

EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 14 - 20

2024



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The EWU Homecoming supplement is published by the Free Press Publishing Company, Roger Harnack, president. Postage paid to Cheney, Wash. 99004. Published at 1616 W. First Street, Cheney, Wash. 99004.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Cheney Free Press, P.O. Box 218, Cheney, Wash. 99004-0218. ID PUBLICATION #102240

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Welcome letter

Dear Friends:

As a valued member of our Eastern Washington University alumni family, we are thrilled to invite you to this year's Homecoming festivities! Whether you've stayed closely connected, or it's been a while since you've returned to campus, we can't wait to welcome you back!

Homecoming 2024 promises to be a weekend of exciting events, reconnecting with old friends, making new memories and celebrating all that makes EWU special. Here's a snapshot of what we have planned:

Event Highlights:

- Eagle Madnest – Get a first look at the 2024-25 men's, women's and wheelchair basketball teams.
- Pep Rally and Bonfire – Celebrate being an Eagle and hear from a few of our fall sports coaches and players
- Bed Races – This annual tradition awards bragging rights for a lifetime
- Red Turf Nation Tailgate – Join fellow alumni, families and fans for swag, games, fun, and reminiscing before the big game.
- Homecoming Football Game – Cheer on the Eagles as they take the field against the UC Davis Aggies
- Post Game Fireworks – Enjoy a spectacular pyrotechnic display that will light up the sky in true Homecoming style!

This year, we're especially excited about the 20th Annual EWU Athletics Hall of Fame celebration, during which we will honor six former student-athletes as the 20th class of inductees into the Eastern Athletics Hall of Fame.

Mark your calendars for October 14-20, 2024 and come home to EWU! Visit www.ewu.edu/efh for the full schedule and to purchase tickets.

Your presence makes these moments even more special. We hope you'll join us for a weekend of celebration, community and Eagle pride. Go Eags!

Warm regards,

Kelsey Hatch-Breck, Director of Alumni Relations
Eastern Washington University

2024 Homecoming schedule

Monday, Oct. 14

11:00 a.m. - Window Painting.

Bring out your creative side and help add some homecoming spirit to the PUB. All painting supplies will be provided.

11:30 a.m. - Eagle Family Homecoming Kick-Off

Join in celebrating the start to Eagle Family Homecoming week. There will be games, crafts, music, and more.

Tuesday, Oct. 15

10 a.m.- Campus Spirit Splash Contest Judging Begins

We want to see Eagle pride throughout the entire community. This is your chance to decorate your department, room, house, or business for the chance to be the winner of our annual Spirit Splash award. Judging for both campus and the community will take place on Friday, Oct. 18.

Wednesday, Oct. 16

10 a.m.-2 p.m. - Cake & Small Activity at Catalyst

7 p.m. - Real Life Mario Kart

10 a.m.-2 p.m. - Car Bash - Hosted by Sorority & Fraternity Life
Help EWU's Greek community raise money for philanthropy.

4-6 p.m. - Family Feud

6:30 PM - Eagle MadNest

The second annual Eagle MadNest event! Get a first look at the 2024-25 men's, women's and wheelchair basketball teams.

Put on your eagle gear, bring your friends and family for a night full of entertainment: slam dunk & 3-point contests, appearances by EWU cheer, dance, Swoop, with free goodies and swag! This event includes player and coaching staff introductions, along with contests on the court. The Red-White scrimmage will conclude the action.

Open to the public and free of charge!



Thursday, Oct. 17

4 p.m. - EWU Volleyball Game vs Idaho State

6 p.m. - Pep Rally & Bonfire

Join the Eastern and Cheney communities to celebrate being an Eagle!

7 p.m. - Bed Races

This annual tradition awards bragging rights for a lifetime. Your team of five people will compete in a double elimination tournament by pushing beds with wheels down the race track and back (located in downtown Cheney). The fastest team per round will advance until there is a champion.

Friday, Oct. 18

10 a.m. - Cheney Community Spirit Splash Contest Judging

The Spirit Splash judges will travel to each venue to score the amazing Eagle pride in the community.

TBD - Ice Disco

Saturday, Oct. 19

8 a.m. - 20th Annual Athletics Hall of Fame

After a five-year hiatus, EWU will honor six former student-athletes as the 20th class of inductees into the Eastern Athletic Hall of Fame. This will take place in conjunction with EWU's football game versus UC Davis at Roos Field. More information coming soon; including cost and a link for guests to register.

11 a.m. - EWU Volleyball vs Weber State

1 p.m. - Alumni & Family Engagement Zone

Join us at the Alumni Association's Red Turf Nation Engagement Zone, featuring: a hot cocoa bar, snacks, special gameday sticker pick-up, and other exclusive swag. We will have a limited quantity of Homecoming t-shirts available, while supplies last. The Engagement Zone is located right outside of the Inferno Team Shop in P-12. All are welcome.

Saturday, Oct. 19, 4 p.m. - EWU Football Game vs. UC Davis

Sunday, Oct. 20, 1 p.m. - EWU Soccer Game vs Weber State. Stay in the stadium for a post game fireworks presentation to conclude our 100th Homecoming week!

Homecoming is for alumni

Getting back to our collegiate roots

By **Allan Gainer**
Cheney Free Press

CHENEY – Homecoming. What comes to mind when you hear that word? Football, bonfires, campus competitions, decorations, school spirit, and parties. As a proud graduate of Eastern Washington University (class of 1985) from the Radio and Television Department within the School of Communication, homecoming brings back a flood of memories.

After graduating from Cheney High School, attending Eastern seemed like the logical choice, as many of my friends had done the same. During my freshman year, homecoming burst onto the scene as a major event, with activities all over campus. I remember thinking, “What’s all the excitement about?” I hadn’t paid much attention to it when I was a Blackhawk, but now, as an Eagle, the buzz of homecoming was

infectious.

To me, homecoming was all about a big celebration for students, culminating in a football game. Even now, I can’t recall who we played or whether we won. It wasn’t until I returned to Cheney while serving in the U.S. Navy that I truly understood the meaning of “Homecoming.”

Eastern, or Cheney Normal School as it was once called, held its first homecoming football game in 1923. The name “homecoming” stemmed from the fact that alumni were invited back to campus to relive their school days and reunite with old friends, many of whom they hadn’t seen in years.

For alumni, homecoming is a reunion—a chance to reconnect with former classmates and watch the Eags take on a Big Sky opponent. Some alumni will stop by Eagles Pub (formerly Showies) for a beer, walk around campus, and marvel at the changes. “What

happened to Patterson Hall?” they might ask, or “Where’s the bookstore?” To their surprise, there are no textbooks anymore!

The campus has changed a lot since our time, and many of my fellow alumni would be amazed at how different it looks today. For those of us who were here in the ‘70s and ‘80s, there’s no MayFest with bands playing on campus anymore, but if you look closely, you’ll still find something that brings back strong memories. You’ll feel the same excitement you had as a freshman, as I do when I think of helping a friend run for student body council or standing in line at Isle Hall to rush through the small bookstore.

Do you remember registering for classes in the basement of Showalter Hall? We used to call it the “Showalter Shuffle.” I could go on, but I hope I’ve sparked some memories for you as you think back on your own time at Eastern.

Homecoming isn’t just about

a football game. It’s for us—the alumni—who dedicated our time not only to earning an education but to forming strong bonds with our classmates. It’s a chance to remember the final time we were together, at our graduation ceremony in Reese Court, passing around a champagne bottle in the back row before heading off to collect our degrees.

I’m proud of the accomplishments of my fellow graduates—whether it’s a classmate who became one of the Breakfast Boys on Zoo FM, another who wrote for Bill Nye the Science Guy, or someone I didn’t think would make it, but went on to host one of the nation’s top sports talk shows. And then there’s me, making my own small mark as mayor of Cheney, and having my voice still used on a radio station in Diego Garcia to this day.

Homecoming is about returning to our roots. It’s a time to come back to where it all started, as proud Eagles. Go Eags!



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Businesses getting their eagle on

*Spirit splash contest
takes over Cheney*

By Allan Gainer
Cheney Free Press

CHENEY – Eastern Washington University is once again hosting its Spirit Splash contest during homecoming week, inviting both the campus and the Cheney community to show off their Eagle pride.

This long-standing tradition encourages participants to get creative by decorating their spaces—whether it's a department, residence hall room, home, or business—with Eastern-themed decorations. According to organizers, the contest fosters a sense of unity and excitement, as students, faculty, staff, and local residents are invited to join in the celebration. Judges will evaluate the campus entries on the same day as the broader Cheney community will be judged on Oct. 18 at 10 a.m.

The Spirit Splash award is a highlight of homecoming week, allowing everyone involved to express their school spirit in unique and festive ways. Each year, participants take the competition to new heights, transforming their spaces into vibrant displays that reflect their love for Eastern. The event is not just about competition, but also about bringing together the university and the local Cheney area in a shared celebration of pride and creativity, organizers added.



This year's Eagle pride is predicted by the organizers to be showcased far and wide, with displays ranging from elaborate, themed decorations to fun and quirky nods to Swoop. Whether you're competing for the top prize or simply taking part in the fun, the Spirit Splash contest is sure to light up Cheney with a wave of red and white.

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Game could be thriller based on past close calls

By Allan Gainer
Cheney Free Press

CHENEY – Eastern Washington University Eagles will be taking on University of California Davis Aggies, ranked #14 according to the Football Championship Subdivision poll, this Saturday at 4 p.m.

The Eagles are itching for a win and this game could be it despite the ranking of Aggies.

Games between the Aggies and Eagles have often been high-scoring, dramatic affairs. One of the most thrilling came in 2018 when Eastern, ranked #5 at the time, defeated Davis 59-20. What made the game exciting was the battle for Big Sky Conference supremacy, as both teams were vying for a top playoff seed. Eagle's offense exploded, with quarterback Eric Barriere leading a relentless aerial attack, securing a decisive victory.

In 2019, the tables turned when Davis edged out Eastern in a 34-29 win. The game was a nail-



biter, featuring lead changes and a dramatic fourth quarter. The Aggies capitalized on key turnovers and held off a late Eagle rally to clinch the upset.

Another intense matchup occurred in 2021, when Eastern claimed a 38-20 win. Davis came out strong early, but the game took a dramatic shift in the second half, with Eagle's explosive offense breaking through. Eric Barriere's passing and timely defensive stops sealed the win, adding another chapter to the rivalry.

These games have solidified the Davis-Eastern matchup as one full of unpredictability, explosive plays, and thrilling finishes.

Eagle 'Mad-Nest'

By Allan Gainer
Cheney Free Press

CHENEY – Eastern Washington University is hosting the second annual Eagle Mad-Nest event on Wednesday at 6:30 pm at Reese Court.

Here is a chance to get a first look at the 2024-25 men's, women's and wheelchair basketball teams.

Eastern's "Mad Nest" refers to the passionate and energetic fan base that may be considered as Eagle maniac. The fans create an intense, loud, and electric atmosphere during games, especially on the iconic red turf or Reese Court.

The "Mad Nest" nickname captures the spirit of EWU supporters, who are known for their unwavering dedication to the team and their ability to make the stadium or court side a tough place for opposing teams to play.

Whether it's during big matchups against Big Sky rivals or playoff games, the "Mad Nest" turns Roos Field and Reese Court into a true home-field advantage, with fans cheering loudly and rallying behind the Eagles.

During this event, slip into Eagle gear for entertainment, slam dunk and three-point contests, with appearances by Eastern cheer and Swoop with free goodies and swag.

The classic Red and White scrimmage will conclude the action of the night.

Bring on the RED and Eagle cheer to shout, "Let's Go Eags!"

Happy Homecoming!
GO EAGS!

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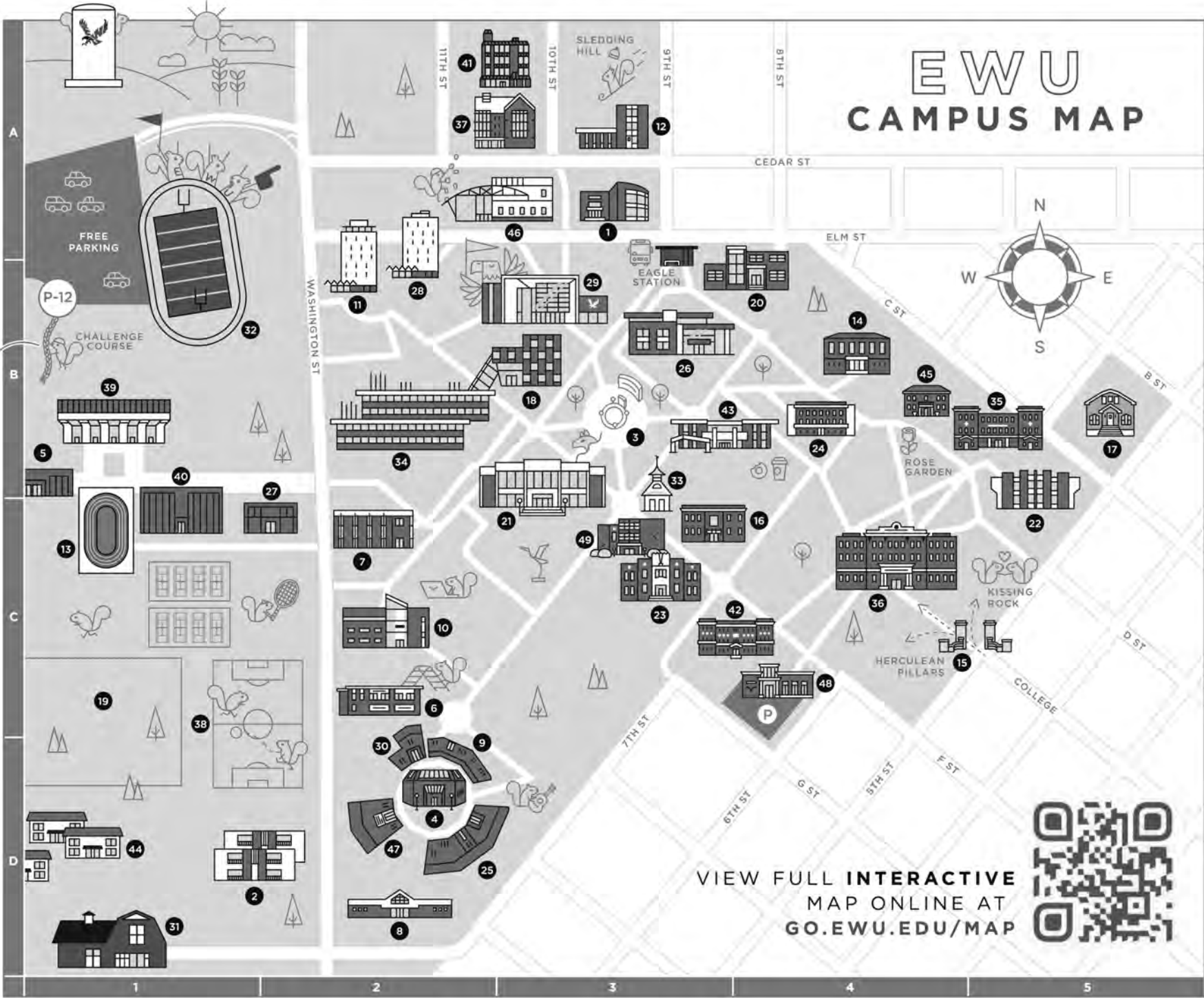
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| 6 Cadet Hall (C2) | 20 Interdisciplinary Science Center (ISC) (B3) | 30 Radio-TV Building (D2) | 42 Sutton Hall (C4) |
| 7 Cheney Hall (C2) | 21 Intramural fields (C1) | 31 Red Barn EWU Police (D1) | 43 Tawanka Commons (B3) |
| 8 Children's Center (D2) | 22 JFK Library (B3) | 32 Roos Field (A1) | 44 Town House Apartments (D1) |
| 9 Communications Building (D2) | 23 Kingston Hall (B4) | 33 Cheney Normal School Heritage Center (C3) | 45 University House (B4) |
| 10 Computing and Engineering Building (CEB)(C2) | 24 Monroe Hall (B4) | 34 Science Building (B2) | 46 University Recreation Center (URC) (A2) |
| 11 Dressler Hall (A2) | | 35 Senior Hall (B5) | 47 University Theatre (D2) |
| 12 Dryden Hall (A3) | | 36 Showalter Hall (B4) | 48 Visitor Center (C4) |

Bed races and bonfire are memorable traditions

By Allan Gainer
Cheney Free Press

CHENEY – Eastern Washington University is set to host its annual Bed Races and Bonfire, two time-honored traditions that showcase the vibrant spirit of Homecoming. The festivities will kick off on Oct. 17 at 6 p.m.

The pep rally will feature appearances by Swoop, Eastern’s mascot, along with performances from the cheer squad and marching band. Members of the soccer, volleyball, and football teams will also be in attendance, and lucky participants may even walk away with some special swag.

The Bonfire serves as both a community gathering and a pep rally, igniting school spirit before the highly anticipated football game against UC Davis. The fire symbolizes unity and burns away any lingering doubts or challenges ahead of the big game.

The Bed Races bring teams of students to downtown Cheney, where they will push creatively decorated, wheeled beds in a

fast-paced and entertaining competition. This quirky event, which takes place on 1st Street, blends speed with creativity, and the city will close off a section of the road to accommodate this lively tradition. Teams, often decked out in costumes matching their bed themes, will race through the course in a blend of friendly competition and fun.

The race consists of teams of five that will compete in a double-elimination tournament. The fastest teams will advance through the rounds until a champion is crowned, with the winners earning bragging rights that last a lifetime.

The races will begin at 7 p.m. on 1st Street, following a pep rally and bonfire at 6 p.m. at the corner of G and 1st Streets.

The tradition of linking Cheney’s downtown with Eastern during Homecoming has long been a collaborative effort between the city and the university. The shared goal of fostering a stronger bond led to the creation of this event, which is now a hallmark of Homecoming weekend. Down-



town Cheney provides the perfect backdrop for both the Bed Races and the Bonfire, which is held just two blocks from the racecourse, in a parking lot at the corner of G and 1st Streets.

Together, the Bed Races and Bonfire bring together students, alumni, and the Cheney community, making Homecoming one of the most memorable and anticipated events of the year at Eastern.

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