath.”

Mowen, meanwhile, says she was physically attacked at Ashmore Estates. She shows photos of the scratches that run down her shoulder to us.

Yet this newest member of the group somehow is even more eager: “To be honest, it makes me more excited for future investigations, just tells me to be a little bit more cautious.”

Each member of the group has stories about encounters, which we heard throughout the night.

Some of these experiences have been recorded or livestreamed. Videos can be found on Finding the Specter’s social media, under its paranormal on most platforms.

Making contact

It was on that social media that I discovered Finding the Specter and reached out. Wambach and I spoke extensively as I will always listen to a good ghost story.

The next big excursion planned for FTS is a return to Ashmore Estates on Nov. 14. Video from the group’s most recent

visit will drop on their YouTube channel on Halloween, and they all recounted exciting stories from the location.

Knowing I had a deadline, Wambach generously offered to set up a smaller investigation to show me the works, provided FTS could still film content.

He suggested Airtight Bridge.

The location doesn’t belong to anyone so we could visit any time, and the story behind potential ghosts in the area is as haunting as they come.

Airtight Bridge

It’s an ideal spot for scary stories: out in the middle of nowhere, Airtight Road crosses the Embarrass River. The valley means most phones don’t get signal and the bridge creaks and groans as we walked on it.

It was also the site where, in 1980, a woman’s body was discovered, missing its head, feet and hands.

It wasn’t until 1992 that newer DNA tracing system allowed police to identify the body as Diana Small of Bradley, Ill.

The main suspect in the case was Small’s husband, Thomas Small, but interrogations and evidence weren’t sufficient to prove he was the killer. The case went unsolved until it was reopened in 2016, and police were able to get a confession.

Small said that during an argument with his wife, she “started swinging” at him. He retaliated by swinging back with a coal poker – a short, rigid rod often made of iron.

“I might have hit her more than once,” Small said, according to a Kankakee Daily Journal article.

He took her body to the attic until it began to smell too strongly, when he loaded it in his car and brought his young daughter along, as she was too young to be left alone.

Small apparently drove at random until he found the Airtight Bridge, where he dismembered the body. He took the head, hands and feet back to his residence and burned them in an attempt to keep the body from being identified.

Twenty-seven years later, the 71-year-old Small was sentenced to 30 years in prison after pleading guilty to first-degree murder in 2017.

The ghost story of Airtight Bridge continues to be passed on.



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

An EMF detector measures electromagnetic waves which the group uses to see if ghosts are nearby. The group used several other detection and communication devices like a spirit box and an Ouija board.

Our investigation

We arrived at Airtight Bridge around 10 p.m. at the same time, oddly, as another group who wanted to investigate, but we mostly stayed out of each other’s way.

I brought along an advisor who was interested in the story and a photographer whose talents I would definitely need on such a dark night. Fortunately, the whole FTS team was able to be there.

To begin, FTS gave us a brief rundown of the equipment they use, like the aforementioned spirit box.

Another popular device: an electromagnetic field detector that detects electromagnetic frequencies and displays levels on an LED display. Pointing it at other electronics will set it off, so FTS has two types at different sensitivities to avoid false alarm from their own smartphones.

Despite being in a field which is by nature difficult to inter-

INVESTIGATING AIRTIGHT BRIDGE

A local paranormal investigation crew looks into the site of Coles County’s most haunting murder.

Story by Luke Taylor
Editor-in-Chief | @luke_taylor23

Photos by Rob Le Cates
Photo Editor | @robert_lecates

act with scientifically, the investigators try to avoid creating any false evidence.

They also use cat balls, which are exactly what they sound like. These little round cat toys light up when they’ve been physically moved. We did some stomping around where they were set on the bridge to confirm that we wouldn’t trigger them by mistake.

The cat balls were the first thing to go off, as it turned out. The group dispersed to both sides of the river as soon as they’d finished explaining the game plan. I’d been wandering a bit myself when I turned to see Copsy overlooking a colorfully flashing ball.

“Do you like the pretty colors?” Copsy asked.

The ball flashed again.

“If someone is here, could you light up the other ball for me?”

Nothing. We watched more. I held my breath.

“I guess you like this one. Could you light it up again?”

The ball flashed.

Suddenly, the members of the team on one side of the bridge starting yelling and running. We whipped around.

“Run, there’s a car! Grab the cat balls!”

Everyone scrambled, because that bridge is only wide enough for one car.

The truck slowly drove past, the driver laying on a cartoonishly old-fashioned sounding horn. The vintage truck might have added to the spooky experience, if it weren’t for its shiny new license plates.

We set the cat balls back where we had them and started asking questions again, but whatever was triggering them had departed. They didn’t light up again.

Under the bridge, Wambach was experimenting with an app called “Necroponic,” which he’d found but was pretty skeptical of.

The app mixes different sets of random noise, constructed from scrambled audio of people talking. The idea is that ghosts would be able to manipulate the disjointed sounds into understandable words.

Wambach said that since it was just a smartphone app, he felt it would be very easy for its creator to have tampered with it in some way to trick users into hearing something.

While none of the investigators thought he found anything conclusive, the app did call out “Deacon” at one point, which is Brook’s nickname that hadn’t been mentioned during our time there.

Eventually, he decided to give it a rest and we climbed out from under the bridge.

It was time to try using the Ouija board, a board filled with letters also called a spirit board.

Along with the board is a planchette, a piece of wood or plastic shaped sort of like the “spade” symbol on a deck of cards, but with a hole through the center.

Playing the Ouija means that multiple people rest their fingers on the planchette, then invite spirits to move it. Symbols are read through the hole; it can circle letters to spell out words, or the “YES” and “NO” written along one side of the board.



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Bradyn Wambach (right) and Gentry Copsy (left) hold the planchette while communicating with spirits through an Ouija board. Possible spirits include Diana Marie Riordan-Small, a resident of Bradley, Ill, who disappeared from her home a short time before her remains were found in Airtight Bridge’s river bed.

Marlow refused to touch it, initially not even wanting to stand too close.

The Ouija board, though originally a family party game, has become a star of the horror genre. Supposedly, misuse could lead to demonic possession.

“My family has had bad experiences with the Ouija board throughout the generations,” Marlow said.

His mother and other family members played with a Ouija board in their home years ago and, despite “cleansing” the area with sage, they returned to find items moved and thrown about their house.

The idea of sage cleansing is derivative of the Native American practice of “smudging.” Lighting a bound wad of dried



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The group performed a séance in the middle of Airtight Bridge in an attempt to communicate with possible spirits.

sage and spreading the smoke through a space is meant to clear out any negative energy held there.

Marlow reconciled to read the letters on the board as the planchette moved around. Mowen and Brooks listened intently to the spirit box in hopes that the Ouija might draw something in.

Copsy and Wambach blindfolded themselves, placed their hands on the planchette and moved it in circles across the alphabet on the board.

“We open ourselves to anything that would like to make communication with us, but after we close this board, you are to go back wherever you came from. You are not welcome to follow us, you are not welcome to be with us. You’re only welcome to be here at the bridge communicating with us,” Wambach said. “If there’s any entity who would like to make itself known, can you give us a sign?”

It was around 11:30 p.m., and freezing, especially over the river. We couldn’t hear much other than the rhythmic channel-switching of the spirit box.

The group relaxed a bit as the planchette remained mostly motionless, beginning to joke about sounds coming through the spirit box or the ominous creaking of the bridge.

Wambach kept attempting to speak to spirits, inviting them to spell out their names or set off any of the cat balls and EMF detectors in the area. He was still looking for the stories of any ghosts who might have been present.

“You’re welcome to use my energy,” Wambach said. “Do you

need help? What happened to you?”

Marlow shook his head at Wambach despite the blindfold. He’d said it was his role to stop Wambach from going “too far” and putting himself in danger.

For example, Wambach wasn’t supposed to invite spirits to attach themselves to him in any way.

“You say a lot of things you shouldn’t,” Marlow said.

Still, the majority of the Ouija session was uneventful. The planchette moved to a definitive “yes” in response to some unknown question, then across the letters H, B and F before somewhat trailing off.

Wambach continued to encourage whatever presence may have been there, even asking it to make physical contact with him, much to Marlow’s chagrin.

Eventually, though, the cold became too much, and we had to stand up and get moving.

Wambach and Copsy (who was cold enough he could barely feel his legs) ended the session and moved the planchette across the “GOODBYE” written on the board.

After a short break, it was finally time to try the Estes Method, which I’d been interested in witnessing since Wambach first explained it to me.

Copsy was the one to “go under,” since he usually takes that role in investigations.

The rest of the group placed cat balls near him and then backed up until he said he couldn’t hear them talking at all.

With Copsy’s blindfold and headphones, he would only be able to hear one half of the “conversation.” The other investigators could ask questions and call on any present spirits, and Copsy would be less likely to be influenced by their questions when parsing out the audio.

Some of what he called out was pretty nonsensical.

“Up” or “go up” was repeated a few times. We did not have anywhere to go up.

Sometimes, someone’s question would get stopped halfway with “quiet” or even “shut up.” We heard “smirking,” “seven” and several repeats of “hi” or “hello.”

We got some more relevant responses when the photographer began getting closer to get photos of Copsy.

“Back up. Get back.”

A few times, the camera’s flash was met with a “stop” or “bad.”

We ignored it, for the most part, so if any ghosts are haunting Rob Le Cates’ photos, we may have an explanation.

After a while of going back and forth, Copsy suddenly took off the blindfold and headphones.

“You done?” Brooks asked. “What happened?”

“I heard a really deep voice and it scared the f*** out of me,” Copsy said.

He went on to explain that he wasn’t really sure what he’d heard, but the surprisingly low voice worried him enough that he wanted to stop listening. At this point, he’d been “under” for about ten minutes.

My encounter with... something?

Now it was my turn to try it out.

I’ve been joking that I interviewed ghosts for our Halloween



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Gentry Copsy, a member of Finding the Specter, clamps his hands over his ears to drown out surrounding noise to listen to a spirit box.

coverage, but that’s overstating things.

I was “under,” blindfolded and wearing noise-canceling headphones, using the Estes Method for about three minutes.

It’s hard to pick much out from the static noise of the spirit box. It took probably 30 seconds of concentrating on smaller noises to be able to understand them at all.

At times, I could hear a bit of the voices of the investigators or some of the light from the camera flash, but not enough to have clues of what was going on around me. I knew they were all watching me, but I tried to focus and listen.

“Thank you,” I heard at one point. I said it out loud, feeling a bit silly.

The next thing I heard was, “stop it.”

I didn’t like that much, but I said it out loud. The voice was unidentifiable, barely cutting through the static.

Again: “Stop it.”

I found myself shifting on my feet, hyperaware of everything around me.

A few more things that could have been words or phrases came through. I thought I heard my name a couple of times, but I have a very short name so it’s highly likely I was scaring myself.

Most of what I heard wasn’t notable. “Maybe” might have made sense as a response to something said around me, but not very exciting. Each voice sounded a bit different from the last, pulled from different radio frequencies.

When I started hearing the same voice again and again, I got nervous.

It sounded like a deep, masculine voice. It wasn’t unnaturally deep, but it cut through the static and was consistent. It was the first time I’d heard the same tone for more than two or three words at a time.

When I realized I was hearing a repeated mumbling sound from a deep voice like Copsy described, I decided it was time to be done. I felt my stomach drop and, though I probably could have pushed through and continued, I was suddenly feeling scared after a mostly lighthearted and fun evening.

I still don’t really know what it was saying, but after repeatedly hearing to “stop it” and now this odd sound, I blamed the cold weather for disinterest in continuing.

The members of FTS are some of the most passionate people I have ever met.

Each of them has unique experiences and a deep interest in gathering reliable information in any way they can.

I wouldn’t say we proved the existence of the supernatural that night. I don’t even think we found anything that compares to previous experiences the investigators have had. I do know that my interest in paranormal investigations hasn’t stopped there.

Luke Taylor can be reached at 581-2812 or at ltaylor@eu.edu.

If you want to learn more about paranormal investigation or the hauntings in this area, check out Finding the Specter’s social media: [@fts_paranormal](https://www.instagram.com/fts_paranormal) on most platforms.

EDITORIAL

Halloween movies and plans at *the News*

In lieu of a traditional editorial, this week we decided to focus on one of the most important topics at all: how to celebrate Halloween. If you need movie suggestions, look no further.

This is what each editor at *the News* has planned for this year.

Autumn Schulz, sports editor

Movie: "Hocus Pocus"

Plans: Autumn will celebrate by watching "Hocus Pocus." She says, "Duh!"

Ellen Dooley, opinions editor

Movie: "Nightmare Before Christmas"

Plans: Due to health concerns, Ellen's plan's have been put on hold this year.

Madelyn Kidd, news editor

Movie: "Halloweentown"

Plans: Madelyn doesn't have anything set in stone, but has a vampire costume on standby in case something comes up. She also plans to watch "so many" Halloween movies.

Rob Le Cates, photo editor

Movie: "Spookley the Square Pumpkin"

Plans: Rob plans to buy "several sleeves" of Kit-Kats and eat them in one sitting.

Kate Stevens, assistant sports editor

Movie: "Boo! A Madea Halloween"

Plans: Kate says she'll be "dressing up as a broke and depressed college kid" for her day of classes.

Cam'ron Hardy, junior campus editor

Movie: "Corpse Bride"

Plans: Cam's plans are to watch "Corpse Bride" while he gets his homework done.

Adriana Hernandez-Santana, junior features editor

Movie: "Coraline"

Plans: Adriana will hand out candy to trick-or-treaters, maybe while enjoying some apple cider.

Ashanti Thomas, assistant photo editor

Movie: "The Addams Family"

Plans: Ashanti hopes to visit a haunted house.

Luke Taylor, editor-in-chief

Movie: "Practical Magic"

Plans: Luke has a Daredevil costume on hand if plans get made, but will probably have a scary movie night and stay in.



Comic by Will Simmons

COLUMN

President Glassman may or may not be a werewolf

After an exhaustive and completely unfabricated investigation on my part, I have come to the conclusion that there is a 50/50 chance that President Glassman is a werewolf.

While this may come as a shock to some of you, there were others (like myself) who could see the warning signs: the obsession with the "Teen Wolf" soundtrack, his favorite movie being "I Was a Teenage Werewolf", his hatred of being mooned, and his time spent in England in the 80's.

These are but a few of the obvious signs that lead me to believe our beloved president is a werewolf. "But Will, that's all just circumstantial evidence. Don't you have any real proof?" I hear you ask.

To that I say: proof is for suckers. I prefer real journalism; the kind where you hurl wild accusations at someone and see what sticks. But, if you really want more evidence, I suppose I can scrounge something up for you, loyal readers. Let's get to it.

In addition to those early facts that I absolutely did not make up about President Glassman, I was able to conduct an interview with a local dog. Believing he would



Will Padgett

have more to say about the subject than any of you normies, I was able to find a dog that not only looked credible but whose owner was kind enough not to call the police on me.

The dog I interviewed was Pot Roast, who appeared to be a Miniature Schnauzer or maybe he was just a Schnauzer who was far away. While initially hesitant to answer my questions, Pot Roast eventually barked at me in such a way that I was able to edit the soundbite to sound as if he had

said "I can neither confirm nor deny the idea that President Glassman is a werewolf. What I can tell you is that my owner, Greg, was incredibly rude to you and should be ashamed of himself for hitting you over the head with an umbrella. That was incredibly untoward of him."

Unfortunately, at this point, Pot Roast turned hostile and began biting my arms and neck. I was able to pry myself away but not before he had caused enough damage to render me delirious from blood loss. It was during this state of delirium that I wandered into the woods by Lake Charleston and conducted my next interview with the local witch who lives out there.

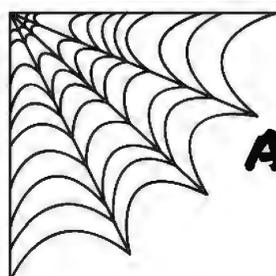
Struggling to maintain consciousness, I was offered her mysterious brew (which tasted suspiciously like Baja Blast) and subsequently managed to inquire about her history with our dear president.

She told me that, envious of his prowess at being president, she had cursed him with lycanthropy in the hopes that this condition would violate The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and force him to resign. What she didn't know

was that EIU was built on ground consecrated by Pope Callixtus I which staves off the curse enough to allow President Glassman control over his bestial form. Before I could press the witch for more information, I was found by local police who were alerted to my presence after a small family saw me sitting in front of a tree, seemingly conversing with it.

All of my attempts to explain my previous interviews with Pot Roast and The Witch of Lake Charleston ended with me being repeatedly tased and the officers making baseless accusations that I must be on some kind of hard drug. There's only one drug for me, dear readers: cold hard sudafer. I mean...truth. Anyway, my hope is that my physical anguish and upcoming jail sentence are not in vain and that you will continue to blindly believe whatever nonsense I write. Go Panthers!

Will Padgett is a sixth year Mixology major and has been banned from all 1,447 Dennys restaurants located in the United States. He can be reached at wpadgett14@gmail.com or 217-581-2812.



QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

ARE YOU CELEBRATING HALLOWEEN THIS YEAR?



ANSWER THE POLL ON ...
Twitter: @DEN_News

@thedailyeasternnews

dailyeasternnews.com

Editorial Board

Luke Taylor

Ellen Dooley

Madelyn Kidd

Autumn Schulz

Rob Le Cates

COLUMN

Look out for pumpkin-powered super squirrels

Anyone paying attention will notice roadkill numbers spike in the month of October. This is due to squirrels, emboldened with stomachs full of pumpkin, believing they will live forever.

This time of year, squirrels get themselves killed in greater numbers due to the abundance of pumpkin to eat.

It is a fact that Illinois produces the most pumpkins out of any state in the union. Pumpkins are also known to be some of the heartiest and fastest growing plants found in a garden.

Additionally, the pumpkin seed is understood to contain a significantly high amount of protein considering the diversity of edible seeds available in a squirrel's diet.

A great source of vitamin A, pumpkins provide squirrels with an infusion of energy resulting in thicker and more lush fur, stronger claws, but also a sense of blind fearlessness in the face of danger.

Given all of this, it is quite easy to see that squirrels take unnecessary



Dan Hahn

risks this time of year due to eating too much pumpkin.

It is my theory that squirrels high on vitamin A will throw themselves recklessly into traffic due to a decrease in inhibition, heightened awareness, and the belief that they are indestructible.

Pumpkins are also known to be some of the fastest growing of all gourds. One could surmise that squirrels eating pumpkin gain a noticeable increase in speed.

This theory needs further study, and scientists concerned with the autumnal epidemic of increased squirrel deaths need to investigate this phenomenon more in depth.

Finally, the pumpkin seed is an impressive protein source, so squirrels choosing to eat the seed will become stronger than the average squirrel.

This increase in strength does not nullify their stupidity; however, nor their recklessness. Indeed, it enhances their brazen disregard for the laws of physics.

It is as if squirrels become falsely aware of their own immortality when their tiny stomachs are full of pumpkin, never to realize the illusion until it is too late.

A recent report cites a squirrel darting from one side of the street to another. Instead of waiting until traffic subsided, the squirrel darted in front of a speeding car at the last second for no discernible reason. One could assume it was seeking a thrill.

Squirrels all over the country engage in this activity and perish tragi-

cally because of it. Do squirrels have a death wish? Is the pumpkin fueling this madness? I think the answer is obvious.

I'm familiar of another report of a squirrel 30 feet up, jumping limb to limb between trees over a four-lane highway. Get this, blind folded! Supposedly, identical stories have been pouring into newsrooms all over Illinois.

Sans pumpkin, squirrels are already believed to be nature's very own daredevils. But the month of October and the overabundance of decorative pumpkins to feast luxuriously upon—without limit—certainly push squirrels into a frenzied and reckless state.

Please keep this in mind, and humanely deter the squirrels' seasonal pursuit of pumpkins with all due haste and vigilance.

Dan Hahn is an English composition/rhetoric student. He can be reached at dhahn@eiu.edu or 217-581-2812.

Quote of the Week: " Though sympathy can't alter facts, it can help to make them more bearable. "

- Dracula, Bram Stoker

COLUMN

Student loan forgiveness was fun while it lasted

On Friday, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals—which includes the progressive, forward-thinking states of Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, and both Dakotas—granted a stay that put a halt to the Biden administration's loan forgiveness program.

I don't know about any of you, but I'd already filled out my form to get my forgiveness, and if there's any way of spending time that I find particularly distasteful, it's filling out online government forms, specifically online federal government forms, of which, I find Department of Education online forms to be particularly soul crushing.

So, yeah, I did that, and apparently for nothing. That's, like, 15 minutes of my life that I will never get back, all because some dipstick state attorneys general (from Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, and Arkansas, if



Trent Jonas

you're keeping score at home, as well as South Carolina and Kansas, which aren't even in the Eighth Circuit!) decided that they didn't like the idea of forgiving student loans.

The loan forgiveness plan may still survive.

The stay is temporary and came in response to the state AGs getting

their undies in a bunch after a lower court in Missouri basically threw them out, finding that they lacked standing—i.e., they had no skin in the game, and, thus, had no reason to be there.

The AGs appealed to the Eighth Circuit, which said, essentially, "Wait a minute! Nobody does anything until we decide whether we're going to let this case keep moving through the court system."

Even if the appellate court decides that the AGs have no business messing with the loan forgiveness program, there are plenty of other litigants waiting in the wings to take up the cause against forgiveness.

Not to mention, should Republicans regain control of Congress in November, the whole thing is likely a goner. Or, if they manage to keep it tied up with litigation until another president is in the White House

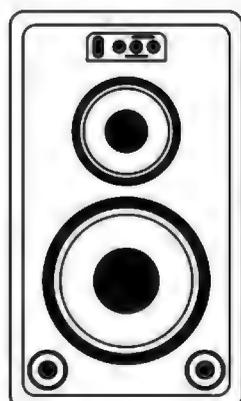
and then kill it, the program will be a non-starter.

As they say: After all, it is the thought that counts. In this case, I guess, I never really got my hopes up too high. Especially with the amount of time it took Biden to get around to doing something about the promises he had made during his campaign.

Then he came up with his lame \$10k/\$20k program, which covers maybe half a year of school at a few public universities. But, I thought, okay, something is better than nothing.

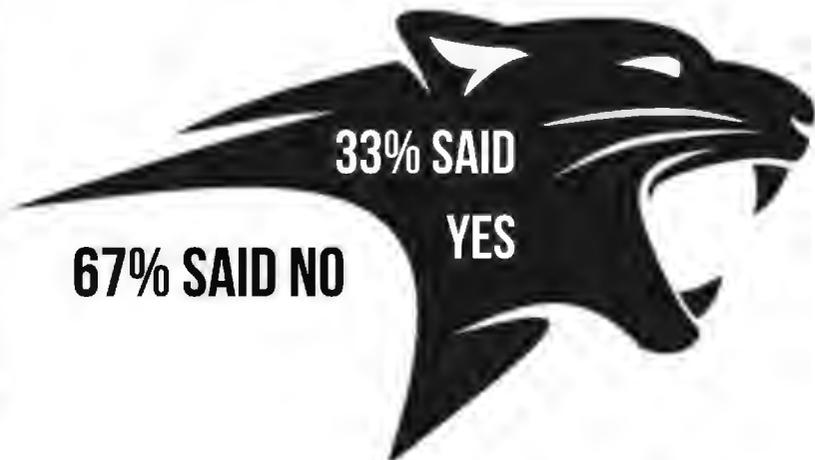
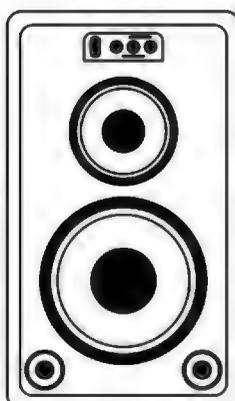
Well, now I'll be surprised if we ever see it happen. The thought was nice, and it was fun while it lasted, anyway.

Trent Jonas is an English graduate student. He can be reached at tcjonas@eiu.edu or 217-581-2812.



LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

WE ASKED IF STUDENTS LIKED THIS YEAR'S 2022 HOMECOMING THEME, 'BRING THE BEAT BACK.'



Women's soccer team's season comes to an end

By Kate Stevens
Assistant Sports Editor | @katestevens25



BY HAN BYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Kya Trejo (23), a freshman defender, clears the ball downfield against Lindenwood player, number 18 Peyton Ganz. The Panthers and Lions tied 0-0 Thursday afternoon at Lakeside Field.

number of goals allowed with 13.

Bermeo also tied for third in shutouts with six. Bermeo was in fifth place for her 0.822 save percentage and seventh for her 60 total saves.

Midfielder Jenna Little tied for third in the OVC with shots with 38 and was number one in shots per game with 2.57.

She was able to put up four goals for the Panthers which put her in a tie for fifth place for most during the season.

Her four goals put her in sixth place in goals per game.

1. **Tennessee Tech** (7-4-5 5-0-3 OVC)
2. **SIUE** (6-5-4, 5-1-2 OVC)
3. **Southeast Missouri** (8-6-2, 4-2-2 OVC)
4. **Morehead State** (7-6-3, 4-2-2 OVC)
5. **Lindenwood** (5-7-5, 2-2-4 OVC)
6. **Little Rock** (5-6-5, 2-3-3 OVC)
7. **Southern Indiana** (5-7-4, 1-5-2

OVC)

8. UT Martin (3-9-4, 1-5-3 OVC)

9. Eastern (2-6-8, 0-4-4, OVC)

The first round of the OVC Tournament will take place this Friday.

The Lions and the Screaming Eagles will face off in the first round.

The Trojans and the Skyhawks will also face off the in the first round.

The winner of the Lions and Screaming Eagles game will take on the Redhawks in the quarterfinals while the other winner will take on the Eagles in the quarterfinals.

The winners of the quarterfinals will take on the Golden Eagles or the Cougars.

The OVC Tournament Champion will be decided on Sunday, Nov. 6

Kate Stevens can be reached in 581-2812 or kestevens2@eiu.edu



BY HAN BYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sarah Hagg (27), a sophomore defender, battles for ball possession. The Panthers and Lions tied 0-0 Thursday afternoon at Lakeside Field.

The NFL has been one of the spookiest things this October

Something has sure been spooky about this NFL season, but last week sure made it one of the spookiest I have seen.

If you would have told me last year that the Giants, Commanders, and the Jets would all have good records at this point and all beat the Packers, I would have not believed you.

Now, I love that the Packers are losing but that sure is not something I have seen much of in my time.

It seems like, as a Bears fan, I am always getting reminded by Packers fans about how much their team is winning.

It's also definitely been strange seeing the Tom Brady, Matt Ryan, and Aaron Rodgers struggle and not be at the top of their games.

Specifically, last week we saw the Panthers beat the Bucs, the Commanders beat the Packers, and the



Kate Stevens

Seahawks beat the Chargers.

This just shows that the NFL can go in any direction and things happen when you least expect them to.

The Giants come out of last week with a 6-1 record and the Jets are 5-2, which is the biggest surprise to

me.

It's also weird to see the Saints (2-5), Patriots (3-3), Cardinals (3-4) and Steelers (2-5) at the bottom of their divisions.

There are a lot of teams going through changes this year and it's kind of good to see different teams in different places just because we haven't seen these teams in these places for so long.

At the beginning of the season, I had hopes for the Lions and the Steelers to do well, but neither of them are doing so great as they are both at the bottom of their divisions as well.

The Lions had a great draft and were the team I had the highest hopes for coming into the season because they have had no luck the last several years.

I was excited for the Steelers this season because of them picking up

Trubisky.

They unfortunately benched him, but Pickett is not looking amazing for them either, so hopefully they figure out what they are doing.

I'm excited to see where all of these teams end up throughout the rest of the season.

I am hoping my Bears can pick things back up going forward.

They deserve to win this season just as much as anyone else.

I hope to see two "uncommon" teams in the Super Bowl in February.

At the end of the day, we are in for a real treat every week this season.

It really feels like Halloween when you watch the NFL because you can truly get spooked when you least expect it by these teams.

Kate Stevens can be reached at 581-2812 or kestevens25@eiu.edu

Volleyball team now tied for third in OVC

By Autumn Schulz
Sports Editor | @autschulz



Members of the Eastern Illinois University volleyball team regroup and hype each other up after a point-winning play during the volleyball game against the UT Martin Skyhawks Oct. 14, 2022. The Panthers won 3-2 against the Skyhawks.

BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The Eastern volleyball team traveled to preseason OVC champion Morehead State last weekend where it lost in back-to-back OVC matches for the first time this season.

The Panthers and the Eagles are now tied for third place in the OVC with a conference record of 7-4.

The first match saw the Panthers lose 3-0 despite posting 77 points in their three-set loss, which was the third most points scored ever in a three-set match by the Panthers. There were also 29 ties and 16 lead changes throughout the match.

In the second set of the first match, the Panthers managed to put up 30 points, losing 32-30, which was their third highest scoring set in program history.

Despite the first match loss, sophomore outside hitter Kaitlyn Flynn had 24 kills in the loss.

It marked the fourth time this season that she had over 20 kills in a match. It also marked her 11th straight match with double digit kills.

Junior outside hitter Giovana Larregui Lopez had 10 kills behind Flynn, along with four service aces. It also marked her fifth double digit kill match.

Lopez is second in the OVC in kills with 190 for the season, averaging 3.58 per set. She is also fifth in the OVC in service aces with 21 for the season.

Freshman setter Catalina Rochaix and Summerlyn Smith combined for 40 assists while Rochaix had nine digs and Smith had five.

Rochaix is ninth in the OVC in assists with 409 for the season, averaging 5.84 per set.

Junior libero Christina Marti-

nez Mundo led the team in the first match with 18 digs.

In the second match, the Panthers lost 3-1 with Lopez leading the way with 19 kills.

Freshman outside hitter Lilli Amettis had a team high .435 hitting percentage with 12 kills.

Amettis is seventh in the OVC in hitting percentage with a .283 for the season.

Flynn continued her double-digit streak to 12 after she posted 14 kills. Flynn currently leads the OVC with

208 kills, averaging 4.24 per set.

Freshman setter Sylvia Hasz had a career-high 24 assists to lead the Panthers to go along with her nine digs and two aces. Rochaix was not far behind Hasz as she posted 21 assists.

Mundo once again had 18 digs during the second match. The blocking duo of Annika Black and Ireland Hieb combined for nine blocks total.

Mundo is second in the OVC in digs with 395 for the season, averaging 5.49 per set.

In the NCAA, Mundo ranks 13th in digs per set and sixth place in total digs.

As a team, the Panthers are 22nd in the NCAA for team digs. In the OVC, the Panthers are second in digs with 1145.

The Panthers will be back in action against seventh place Tennessee State in a doubleheader this Saturday starting at 11 a.m.

Autumn Schulz can be reached at 581-2812 or acschulz@eiu.edu

COLUMN

There are no good sports themed Halloween movies

When sports lovers, like myself, think about the sports movies that they like, they do not usually include holiday themed movies.

I think of the classics, of course, like "Field of Dreams," "The Sandlot," "Remember The Titans," even "Air Bud!"

"Field of Dreams" is the best sports movie, but that argument will be saved for a different time.

I am a huge Christmas lover and I have yet to find a sports movie that is also Christmas themed. If you have any recommendations, please let me know.

However, since I know that people get touchy about skipping over holidays, it is only fair that I focus on Halloween sports movies, or lack thereof.

Perhaps it is because I do not go out of my way to search for Halloween sports movies, but I cannot name a single one.

I was sure that it has been attempted to combine both Halloween and sports, so of course, I consulted



Autumn Schulz

Google.

If you were to Google "Halloween sports movies," you would immediately see IMDb's list of Top 50 Sports Horror Movies.

The first movie on the list is called "Gutterballs," which according to IMDb, depicts "A bowling night will turn into a bloody death match for a team of teenagers, as a deranged serial killer is taking them down one by one."

Spoiler alert, I watched the trailer, and it does not look good.

I think that it is cool that the sport in the movie is bowling, but other than that, the movie does not appear to offer much.

The second movie, "Girl Blood Sport," is from 2019 and IMDb says that it is "Inspired by shockingly true events" and that it "presents itself as a cautionary tale about the dangers posed in the freelance modeling world."

Again, spoiler alert, this movie is exactly about sports at all according to the trailer. It does have a level of creepiness to it but it does not fit the "sports horror" category.

I do not know if I would consider modeling to be a sport, therefore, this movie belongs on a different list.

I think that combining horror and sports could be done in the correct way if it was not done in a cheesy manner.

If the cheesy sports costumes were avoided and there were no overly obnoxious supernatural elements, I

think there could be a good sports horror movie.

I do not know about you, but I find that the "scary" elements of a movie are really hard to find these days.

I want a movie to not scare me but instead, get inside my brain and make me think.

I do not have any doubt that producing a sports horror movie would present some challenges but why have the ones that have attempted to be made been so terrible?

I am sure that some of the movies are not as bad as the ones that I researched but after seeing the couple that I mentioned, my hopes are not high.

There is a bad reputation following the sports horror movie genre at this point. I hope that in the future, this changes.

Again, if you have any recommendations for sports horror movies, please let me know.

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BY MONIQUE PETERSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The Panthers defensive line jump in an attempt to block the incoming field goal from the Tigers from Tennessee State at the Nissan Stadium. The Panthers lost to the Tigers 37-17 on Saturday afternoon.

Panthers play in Tennessee Titans Stadium

By Kate Stevens

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The Eastern football team's rough start in the first half against Tennessee State led to its 37-17 loss Saturday afternoon at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tenn.

The Panthers began the game with the ball and quarterback Jonah O'Brien threw an interception. Quarterback Dom Shoffner was injured late in the first quarter which left O'Brien as the sole quarterback for EIU.

The defense looked on top of it as they held the Tigers to one field goal in the first quarter.

The offense and defense started to fall apart as TSU started gaining momentum after their second field goal as they scored a total of 24 points alone in the second quarter.

Coach Chris Wilkerson said the team's play in the first half was unacceptable.

"The first half was certainly unacceptable and not what we're looking for," Wilkerson said.

Going into halftime, the score was 27-0. EIU came out of halftime with a chip on their shoulder and scored 14 unanswered third quarter points.

Wide receiver Nile Hill said going into the half that the team had to wake up and that the slow start was disappointing for them.

Hill hauled in the 29-yard touchdown pass from O'Brien which brought excitement to the EIU sideline as they put their first points on the board.

"It was exciting," Hill said. "We were trying to rally the troops and get ready to come back. They put up a lot of points in the first half, so we were trying to do the same thing in the second half. It felt good."

Wilkerson said the 14 points in the third quarter was a good response by



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Zay Gentry (27), a sophomore defensive back, attempts to tackle a player from Tennessee State at their football game Saturday afternoon at the Nissan Stadium. The Panthers lost to the Tigers 37-17.

the offense and the defense as the defense was able to stop TSU from scoring and getting the ball back to put up those points.

Safety Jordan Vincent said that response by the team was the main goal going into the second half.

"Just keeping everybody together, I think was a big thing on the sideline and in the locker room," Vincent said. "Going into the half just keep our main goal the main goal. Just bring everybody together so we could keep working on our agenda."

TSU scored 10 more points in the fourth quarter to claim the 37-17 win.

As the team was unable to come up with the win, Wilkerson was proud of the fight he saw from his team.

"The fact that they continued to play hard for each other in the second half when obviously things did not look good at halftime," Wilkerson said. "But I was very happy with the way that they played in the second half and the amount of class that they played with."

Vincent, who had a good game with two pass break ups and nine total tackles said he and the team had some work to do going forward.

"Obviously, we got a lot of things to work on as a whole, myself too, just to

help us be victorious," Vincent said.

While it was a disappointing loss for EIU, it was a surreal experience for the players and coaches as they were able to play at the NFL Tennessee Titans stadium near downtown Nashville. Both Hill and Vincent said it was an exciting experience for the team.

As they move to a 2-5 (1-1 OVC) record, the Panthers return home for a game next week during Family Weekend at EIU. They will be facing Tennessee Tech at 2 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

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