

7-3-2012

## Daily Eastern News: July 03, 2012

Eastern Illinois University

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City to honor retired teacher, band director

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Bubble art to take stage

Page 3

RED, WHITE & BLUE DAYS

ROCKIN' THE 4TH



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Band members of Bluemoon Swamp perform to a crowd of children. Bluemoon Swamp will be performing at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at Morton Park for Red, White & Blue Days.

Tribute band to perform at Morton Park for Fourth

By Marcus Smith  
Online Editor

Dan McGuinness said he did not like the musical direction his band was going, so in 2006 he took the drummer and bass player from that band and Bluemoon Swamp was born.

Bluemoon Swamp is a John Fogerty and Creedence Clearwater Revival tribute band. McGuinness said he has covered their music and multiple bands over the years.

"Actually, when I first started learning music it was because of those songs, and I decided to jump into the deep end and make a career out of it myself," he said.

The band will perform at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday in Morton Park as part of Charleston's Red, White & Blue Days.

McGuinness said he enjoys playing festivals.

"You almost prefer to do those because a lot of them are free to the public, so you get better crowds," he said. "A lot of them we do are in smaller towns, to where it may be their one or two big events for the whole year."

McGuinness said he prefers festival concert as opposed to a club show, but they tend to do more club shows during the winter months.

"I really focus on staying away from those because we do that in

other projects," McGuinness said. "With this project we do what we're attributing. If they're doing 90 minutes or two hours or whatever and they're traveling around the country, that's what we want to do."

The band consists of McGuinness on vocals/lead and rhythm guitar, Pat Keiner on vocals/lead guitar/mandolin/ harmonica/pedal steel guitar, Joe Kunkel on drums/percussion and Mike McKeehan on bass/backup vocals.

TRIBUTE, page 5

More Red, White & Blue Days details on Pages 2, 3 and 7

Country music star to hit stage

By John Downen  
Opinions Editor

Over the weekend, Charleston's Morton Park was bustling with traffic as stage crews and technicians erected the center stage for the city's annual Red, White & Blue Days.

Country star Jake Owen will take that stage at 8 p.m. today, and despite the recent heat wave, coordinators for the concert expect a large audience.

Betty Coffrin, a member of the Red, White & Blue Days planning

committee, said she anticipates a significant turnout.

"When we had Trace Adkins, there were around 8,000 people in the park," Coffrin said. "Considering how popular Jake Owen is, we are expecting around the same number, 5,000 to 8,000 at the least."

Though Owen is performing on July 3, Coffrin said the committee considers him the main act.

"This is our 22nd time doing the festival, and it's always been that way," she said. "It's usually cooler on the third, and because many

people go see fireworks at night on July 4, we save the headlining act for the day before."

Owen will headline the festival's main night, stopping in Charleston during a nationwide summer tour.

Officially named the "Brothers of the Sun" tour, Owen will reunite with country superstars Kenny Chesney and Tim McGraw for a 19-date trip around the U.S.

While neither Chesney nor McGraw will join Owen for tonight's show, Coffrin said the city is very lucky to have Owen perform.

OWEN, page 5

ACADEMICS

Energy degree to be offered

By Marcus Smith  
Online Editor

The recently approved Masters of Sciences in Sustainable Energy is touted to be a cross-disciplinary degree where graduates will learn to balance the concerns of science and business.

The Board of Trustees approved the degree June 18.

The degree will teach through practical application, research and internship at the Renewable Energy Center and Center for Clean Energy research and Education. Students will be able to study energy conversion, production and conservation first-hand in the Renewable Energy Center, and be conducting research into sustainable energy at CEN-CERE.

Peter Ping Liu, a technology professor and director of the developing CENCERE, said that America has a bad habit of hiring celebrities on as CEOs or presidents, and they may or may not know the process by which a company produces its product.

"We hope that our students will be able to not only deal with people, but also understand the exact technical details they are dealing with," he said.

He said that engineering programs around the country want their students to have practical experience, but they do not have a factory, power plant or other facilities for their students to work in.

"This degree will be really unique for Eastern, and even compare to U of I," Liu said.

Students beginning in the program will start by taking CERE 5953, in which they will be paired with a faculty mentor to work on energy-related research. They will also publish a paper at the end of their study to present their findings to a committee of three graduate faculty members.

Liu said they are hoping to get students enrolled and start classes either this fall or spring, but nothing official has been set.

The degree will involve the COL-DEGREE, page 5

WEATHER

Moderate drought grips Charleston area

Less than 1 inch of rainfall in June

By Seth Schroeder  
News Editor

Cameron Craig, an Eastern geographer, said the Charleston area has had an official drought status for two weeks.

Though Eastern and the surrounding area received rainfall Monday night, Craig said this will not be enough to end the drought.

"To help reverse this drought we need several days of slow, continuous rainfall," he said.

Craig said the rain must fall slowly in order for it to be absorbed by the ground. He said a rapid downpour, such as that of a thunderstorm, would tear up the parched ground and would evaporate much quicker.

Craig said any rainfall the area received recently has been too minimal to make much of a difference.

"We got a trace, that's all," he said. Craig said the hot surface of the ground made it evaporate very quickly.

He said the 30-year average rainfall for the month of June in this area is 4.03 inches. However, this past June the Charleston area received only .93 inches of rainfall.

Craig said because there is less water in the soil to absorb heat, the lack of rain results in higher temperatures for the area.

He said he has never seen this many days in a row where the average temperature is above 90 degrees in Charleston.

Though other parts of the state have been receiving more rain, Craig said Charleston simply has not been beneath the jet stream creating that weather.

He said the drought in this area is considered moderate while other areas of the state are facing severe droughts.

Craig said it should take one to two weeks more of minimal rainfall for Charleston to enter into a severe drought.

He said water consumption during a drought is a major concern.

"Your lawn should be brown," Craig said. "People shouldn't be watering their lawns."

He also said any type of activity involving fire, such as fireworks or bonfires, are much more dangerous.

The Charleston Fire Department has put out an emergency ban on open burning. Fire Chief Pat Goodwin said this does not include grilling equipment.

Seth Schroeder can be reached at 581-2812 or scschroeder2@eiu.edu.

## EIU weather

TODAY

WEDNESDAY



Mostly Sunny  
High: 101°  
Low: 74°



Sunny  
High: 103°  
Low: 78°

For more weather visit [castle.eiu.edu/weather](http://castle.eiu.edu/weather).

## BLOTTER

At 9:07 a.m. Monday, a Disorderly Conduct was reported at Klehm Hall. This incident is under investigation.

## EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

## Contact

If you have corrections or tips, please call:

217-581-2812

or fax us at:

217-581-2923



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## Comments / Tips

Contact any of the above staff members if you believe your information is relevant.

## Corrections

The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds, or is made aware of by its readers, will be corrected as promptly as possible. Please report any factual error you find by e-mail, phone, campus mail or in person.

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## CITY

## Council to honor retired CHS teacher, Charleston community band director

By Tim Deters  
Managing Editor

The Charleston City Council Tuesday will dedicate the amphitheater of Kiwanis Park, located at the corner of Division Street and Jackson Avenue, in the name of local leader and community member John Daum.

The council will meet at 5:15 p.m. to allow council members time to attend Red, White & Blue Days celebrations and will also discuss a resolution to approve prevailing wage rates for contracted city employees.

The Kiwanis Park amphitheater will be renamed "Daum Amphitheater" in honor of 83-year-old John Daum, Mayor John Inyart said.

Daum served on the Charleston Parks and Recreation Advisory Board from Aug. 21, 1990, to June 20, 2012, resigning due to health reasons, said Brian Jones, recreation director of the Charleston Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Daum also directed the Charleston High School band and taught music from 1962 to 1988. He established the Charleston community band in 1977 and led and directed the band until April 2012, said Susan Bartling, Daum's daughter.

The community band is a group of area residents from junior high through adulthood who practice together and perform regularly at Kiwanis Park during the summer, said Ginger Stanfield, current director of the Charleston community band.

A dedication ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. July 5 at the Kiwanis Park amphitheater pri-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Charleston resident Emma Daum places her arm around her husband, John Daum, as they pose for a photograph. John Daum founded the Charleston community band in 1977 and served on the Charleston Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for 12 years. The City Council will vote Tuesday to rename the Kiwanis Park amphitheater the Daum Amphitheater in his honor.

or to the Charleston community band's last performance of the season at 7:30 p.m., said Jones. Daum and family members will be in attendance.

"He's a sweet guy who deserves all the accolades that we can give him," said Stanfield, who was assistant director of the Charleston community band from 1978 until Daum stepped down this year.

Bartling said her father and her family are honored that Daum's accomplishments in trying to bring music into the com-

munity will be honored.

"It means a lot to our family," she said. "He has kicked butt and given everything."

The council will also discuss a resolution to approve prevailing wage rates for Fiscal Year 2013.

Prevailing wage rates are the hourly pay rates Charleston must pay to workers the city contracts, Inyart said.

"When we have a public job which public dollars are used on, people we hire to do that work...have to pay their people based on this prevailing wage,"

he explained.

Prevailing wages are determined for each trade and occupation the city might contract workers for based on the pay rates set by local unions, Inyart said.

"We have to, as a matter of record, put that dollar amount on file for each job classification once a year," Inyart said.

Tim Deters can be reached at 581-2812 or [tdeters@eiu.edu](mailto:tdeters@eiu.edu).

## FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

## Police, fire departments prepare for holiday

## Officials urge Charleston residents to celebrate safely

By Nike Ogunbodede  
Editor-in-Chief

As most people stock up on coals, burgers and hot dogs for the Fourth of July, the Charleston police and fire departments prepare for a calls of potential fires or injuries caused by unusually high temperatures.

Lt. Brad Oyer of the Charleston Police Department said there is not an influx of calls, citations or accidents logged with the police department during Independence Day.

"We take a lot of fireworks complaints, you know, people getting woken up because their neighbors are setting off fireworks, but we aren't going from call to call because of DUI accidents," Oyer said.

Independence Day by nature is celebrated with barbecues, drinking and fireworks—a dangerous combination, he said.

Oyer said one concern for the police department is keeping the roads safe.

"Please drive carefully; please

drive sober—we are definitely going to be out doing patrols...Police officers know and understand the risk that come with holiday weekends," Oyer said. "There is going to be more people on the road, so we are going to be on the road enforcing DUI laws as we always do."

In order to decrease road congestion that takes place after the eruption of fireworks concludes, Oyer said the police department is diverting all traffic east-and-westbound at Lerna and Loxa roads.

"(Before) if you were trying to get from Mattoon to Charleston, there was a 20 minute delay as the firework traffic lets out," Oyer said.

Assistant Fire Chief Steve Bennett of the Charleston Fire Department said the recent drought should make people even more cautious.

"Right now—especially with this dry weather—the fear is that if you set off a firework that it is going to catch the grass on fire—grass spreads quickly when it is on fire and can spread to (other) structures," Bennett said.

Oyer said his department has the same concern.

"My biggest concern is people being injured from (fire)," Oyer

said.

Bennett said it is also a possibility for people to receive variations of burns if fireworks are improperly handled.

"Anytime you get a burn you need to call 911 and seek medical attention," Bennett said. "It's best to have someone look at it and check it out. What you might think is a first-degree might end up later being a second-degree."

Getting a first-degree burn is equivalent to getting a sunburn damaging only the outer or surface layer of skin, second-degree burns are identifiable by blistering of the skin and third-degree burns penetrate through all skin layers, resulting in the damaging or burning away of nerves, Bennett said.

"Try and cool the area off if it's a blister," Bennett said. "If it is a third-degree burn, try and keep the area clean the best you can because you don't want to get any dirt or anything in it because you don't want it to get infected."

Bennett said second-degree burns are the worst on the pain threshold because the person can still feel sensations.

On July 4 of last year, Bennett said the fire department received only six emergency medical services calls. On the same

## Fire safety tips

- Read the directions for firework before setting them off
- Water down grass to prevent ignition
- Set off fireworks on flat surface
- Keep water, water hose or fire extinguisher near by just in case
- Keep fireworks away from children

date in 2010, the fire department received eight emergency medical services calls, and one call regarding non-fire related smoke detector activation.

"(July 4) isn't too awfully bad," he said.

People should celebrate, but do so in a smart, secure way, Oyer said.

"Enjoy the independence of our country, but do so safely—don't mix fireworks and alcohol," Oyer said. "All the celebration in the world isn't worth one person going to the hospital."

Nike Ogunbodede can be reached at 581-2812 or [ovogunbodede@eiu.edu](mailto:ovogunbodede@eiu.edu).

**H.F. THUT GREENHOUSE**

## IT'S ALIVE



June 18



June 27



July 1

**SETH SCHROEDER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS**

Steve Malehorn, manager of the H.F. Thut greenhouse, has cared for Eastern's titan arum or "corpse flower" throughout its growth. The flower reached around 36 inches when it bloomed Sunday night. By Monday morning, it had finished blooming, and it is not expected to bloom again for at least two years. The titan arum gets its nickname from the odor it produces while blooming. This is similar to the stench of rotting meat which it uses to attract flies for pollination.

## 'Corpse flower' blooms

**By Seth Schroeder**  
News Editor

A rare plant in the H.F. Thut Greenhouse began to bloom Sunday evening and had closed back up by the next morning.

The titan arum, also known as the "corpse flower," produced a flower of about 36 inches in height and attracted numerous students, faculty and community members during its blooming.

Steve Malehorn, manager for the greenhouse, said the greenhouse had a decent crowd of visitors.

The flower is known for producing an odor identical to rotting meat, which it uses to attract flies for pollination. Malehorn said those in the area can often pick up the scent from up to three blocks away but the odor was much weaker this year.

He said the titan arum was also much smaller than it usually is and part of it had formed a split that it should not have.

"It's had a rough year," Malehorn said.

He said the tuber of the flower lost much of its roots from rot,

which resulted in a smaller bloom and less potent odor.

"The minimum size to bloom is 35 pounds, this is 33," Malehorn said.

President William Perry said he remembers having to crane his head much higher to see the plant when it bloomed two years ago.

He and his wife Linda Perry stopped by the greenhouse to see to see the corpse flower bloom.

"It makes you realize the importance of natural science," William Perry said.

He said the deep purple color of the plant made it very beautiful.

"You almost might think if it wasn't a plant, it might be a sculpture," William Perry said.

Junior history major Zach Samples said he thinks it is awesome that Eastern has a "corpse flower."

"It definitely lives up to its name," Samples said. "It did not smell very good at all."

Samples said when he gives campus tours, people from the surrounding community often ask about it.

"It's almost as if it has a celebrity status," Samples said. "Eastern real-

ly stands out in a lot of ways. This is one of them."

Though Eastern's titan arum has closed, Malehorn said he cut a window into the leafy spathe of the plant so visitors could see the tiny flower within it.

He said he also recently planted a small part of the titan arum's tuber that fell off when he moved it.

Malehorn said even though it is the size of about half a walnut shell, the tiny tuber has started to bud as well.

He said titan arums can often bud to produce leaves to help them gain energy for growth. But since the fragment came off of a tuber that was about to bloom, Malehorn said it might be going through a similar process.

He said he has never heard of anyone splitting a titan arum while it bloomed.

"I'm not sure if anyone has thought of that before," Malehorn said. "I figure Chip would be a pretty good name for it."

*Seth Schroeder can be reached at 581-2812 or scschroeder2@eiu.edu.*

**FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS**



**FILE PHOTO|THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS**

Parade participants ride a tractor on Polk Ave. July 4, 2011. The tractors will return for this year's parade starting at 1 p.m. Wednesday in the Square and ending in Morton Park.

## City prepared for heat

**By Seth Schroeder**  
News Editor

Coordinators for both the Fourth of July fireworks and parade said that despite the recent heat and drought they do not expect related problems at either event.

Angelia Burget, a Red, White & Blue Days committee member, said this is something all groups involved with the events have discussed several times.

"It's something that we've had several experts weigh in on so I feel pretty confident about it," she said.

The Charleston Fourth of July parade will start at 1 p.m. Wednesday starting at the Square and ending at Morton Park.

Vendors will be set up at the Coles County Memorial Airport starting bet 5 and 6 p.m. and the firework show will start after 9 p.m.

Kim Carmean, an administrative assistant at the airport, said employees there have been spraying water throughout the fields of the airport in order to limit the risk of fire.

Fire Chief Pat Goodwin said the fire, police, and emergency departments of both Charleston and Mattoon have stepped up the amount of resources they plan to provide to the fireworks show in order to make it safer.

"We've beefed up fire and EMS so we should be good," he said.

He said the fire department will have

misting stations set up at the airport to help keep people c.

Goodwin said he urges people to use common sense and safety when dealing with heat and fire.

"Watch out for each other, stay hydrated," He said. "Just a good, old bottle of water is the best thing."

Diane Ratliff, a Red, White & Blue Days committee member, said those coming to the parade are also encouraged to drink lots of water.

She said in addition to misting stations set up by the fire department in Morton Park, there will also be several vendors selling drinks.

"People usually bring their families which makes it a very family friendly environment," she said.

Betty Coffrin, another committee member, said she does not expect the parade to have many animals because of the heat.

Despite this she said the parade should be entertaining.

Coffrin said the parade will have over 80 units including several businesses, churches, antique tractors, the Charleston community band and Mr. and Mrs. Clause on vacation.

"It's an election year so of course there will be politicians with tons of candy," she said.

*Seth Schroeder can be reached at 581-2812 or scschroeder2@eiu.edu.*

**FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS**

## Students prepare for Independence Day

**By John Downen**  
Opinions Editor

By early tomorrow afternoon, the sweet smell of barbecue will drift slowly in the hot summer air.

Equipped with the necessities—cold beer, brats, good music and burgers—decks and porches around town will transform into temporary sanctuaries from the heat and humidity.

Far in the distance, the bustle of Charleston's Red, White & Blue Days will provide a fitting backdrop for makeshift Fourth of July celebrations.

For many Eastern students, the expectations for the Fourth of July are

not those of grandeur, but of simple relaxation.

Despite the many activities provided by Charleston's annual festival, many Eastern students admitted they would not be attending, choosing instead to celebrate Independence Day in backyards or front porches.

Lisa Broderick, a senior pre-physical therapy major, said she and her friends plan to barbecue for the Fourth, combating the summer heat with children pools and iced beer.

"We might go to see the fireworks," Broderick said. "But we've all been so busy with summer classes, and it will be nice to just stay home and relax."

Many other students agreed with Broderick, citing the day off from classes as a much-needed break.

Georgia Smith, a freshman elementary education major, joked about using the Fourth of July to catch up on some sleep.

Though joking, Smith said she is excited to have the day off, and plans to attend the variety of events at the Red, White & Blue Days festival.

"We're probably going to see Jake Owen on Tuesday, and then for the Fourth, we're going to cook out and go to watch the fireworks," Smith said.

Other Eastern students said they

were excited for the concerts in Morton Park as well.

Jordan Burkybile, a senior psychology major, said she had wanted to see Blue Moon Swamp perform for a long time.

Blue Moon Swamp covers exclusively John Fogerty and Creedence Clearwater Revival songs.

They will be performing at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday in Morton Park.

"I love CCR, and am really excited to watch them (Blue Moon Swamp) play," Burkybile said. "I will never have the chance to see the real CCR, so it's nice to see such a good cover band, especially for free."

However, despite the many Fourth of July festivities, not all Eastern students plan to stay in town.

Many students said they had other plans for the holiday, and are going to use the day off from class to travel.

Michael Davidson, a senior English major, said he was excited to get out of Charleston, even if for one day.

"I'll be going to St. Louis for a Cardinals game, and then I'll probably just stay downtown there," he said. "It should be a good time."

*John Downen can be reached at 581-7942 or at DENopinions@gmail.com*

**STAFF EDITORIAL**

## Mass retirements should startle Eastern students

Far too often, young Americans are seemingly complacent about government and politics. Usually, political apathy is excused under the assumption that action at one's state and local governments will not have an adverse effect on one's life.

For Eastern students, this is simply not the case. In recent publications of *The Daily Eastern News*, we discussed in detail both Illinois' ongoing pension reform and the massive wave of retirement among Eastern's faculty this year.

These two events are directly correlated, and Eastern students would be wise to recognize the actual effects of state politics on their everyday lives.

When classes resume for the fall semester, many students might find that their favorite professors are no longer teaching at the university.

Whether department heads or the cashier at Taylor Dining, Eastern's faculty has recognized the looming problem with the state's massive debt and pension woes, choosing to retire this year in order to avoid significant cuts to their retirement plans by the state.

Currently, 36 members of Eastern's teaching staff and 93 administrative faculty members have realized how the state's problems will negatively impact their futures, and have chosen not to return to campus next fall.

According to William Weber, the Vice President for Business Affairs, the 126 retirees this year is nearly twice the normal amount.

Both Weber and Blair Lord, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, agreed that recent changes in the Illinois pension system are correlated to the mass retirement number this year.

As of July 1, the state has been recalculating pension funds for government employees, ultimately making seven to eight percent cuts for individual plans.

Blair said that these cuts are not solely responsible for this year's mass retirement wave, but agreed they have definitely influenced the retirement plans of a number of faculty members.

"We are looking at a retirement bubble caused by the hiring many years ago of faculty who came of age as a result of the post-war baby-boom," Lord said. "There is simply a large cohort of faculty who are getting close to the retirement age right now."

While both Weber and Blair assure that replacing the retired faculty would come at a minimal cost to students, the doubling in retirement rates this year is telling of even more problems for the state and university.

Though it may not seem a drastic change, for the first time in many Eastern students' lives, decisions in Springfield will have a legitimate and perceivable effect on their educations this fall.

Far too often, young Americans remain disengaged from governmental decisions under the guise of independence from the political process.

However, Eastern's enormous retirement number this year should startle many students to action.

Refusing to acknowledge political effects on one's life will not alleviate such changes, and as a student body, Eastern students would benefit by developing of a political conscience.

This is not a call for pickets and protests, but for a simple acknowledgement that we are far more influenced by the political realm than many believe.

## The DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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**COLUMN**

## Hello, midlife crisis, my name is Nike

As you can tell from the above, I'm having a serious midlife crisis. Please resist the urge to scoff, roll your eyes or turn the page—you may want to do all three, but don't.

As of today, it is 21 days until my 21st birthday. Poetic? Yes. However, I've been feeling older and older. Maybe it's because I'll be a graduating senior by the end of spring 2013. Maybe it's because I watch "The View," "General Hospital" and "House Hunters" like it's my job. I also recently started "50 Shades of Grey," a middle-aged housewife's raunchy novella fantasy. Jealous? I thought so.

It might also be because, for the last month and some odd weeks, I've been registering incoming freshman for classes—freshmen born in 1994.

If that doesn't shock you, let me put it in perspective; the year in which most of these kids were born, the New York Rangers were Stanley Cup Champions. The Dallas Cowboys won the Superbowl, the Houston Rockets had conquered the NBA and "Friends" was only the seventh most popular TV show following "Murder, She Wrote."

Soak that information up.

Now, you might be saying, "Nike, you were born in 1991, only three years before these kids." You might be right, but that's not the point. My point is that I'm feeling old, and I'm unsure of where my life is going—a truth many in my year are slowly com-

**FROM THE EASEL**



**Nike Ogunbodede**

ing to grips with.

Massive state and national debts, a horrible job market, and an ass-backward political system leave much to be desired, and frankly, sometimes I want the world to end on Dec. 21.

Depressing? Yes.

Honest? Yes.

It seems the only way to make money anymore is by getting cast on an MTV reality show about teen pregnancy (unfortunately, I survived teen pregnancy), selling drugs to Lindsay Lohan (last I heard, she is on her way to the straight and narrow—her drug dealers will need federal aid soon) or being adopted by Angelina Jolie, and I hate her too much to allow that to happen (but if Mama Jennifer wants a 20-year-old Nigerian girl, get at me).

Sure, being a book editor is ideal, but what if that doesn't work out? Then what? Am I going to be

that perpetual should-have-been, could-have-been, has-been, reminiscent of Matthew McConaughey's David Wooderson in "Dazed and Confused?"

Over my dead body.

After years of "ah-ha!" moments watching Oprah and Dr. Phil, I think it's OK to feel this way. I think it's OK to write down my feelings and broadcast them to the campus, Internet—even the world.

Not since McCarthyism, The Great Depression or World War II have times been so uncertain, and I don't think lying to myself is going to make it any better.

So I'm going to be honest.

The end of my college experience is slowly looming, seeming closer everyday.

Everything is moving so fast—I'll be applying for graduate school soon, and sometimes, I feel like I'm drowning.

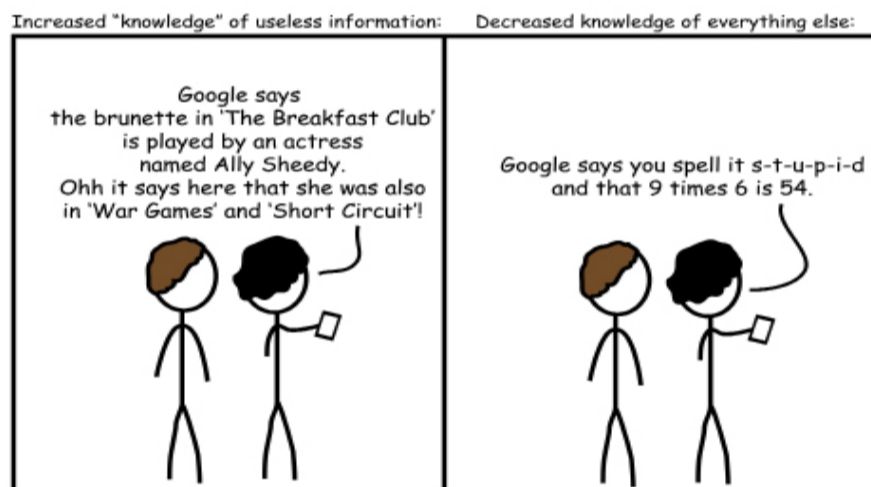
My only hope is that I'm not the only one with this terrible feeling of uncertainty.

That may sound morbid, but it's also quite honest. Knowing that others share my constant fears helps me realize that I am not alone.

For better or worse, we're all in this together.

*Nike Ogunbodede is a senior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or ovogunbodede@etu.edu.*

### The problem with "smart" phones:



ETHAN SCHROEDER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

**COLUMN**

## It's all about the inches, Vin

History has been made.

Last week, the Supreme Court passed Obama's healthcare reform, and for the first time in recent memory, House Democrats and Republicans actually crossed party lines.

But those landmark events were only the tip of this iceberg. Rewriting history sometimes forces us to revisit the darkest corners of our national past, and on Sunday, July 1, 2012, at 1:06 p.m., I stumbled into one of those decrepit pockets of history—the type we'd love to eternally block from our national conscience; the type we'd prefer to bury with Vietnam and Watergate.

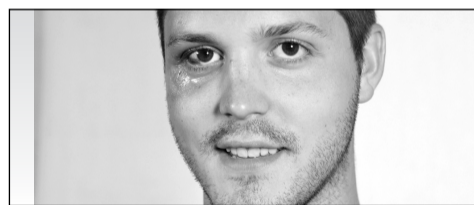
On Sunday, July 1, I visited Vin Diesel's website.

Recent furor over "Fast and Furious" seemed justified. Vin Diesel is truly awful, and though Washington may have better things to fight over, reconciling Diesel's effect on American cinema is, in my mind, a just cause.

Unfortunately, the commotion over "Fast and Furious" rendered not one Honda Civic or Michelle Rodriguez quote. Instead, it only confirmed my deepest political criticisms.

For the unfamiliar, "Operation Fast and Furious" was a program run by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms between 2006 and 2011 that tried to trace the flow of guns to Mexican cartels by allowing identifiable weapons to cross the border.

As most would guess, it was hardly successful—guns were found at a number of crime scenes, including after the 2010 murder of American border



**John Downen**

agent Brian Terry.

To date, less than 700 of the 2,000 guns have been recovered, and though the program officially ended in 2011, "Fast and Furious" is just now hitting the political spotlight.

As of Thursday, Congress voted to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt for his refusal to submit documents pertinent to the program, and following President Obama's use of executive privilege to deny the release of some possibly sensitive letters, the political conspiracy wheel is spinning at an unprecedented rate.

Many Republicans have labeled the decision a cover-up, reminiscent of Nixon and Watergate.

Democrats have responded with their standard futility—"it's just a political witch hunt, wahhh."

And somewhere, the politically sane are hanging their heads. Yet again, Washington has manifested as no more than cheap political theater.

For one fleeting moment, government had served its true purpose—the issues were defined, the party lines crossed, the calendars were scrapped

and November was just another month.

And then, everything fell apart.

Vin Diesel once said "It doesn't matter if you win by an inch or a mile; winning is winning."

Apparently, our elected officials understand the significance of an inch. Within a few hours on Thursday, both parties abandoned the idea of constructive discourse, choosing to use "Fast and Furious" as a vehicle for even the smallest political gain.

As quickly as it stopped, the shouting match resumed, the battle of inches under way.

"Fast and Furious" was an incompetent program spanning both the Bush and Obama administrations. Yet the true crux of the matter—how such a defunct policy survived two presidents—was muddled last week by finger-pointing and divisive rhetoric.

Again, Washington has proved itself a federally funded blame game, and should the public choose to buy into either party's narrative, we only encourage further inaction.

The true crime of "Fast and Furious" was not the arming of violent criminals south of the border, but the disarming of our government's true purpose—justice for the people, by the people.

Sadly, government rarely serves its people. Instead, politicians cast aside morals and loyalty, sacrificing true integrity to remain on the winning side of that one, single inch.

*John Downen can be reached at 581-7942 or at DENopinions@gmail.com*

Letters to the editor can be submitted at any time on any topic to the Opinions Editor to be published in *The Daily Eastern News*.

*The DEN's* policy is to run all letters that are not libelous or potentially harmful. They must be less than 250 words.

Letters to the editor can be brought in with identification to *The DEN* at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

Letters may also be submitted electronically from the author's EIU e-mail address to DENopinions@gmail.com.



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Peter Ping Liu holds up a floor plan illustration of the Center for Energy research and Education June 13 in Rotary Room A of the Charleston Carnegie Public Library.

## DEGREE, from page 1

The degree will involve the College of Arts and Humanities, College of Sciences, and Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences. Contributing departments include biological sciences, chemistry, communication studies, economics, English, geology/geography, physics and political science.

It is estimated that the program will cost \$50,000 to start and \$420,000 annually. The start up money will be for clerical support, a graduate assistant and the coordinator's summer stipend. The annual cost will be for instruction, administration, graduate assistantships and equipment.

The money will be reallocated from current budgets and also external grants for the annual budget.

Eligible students need to have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.75, GRE (Graduate Record Examinations) or GMAT (Graduate Management Admissions Test) score and relevant experience and a desire to work in the energy industry. International students will need an acceptable proficiency in English established by the university.

The curriculum is a total of 36 hours in four areas: science and technology, business management and communication, policy and economics and applied research.

Marcus Smith can be reached at 581-2812 or [masmith6@eiu.edu](mailto:masmith6@eiu.edu).

## TRIBUTE, from page 1

McGuiness said he enjoys making the arrangements for the band's performances.

"When you show up somewhere you're abreast of everything that's going on," McGuiness said. "I rarely show up somewhere and go 'Man I forgot about that.'"

He said another aspect about making the arrangements himself is finally meeting the people he spoke with over the phone and emails to make a show happen.

"Then when we show up, the

fun part is performing," McGuiness said.

McGuiness said they are looking forward to Red, White & Blue Days.

"Hopefully the weather is good and we're going to have a lot of fun," McGuiness said.

Marcus Smith can be reached at 581-2812 or [masmith6@eiu.edu](mailto:masmith6@eiu.edu).

## OWEN, from page 1

"Red, White & Blue Days is right in the middle of his tour, and he's going out of his way to play in Charleston," Coffrin said.

Coffrin attributed Owen's booking to the long-term planning of the festival's committee. She said the committee has been planning the festival for almost eight months and that there were no scheduling problems between Owen's "Brothers of the Sun" tour and his performance in Charleston.

With his performance at Red, White & Blue Days, Owen will continue what has been a very busy year, both personally and professionally.

Owen's year has included a May 7 wedding to his girlfriend of one year, Lacey Buchanan, as well as a recently released music video and single "The One That Got Away."

According to his website, the video is "autobiographical," and Owen

has said the song and video are descriptive of his life.

Coffrin said tonight's festivities are not just limited to Jake Owen's performance, though.

In response to recent heat waves, Coffrin said the festival's planners have coordinated with the Charleston Fire Department to provide a cooling station in Morton Park.

"The local fire department will be there with a misting station to cool any overheated people," Coffrin said.

As for any other safety precautions during the festival, Coffrin said the city will be very strict on their ban of fireworks and other flammable items, citing dry grass as a possible fire hazard and danger to concertgoers.

John Downen can be reached at 581-7942 or at [DENopinions@gmail.com](mailto:DENopinions@gmail.com).

## STATE

# 2 Illinois county clerks want to defend gay marriage ban

The Associated Press

Two county clerks from downstate Illinois have asked a judge for permission to do what Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan won't: defend the state's gay marriage ban.

The Thomas More Society late Friday filed a request on behalf of Effingham County Clerk Kerry Hirtzel and Tazewell County Clerk Christie Webb, seeking to intervene in the lawsuit filed in Cook County by 25 gay and lesbian couples. Alvarez and Madigan have said they won't defend the 16-year-old ban, which defines marriage as between a man and a woman, because they believe it violates the state constitution's equal protection clause.

Peter Breen, executive director of The Thomas More Society, a public-interest law firm that opposes gay marriage, said Hirtzel and Webb have an interest in ensuring that the law is applied uniformly across Illinois "because they are the keepers of marriage licens-

es."

"If the judge lets us in, we believe we have very good arguments to prevail because of the large body of case law that goes our way on it," said Breen, whose firm sought out clients to intervene in the suit. "We had notified clerks that we believe they have ... a strong interest in intervening."

Webb, a Democrat, said she's taking no position on gay marriage, but wants to ensure there's statewide uniformity on the issue. She envisions a scenario where one law would apply in Cook County and another in the rest of the state, and wants to know how to respond if someone with a marriage license in another county were to apply for one in hers.

"I just need to know from someone ... what is legal in the state of Illinois, period," Webb said Monday.

Hirtzel, a Republican, was out of the office Monday and not available for comment, his office said.

The American Civil Liberties Union and New York-based Lambda Legal originally filed sep-

arate lawsuits against Cook County Clerk David Orr, a supporter of gay marriage whose office is responsible for issuing marriage licenses in Chicago and the rest of the county. The lawsuits recently were consolidated.

The action was taken on behalf of the 25 couples, some of them from outside Cook County, but all of whom had applied for marriage licenses there and been denied. Alvarez said it's her job to represent Orr — and they both agreed with the plaintiffs.

The decision has raised eyebrows among some legal experts who believe prosecutors are legally bound to defend Illinois law — though others say the prosecutors were within their rights to refuse to defend the suit — and sets up a scenario where a judge could quickly strike down the marriage statute.

Breen said he wanted to get into court quickly "to put a halt to any sort of effort to have the case dismissed," by the plaintiffs and defendants who agree with each other.

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## The New York Times

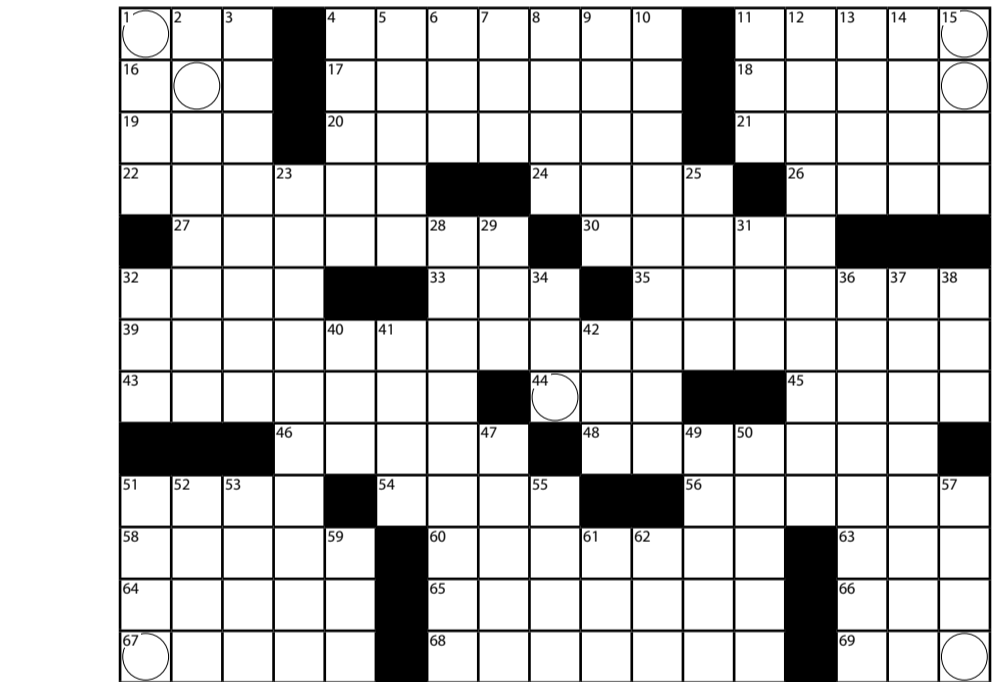
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0529

The circles in this puzzle are contained in words that form a sequence. Connect these circles, in the order of the sequence, to form an appropriate image.

### ACROSS

- Grooms groom it
- High beams
- Price in cents of a 1958 Monroe stamp
- ... of a 1968 Jefferson stamp
- Went berserk
- ... of a 1938 Jackson stamp
- ... Arizona (Pearl Harbor memorial)
- Caterpillar part
- Correct
- Shared quarters (with)
- Laura of "Jurassic Park"
- Fine
- Chef's subject
- Guinness, e.g.
- Do some logrolling
- Hall-of-Famer Mel
- "Come on in!"
- Location for some quick calculations
- Sanctifies
- ... of a 1903 Washington stamp
- They might precede "Monsieur!"
- Funny stuff
- Low-ranking officers
- Crumbly cheese
- In (dazed)
- Chihuahua, e.g.
- "Ni-i-ice!"
- Circus performer



PUZZLE BY DANIEL A. FINAN

- Author LeShan
- Barn toppers
- Refrain syllables
- Hi- graphics
- "Family Ties" mother
- Sexy nightwear
- ... of a 1970 Eisenhower stamp

### DOWN

- ... of a 1954 Lincoln stamp
- Not mixing well
- Tapped asset
- Bonny hillsides

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



- The Amazing
- Bank earnings: Abbr.
- Aspiring Ph.D.'s test
- Rear
- Colorations
- Begin to berate
- Org. doing pat-downs
- Study of blood
- Camper driver, for short
- Med. specialty
- Gridiron positions
- Ice cream drinks
- Angry parent's decree, maybe
- "Where do you think you're going?!"
- Archaic verb suffix
- "It's no !!"
- Consumer protection org.
- Asian celebration
- Quarter (McDonald's orders)
- "The Phantom Menace," in the "Star Wars" series
- Super (game console)
- The Cowboys of the Big 12 Conf.
- Disaster relief acronym
- Lamb suckler
- Swiss pharmaceutical giant
- Played out
- Minute bits
- ... of a 1964 Kennedy stamp
- Tel Aviv lander
- Pint-size
- Tassel sporter
- Beano alternative
- Suffix with Taiwan
- Bygone
- Actress \_\_\_ Ling of "The Crow"

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FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Members of the Rennels family ring the Liberty Bell replica at Morton Park as part of the Red, White & Blue Days celebration July 4, 2011. The Girl Scouts will be honored during this year's bell ringing ceremony 2 p.m. Wednesday in Morton Park.

## Scouts mark 100th year

### Twenty-second bell ringing ceremony occurs

By Tenicha Hudson  
 Staff Reporter

The Girl Scouts will be recognized at the bell ringing ceremony on Wednesday at Morton Park.

This year marks the Girl Scouts' 100th year anniversary.

Betty Coffrin, a member of the Fourth of July committee, said the ceremony will be short and will take place after the parade at 2 p.m. at Morton Park.

Mike Zibka, an entertainment committee member, said every year there is a theme and someone is selected to ring the bell.

This year, the Girl Scouts was selected to celebrate its' 100th year anniversary.

"Show up and have a good time," Zibka said.

Tricia Briggerman, the membership development manager of southern Illinois, said the theme is a salute to the Girl Scouts.

"The Girl Scouts appreciate the Red, White & Blue committee for letting us be a part of the celebration," Briggerman said. "We are thankful for their support for recognizing our 100th anniversary."

Coffrin said the VFW will present the American colors and sing the National Anthem.

"The first year of the bell ringing ceremony recognized the returning Desert Storm troops," Coffrin said. "This year will make 22 years of the bell ringing ceremony celebration."

Coffrin said in previous years, many Charleston military troops and firefighters were honored.

"This is a chance to pause and reflect on the holiday," Coffrin said.

**"This is a chance to pause and reflect on the holiday."**

**Betty Coffrin,  
 Fourth of July committee member**

Briggerman said the Girl Scouts will participate in the parade as well.

"We are in the feature line up, which is near the front," Briggerman said. "We are going to be holding the American flag, the Girl Scouts flag and the 100th anniversary flag in the parade."

Briggerman said she has been a part of the Girl Scout organization since she was 8 years old and has been working with the organization for two years.

"We want to encourage girls to be confident and future leaders of our nation," Briggerman said.

Coffrin said last year the Rennels family was honored at the bell ringing ceremony.

They were the first Charleston settlers, she said.

"There is a pavilion and fire place dedicated to the Rennels family," Coffrin said.

Tenicha Hudson can be reached at 581-2812 or tshudson@eiu.edu.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

# Bubble art to take stage

By Marcus Smith  
 Online Editor

Casey Carle started blowing bubbles in the 1980s and has blown them into a career.

Carle is part of Bubble Time, a vaudeville-like performance featuring soap bubbles.

He said he and other performers are known as bubble artists.

They will perform at 7 p.m. Friday in the Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center. Tickets will cost \$12, which also includes a cookout from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Carle said that soap bubble entertainment has grown quite a bit since he started. He said when he started doing bubble shows there were maybe six bubble performers in the world.

"We discovered, not only is it a great niche for our particular kind of comedy style, but bubbles have a great appeal for all ages," Carle said.

Carle said Bubble Time takes people past what they would expect for a show featuring soap bubbles.

"It's certainly thinking outside the bubble, if I may say" Carle said.

Carle said he started out as a solo artist before getting together with Doug Rougeux in 1990. Rougeux had his own solo soap bubble act at the time. They collaborated a show with a story line with comedy, action, conflict and a resolution.

"So we combined our bubbling skills with our acting skills," Carle said. "We both have theater back-



SUBMITTED ART

grounds and degrees and put it together with our bubbling skills to make something that is more than a bubble show, more than a story, and it's more than a comedy. It's all of it together; it's a fusion."

Carle also said they both have experience working as clowns for Ringling Brothers Circus.

"It is definitely circusy and it has energy in its presentational style. It falls into the category of being a high energy variety act," Carle said.

He said while there are many bubble acts, there are none that are a two-

man comedy show like theirs.

Carle said their performance is non-verbal and the story is told through action, slap stick, interaction with the audience and music.

He said he also has Bubble Mania, which are solo performances done in the style of a juggler or magician, and he has hired on performers so that he can cover a greater geographic area.

Marcus Smith can be reached at 581-2812 or masmith6@eiu.edu.

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## TRACK AND FIELD

## End of the Track



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Zye Boey, a redshirt junior sprinter, runs in the men's 100-meter dash April 2 during the Big Blue Classic at O'Brien Field. Boey competed in the 200-meter semi-finals Saturday in Eugene, Oregon for his final run as an Eastern Panther.

## Boey ends career

By Joshua Bryant  
Sports Editor

Zye Boey has taken off for the last time in the Blue and White of the Panthers.

His final gun was heard in the 200-meter semi-finals Saturday night in Eugene, Ore., marking the end of his collegiate career.

Boey placed fifth in his heat with a time of 20.85 seconds, good enough for 13th overall, but not as fast as his pre-

vious 20.65, and not quite enough to compete in the Olympic Games in London.

Chicago native Wallace Spearmon Jr was the overall winner with a time of 19.82.

"I've done a lot since I've been here," Boey said. "I'm happy with what I've done in my five-year career at Eastern."

And that's quite a bit to be getting done.

Being the OVC's Male Track Athlete of the Year five times (three times out-

door, two times indoor) as well as a two-time All-American (100 and 200 meters) is a difficult feat to reach.

Boey has put the talent and hard work required to attain those statuses on display on a consistent basis over his career.

He places an even larger spotlight on a strong Track & Field program at Eastern.

"I'm glad I could be around to show how good EIU Track & Field coaches and athletic trainers are here," Boey said. "And there's more to come. Better is on the way."

Boey says he wishes to continue putting EIU Track and Field on the map. Part of this may come as an extended result, and reward, of his and the team's reputation as a solid Track & Field program.

"We've brought top recruits in, year-in, year-out, and OVC Championships," Boey said. "I'm glad I could help with the recruiting and the media here at Eastern. Thanks to everyone for all the support, it definitely helped out a lot. I had a long, successful collegiate journey, but the best is yet to come."

Eastern's Track & Field program certainly will not be bolstered by Boey's departure, but it should provide a chance for someone else, if not a few, to step into the spotlight and keep the strong program at the top of the OVC.

Who those athletes are remains to be seen, but history suggests the program will rebound and produce once again.

Eastern returns nine sprinters on the men's side for next season, so the pool is deep.

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## ATHLETICS

## Unseen work fuels operations

By Joshua Bryant  
Sports Editor

The equipment used to support and protect athletes on campuses across the nation is ordered, configured, fitted and maintained by trained coordinators who use precise skills and attention to detail to supply the needs of each training session, practice and game.

Clint Bays, in his fifth year as coordinator of Equipment and Stadium Facilities at Eastern, said he has gone through plenty to earn and retain his title.

"You have to have a couple thousand hours of on the job training and then take a certification exam," Bays said. "Then you have to continue doing education units each year to keep your certification."

Beyond this, day-to-day tasks are a time commitment filled with a different array of jobs to complete, depending on the time of year, Bays said.

Athletes will of course sweat, collide and bleed, which Bays said must be taken care of quickly when it comes to the locker room environment.

"Most days I get in at nine in the morning and leave between seven and eight at night," Bays said. "We've got disinfectant sprays to use throughout the locker room and we all wear gloves. We use hydrogen peroxide to dilute and disperse blood out of uniforms."

Sports like football use plenty of equipment, which also becomes fairly damaged over time.

Bays' certification and experience allows him to deal with it in short, in case the need for immediate assistance arises, which is especially critical with in-game malfunctions.

Without it, health issues can spring up, or a player may be delayed in returning to action.

"It's a big safety issue to make sure that helmets and shoulder pads contact in the appropriate areas," Bays said. "Everything from your head, rib cage, shoulders, and upper arms are protected. It's a dangerous sport. There are big strong guys out there."

Pushing the responsibility further is the travel aspect.

Any necessities left behind in Charleston do no one any good if a game is being played down in Kentucky.

The task of packing, loading and inspecting is crucial to mobilizing the Panthers.

"I've got checklists to make sure the players have packed everything they need," Bays said. "I'm nervous from when we pull out of the parking lot to game time that I've forgotten something. Everything from shoe strings to uniforms and repair kits. I wish there was a way to transport the whole equipment room to each away game, but there's not."

Beyond all of the hustle and bus-

tle, an exchange between everyone who depends on the equipment room builds strong relationships, with one group especially.

"The players," Bays said. "It's hard to see some of the players leave because you're with them so many hours each week, you grow attached to them. You're with all these people, the coaches, the strength staff, the athletic trainers so many hours a day they become a family to you."

It is almost like having another family here, he said.

Since most sports at Eastern are out of season, along with the pace slowing in Charleston, activity behind the scenes will be picking up fairly soon. Bays and his assistant Bobbie Clark are gearing up for an increase in work volume.

"July is a bad month because that's when we get our new shipment of inventory," Bays said. "All the equipment has to be sorted, inventoried, and put on the computer database to keep track of everything. So July we're here a lot of hours."

The operation Bays runs is year-round and takes a load of stress off the backs of the athletes, coaches and staff when it comes down to precision with equipment and getting your hands dirty.

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## COLUMN



## Joshua Bryant

## Power of South changes face of college football

Wondering why, after all this time, the Bowl Championship Series is being mixed for a playoff format?

The mighty Southeastern Conference, that's why.

The SEC has never lost a BCS title game since its inception in the 1998 season.

(LSU's loss to Alabama last year has an asterisk because 'Bama is an SEC school itself).

Its official record stands at 8 and 1 (with LSU's 'loss').

All other conferences combined have only won five BCS titles.

These southern schools aren't getting a piece of the pie, they're snatching the whole thing off the table and stuffing it before other conferences can even smell it coming out of the oven.

National exposure, money, recruiting power and the religious feel of football in the South was becoming too overwhelming for conferences like the Big Ten, ACC, Big East and PAC-12, creating a need to level the playing field.

A playoff will allow one other team to fire a blow at an SEC squad before it can go full-steam into another national championship.

The bowl break between Thanksgiving and the New Years Bowls allows teams with pesky injuries to rejuvenate and come back onto the field just like the beginning of the year.

Healthy SEC schools with their superior athletes (yes, I said it, as much as it hurts being from the North myself) will take down other powerhouses most times.

Strategy is a huge factor, but it can only go so far in college sports.

It's the difference between the pro ranks and the NCAA.

In college, if the guy across from you is bigger, stronger, faster and more talented, he's probably going to light you up for most of the game.

Strategy can only save you from so many whippings in one contest.

By creating a semifinal, there's a chance for injury to the superior team,

further body breakdown and an entirely new set of game film for opposing coaches to analyze, which is huge.

The final straw was the 'Second SEC Championship' that was last year's BCS title game.

Some of that money could've went to another conference, but it didn't because the computers thought that two SEC schools would provide a better matchup.

Its all about money.

Did you think the commissioners from other conferences were going to let this happen again? Nope.

Now we'll finally get to see what we've been waiting for.

A playoff, though not just like every other sport, will send ratings through the roof like you've never seen, and create stadium atmospheres as electric as anything we've seen.

The BCS as it stands lives on for one more season.

In 2013, four teams will begin to buckle up for a final stretch for the first time instead of being catapulted directly into a final game.

And that's exactly what everyone outside of the SEC wanted.

I do believe that this playoff tactic can work for other schools and will wiggle into form even better once conference expansion is finished and the playoff field expands even further.

Still, don't count on the power of the SEC to diminish anytime soon.

It'll be up to one team to stand in front of the train and try to slow it down before it reaches its final opponent.

Yes, those schools are that good.

The SEC season itself is a gauntlet that no other conference team faces, which is another advantage.

But they aren't invincible.

The right coaching staff and the right amount of healthy and focused players may be able to stop the SEC one of these days, if just for one season, to remind everyone that there are kids across the country that can still play this game and win.

## STATE

## Samardzija strikes out 11

The Associated Press

Jeff Samardzija's splitter baffled the Atlanta Braves.

Again.

Samardzija had a career-high 11 strikeouts, Luis Valbuena hit a tiebreaking three-run double in the seventh and the Chicago Cubs won 4-1 on Monday night.

Samardzija (6-7) yielded one run and four hits in seven innings, rebounding from a rough June. The right-hander was 0-4 with a 12.27 ERA in his pre-

vious four starts, allowing a season-high nine runs during a 17-1 loss to the Mets on Wednesday.

"It's about time, you know?" Samardzija said.

"I just thought I took my time from pitch to pitch. I thought I made the right pitch selection based on the previous pitch."

Samardzija began the night with a 5.05 ERA. But he also was sharp in his first start against Atlanta this season, tossing seven solid innings in a 5-1 victory at Wrigley Field on May 7.