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ADOPTING A HOME

Take a look inside a local Spanish Colonial house on Sixth Street from 1923.
Pages 2 & 3

COMING UP SHORT

Pole-vaulter Mick Viken was eliminated from the national competition after three fourth-round misses.
Pages 8



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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Thursday, June 6, 2013

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 97 | ISSUE 156

CITY | LIBRARY EVENT

Students present fossils to children

Library hosts events to take children back in time

By Amanda Wilkinson
@akaywilkinson

Using chunks of red clay and a plastic toy, Daniel Curtis demonstrated how a dinosaur would be fossilized over time to children during a fossil dig presentation Wednesday.

Curtis, a senior geology major, and Kara Baker, a senior science major, hosted the presentation at the Charleston Carnegie Public Library to about 50 children ranging from ages 3 to 12.

Diane Burns, a professor of geology and geography, said it is important for everyone to learn about the earth because everyone lives on it.

"There's only one planet that we inhabit," she said. "We have global warming and petroleum issues and all these things but if you start with education awareness, science awareness, earth awareness when they're younger, they're much (more likely) to think about it when they get to an older age. This is an age where the dinosaurs and stuff really excite them, that's how you grab them into it."

Curtis said the main reason he was interested in geology as a child was "Jurassic Park."

"(The movie) came out in '93 when I was 8 or 9 and I was reading the book," he said. "It's pretty intense, and I probably read it four times before the movie came out, so I was a little obsessed."



AMANDA WILKINSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Charleston resident Rachel Heicher, her son, Eliot Heicher, 6, and Brianna Carder, 6, look at fossils through a magnifying glass at the Fossils Dig program hosted by the Charleston Carnegie Public Library Wednesday. About 25 children participated in the age 3 to 6 session.

Curtis said because he got interested in geology at a young age, he wanted to present his knowledge of fossils to others.

"I don't particularly enjoy doing presentations very much, but I know how excited kids are about this stuff, so you can actually teach them and show them things about it," he said. "It might help keep their interest opposed to just the fad thing when you're that age."

Like Curtis, Baker said she started collecting rocks when she was a child.

"I was always outdoors and really liked nature," she said. "I was more

interested in the dead things or the inorganic things than the living things."

Baker said since she was a child, she has built up a collection of different minerals and fossils.

"I actually have three dozen samples on display throughout my house," she said.

Curtis said he cannot put a number on how many fossils he has.

"On display, I only have three or four but in total, I have no idea. I have drawers full with stuff," he said. "You just have to look for certain shapes that aren't natural – the long stems, the round beadlike shapes that are the crinoids."

Curtis said many of the fossils he finds in this area are actually ocean creatures.

"Everything around here was an ocean 300 million years ago so we have tons of these ocean creatures," he said.

Baker said most of her fossils are also of aquatic animals.

"It's sort of confusing to kids," she said, laughing because she can go into her backyard to find fossils of ocean creatures.

After the presentation, Curtis rolled out a life-size, 18-foot drawing of an orthoceras for the children to color.

FOSSILS, page 5

LOCAL | CHURCH FESTIVAL

Church to kick off summer with festival

By Amanda Wilkinson
@akaywilkinson

A local church will be hosting a community festival to kick off the summer on Sunday.

The Summer Start-Up Festival will be hosted from noon to 5 p.m. at the St. Charles Borromeo Church, 921 Madison Ave.

Father John Titus said the festival was created to bring the community together.

"The big thing is always bringing people together, working together, cooperating and having something to invite other people to," he said.

The festival will feature live music throughout the day by local musicians along with home-cooked food and games for the whole fam-

ily.

"We have games for kids like toss games a basketball shoot game. We have a cake walk," Titus said. "That's one of the more popular games. Everything's homemade."

A pork chop lunch will be served at noon for \$7 and snacks will be served throughout the rest of the festival.

Lynette Drake, the director of Health Services, said in an email that there will also be crafts, bags, a duck pond, a pop bottle ring toss, face painting, temporary tattoos and a water balloon bull's-eye.

Titus said there will also be BINGO, from noon to 3 p.m., as well as a dunk tank.

FESTIVAL, page 5



SUBMITTED PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The Summer Start-Up Festival on Sunday, hosted by the St. Charles Borromeo Church, 921 Madison Ave., features games, raffles and food. Father John Titus said they host the festival to bring the community together.

CITY

Council approves plant cleanup

By Amanda Wilkinson
@akaywilkinson

The Charleston City Council approved moving into phase two of the wastewater treatment plant cleanup on F Street Tuesday.

An engineering agreement with Shaw Environmental was approved to examine and clean up the property.

Mayor Larry Rennels said this agreement will begin Shaw Environmental's "study" on the plant.

"(It is going) to tell us exactly all it's going to take to finish the demolition and get the land in a condition that it's easier to maintain and be used for something else," he said.

Shaw Environmental will help clean up the plant as well as figure out how much the project will cost and help find alternative financing, Rennels said.

The agreement with Shaw Environmental to clean up the plant will cost about \$45,000.

The council also approved two tax increment financing grants for the Sensible Rehabilitation program.

The two grants were approved for three properties, Southside Café located at 614 Jackson Ave., 124 Sixth St. and 126 Sixth St. owned by John Williams.

The TIF grants provide 50 percent of exterior improvements to businesses located around the Square, which has been designated as the TIF district.

Rennels said the Southside Café is different because the city will be providing 100 percent of certain improvement.

He said along with replacing first floor windows and the glass on the main entrance, the city will be paying a grant in total to replace and restore the three eyebrow, arched windows on the second floor.

"It's a little different because one of the improvements is something that the city really wanted to put in there ourselves. As a result, we gave 100 percent of that portion of the grant," Rennels said.

The total grant given to Betty Snyder, owner of the café, for improvements will be about \$13,000.

John Williams, owner of the two properties on Sixth Street, will receive a total of \$11,675 or 50 percent of the cost of improvements.

"This involves several improvements to basically bring the building up to looking like the other buildings in the area and the other buildings around the Square," Rennels said.

PLANT, page 5

Local weather

TODAY



Thunderstorm
High: 79°
Low: 60°

FRIDAY



Partly Cloudy
High: 76°
Low: 56°

For more weather visit castle.eiu.edu/weather.

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1802 Buzzard Hall
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920
217-581-2812
217-581-2923 (fax)



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DENeic@gmail.com

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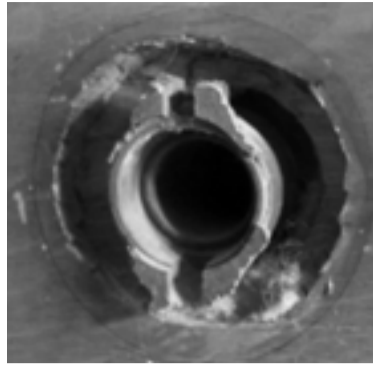
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LOCAL



Framed is the original wallpaper in the kitchen of the house.



The hookup for the central vacuum in the kitchen.



The linoleum in the foyer of the kitchen.



The laundry chute in the second floor hallway.

Adopting a home

Local adoption lawyer continues to preserve integrity of Sixth Street house

By Robyn Dexter
@robyn_dexter

Editor's Note: This is the second installment in a series focusing on old, historical houses in and around the Charleston area. The series will feature more houses in the coming weeks.

Kirsten Bays grew up in Charleston and walked by the house at 1003 6th St. her whole life.

Little did she know that her love of old houses and needing a place to raise four sons would lead to her and her husband's future purchase of the 1923 Spanish Colonial-style home designed by Champaign native George Ramey.

Bays said the house was built originally for A. E. Craig, but he did not own the house for too long. "I've been told the family had some financial struggles after the Great Depression, and it was bought by George Benedict," she said.

Benedict owned the five and dime store in Charleston at the time, and he and his wife only had one child to raise in the 6,500-square-foot house.

"They owned it from the late 1920s all the way up until 18 years ago," Bays said.

She said there was one owner in between her family and the Benedicts, and they owned it for five years before the Bays family purchased the house 13 years ago.

The side room of the house, previously a sun porch, features a hole

in the wall where an ice box used to reside.

"When we moved in, there were three layers of indoor-outdoor carpet and paneling," she said. "It was the first room we dealt with when we moved in because my first son was born two weeks later."

The Bays family redid their kitchen four years ago, but tried to keep the 1970s feel that was previously there.

Previously, the room had indoor-outdoor carpeting like the room off to the side and laminate cabinets.

Now, the floor has a unique type of mosaic tiling that the Bays family commissioned a man from Arkansas to install.

Bays said he was one of only a few people in the country who does this type of tiling.

Throughout the house, the Bays family has some of the house's original wallpaper framed in its respective room, including the kitchen

Alongside the dining room is a small room with big windows that contains a piano.

"Mr. Benedict used this as his smoking room," she said. "He loved cigars, but it was supposed to be the music room when the house was built."

The living room contains an original light fixture that resembles a small, crystal chandelier.

"When our electrician rewired, he said he wasn't sure if (the fixture) was going to last much longer," Bays said. "It's very unstable, so we don't keep any furniture underneath it."

The living room and foyer floors have been redone from carpeting after an incident involving a broken living room window, and the Bays family made a great discovery because of it.

After removing the carpeting, they found original linoleum in the foyer.

amounts of natural light, and a laundry chute is visible in the hallway along with a linen press.

"Back in the old days, you laid your linens flat so you didn't have to iron them as much," Bays said.

In Kirsten Bays's husband's den, which is also upstairs, an original print is framed on the wall.

The man who installed the wallpaper drew these sketches underneath the wallpaper to leave his mark on the house.

"Every room in the house had one of these," she said. "The guy that did the wallpaper drew them, but most of them were too big to frame."

Bays said other old houses in Charleston that had wallpaper done by the same man feature these sketches as well.

The third floor of the house contains a small den and the parents' bedroom, which was originally the servant's headquarters.

Bays said her favorite part is being able to look out her window and see the courthouse, where she works as an adoption lawyer.

The path down to the basement has both a front staircase and a back staircase.

The basement laundry room contains the original, three-basin, concrete sink.

"The more tubs you had, the faster you could get your laundry done," Bays said. "The plumbing is separate on each of the basins — one for different temperatures of water."

Down the hall from the laundry room is a den with a TV where Bays said her kids like to hang out.

"There's a fireplace down here,

"The more tubs you had, the faster you could get your laundry done."

-Kirsten Bays, homeowner

and dining room.

"We rewired the whole house, which was an enormously huge job," Bays said.

In several rooms, small holes are visible down by the floor where a central vacuum system was installed before the house was built.

"The whole system is still downstairs, but I'm terrified to turn it on," Bays said.

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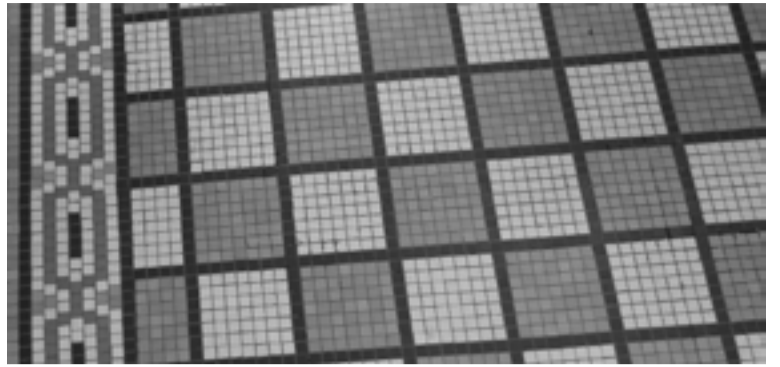
The original lighting fixture in the living room.



The ice chute in the house at 1006 Sixth St.



A wallpaper artist sketch in the den.



Pictured is the mosaic tile floor in the house at 1006 Sixth St. installed a few years ago.



PHOTOS BY MARCUS SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Pictured is Kirsten Bays' house at 1003 Sixth St. The house is a 1923 Spanish Colonial-style designed by Champaign native George Ramey. The Bays family has owned the house for 13 years and constantly works to preserve the historical integrity of the house, both inside and out.

but we have no idea why," she said. "We've painted everything down here and made it a little more retro."

Bays said the basement is totally dry, and they have never had any incidents with flooding.

"A lot of houses from this time frame have rickety basements, so it's nice to be able to hang out

down here," she said.

The piping in the basement is original, but has been repainted to make it look more industrial.

"We have hot water heat and no ductwork," she said. "There are tubes that run throughout the house and push our air out."

Although the hot water heat is expensive, Bays said it has been

worth it.

"I have an asthmatic son, so having this hot water heat has been wonderful for him growing up because he doesn't have that hot, dry air," she said. "Our house doesn't get dry in the winter, so it's really nice."

Bays said she loves her home, and though it has been fantastic

to raise a family in, there is always more work to be done.

"I'm a person who likes to have the whole house clean in one day, and it's almost impossible," she said. "Anytime I start one project, there's a Pandora's box of something underneath it."

Bays said her next project is tuck-pointing the exterior of the

house.

"Anyone who ever tells you a brick house has no maintenance is a liar," she said. "The house has never been tuck pointed, and that's going to be a huge undertaking."

Robyn Dexter can be reached at 581-2812 or redexter@eiu.edu.

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THURSDAY'S QUESTION

How do you eat your Oreos?

HERE'S WHAT YOU SAID



I eat 'em whole and with milk. I prefer Golden Oreos.

Johnathon Marchbanks



Crush them and mix them with cream cheese. Coating with melted chocolate or almond bark is optional.

Tiffany Mazur



I stick a fork in them and I dunk them in milk until they stop bubbling.

Elizabeth Dupuis



Twist them apart. Then eat cream. Then either eat the two cookies or give them away. Or eat the Oreo as it comes from the package. Never dip in milk. Don't know why.

Becky Lawson



If I have milk I will just dunk them. If I don't have milk I will split them apart, lick the cream and then eat the cookie part.

Brian Shields

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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* or to the DENopinions@gmail.com.

"LET'S GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT"

An 84-year-old Florida woman recently won \$590k in the lottery. What would you do with the money?

To submit your opinion on today's topic, bring it in with identification to *The DEN* at 1811 Buzzard Hall or submit it electronically from the author's EIU email address to DENopinions@gmail.com by 4 p.m. today or reply to us on social media.

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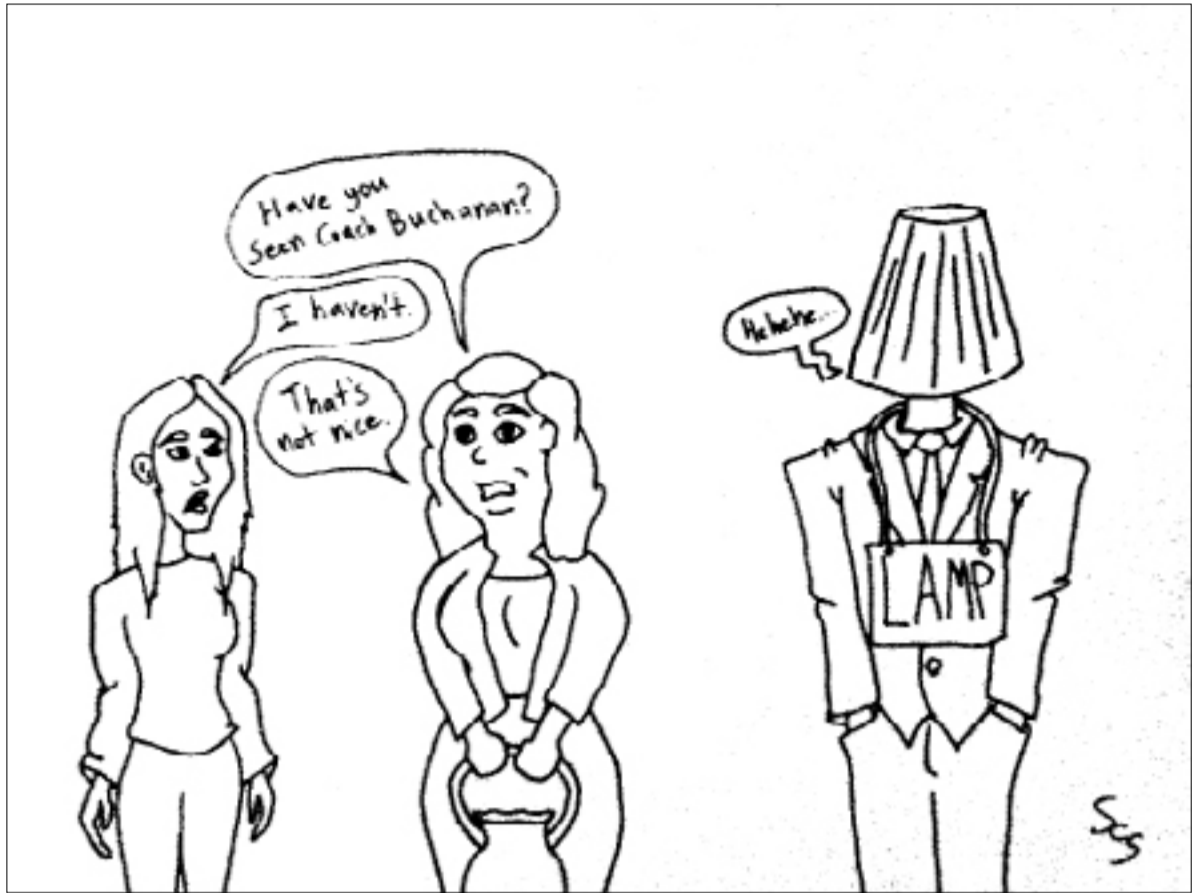
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DRAWN FROM THE EASEL



SETH SCHROEDER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

STAFF EDITORIAL

Council was right to approve funds for building improvements

At Tuesday's Charleston city council meeting, the members approved a two grants that will benefit three properties owned by John Williams and Betty Snyder.

The three properties at 614 Jackson Ave., 124 Sixth St. and 126 Sixth St. are in need of exterior improvements, and with this funding, Williams and Snyder will be able to finance their projects.

TIF grants provide 50 percent of exterior improvement cost to businesses in and around the Square, which has been designated as a TIF district.

This is beneficial to the community in several ways.

For one, taking time to repair and improve these buildings can help preserve their historical value, if done correctly.

Many businesses on the Square feature old, historical window fronts that require specially-made parts.

Though this can be expensive, grants such as these can pitch in and help preserve the historic atmosphere that so many people love about the Square.

OUR POSITION

- **Situation:** Two grants were approved for three properties in town, will be used for exterior improvements
- **Stance:** Building improvements help improve image of Charleston, ensure stability

In addition to preserving the historical value of the Square, making improvements to buildings also increases the property tax.

Though this may be an annual pain for the owner, they are increasing the value of the property.

If the owner ever decides to sell the property, they will be able to ask a higher price.

The money from the taxes goes back into the same TIF grant money fund, so the money is basically cyclical.

These grants help the economy, preserve history, improve the physical appearance of properties and aid business owners.

We are glad the council approved the \$13,000 to Snyder for the Southside Café and the nearly \$12,000 for Williams' Sixth Street properties.

The buildings the two residents currently own will be improved to help them look like other historical buildings in the district around them, which will add to the overall feel of the Square.

We look forward to seeing the improvements and commend the city for continuing to aid in the process.

Gun control does not solve violence problem

After the Newtown tragedy, gun control was on the minds of many Americans.

It has since moved to the back burner once again because of other topics that have drowned it out in the public consciousness.

This is a good thing because gun control has little if any effect on violent crime and murders.

I was reminded of this after reading an article in USA Today that said New Jersey gun laws don't curb violence in Camden.

This article discusses New Jersey having some of the most restrictive gun laws in the nation, but still having a high murder rate in Camden. Camden is a city of 77,000 people, and there were 67 homicides recorded last year.

To bring this closer to home, consider Chicago. In Chicago, there were 38 homicides recorded for the month of May, according to re-deyechicago.com.

Once again in a place with strict gun control laws there is a still a high murder rate.

Another problem with gun control laws is the focus on banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.



Marcus Smith

The problem with this approach is assault weapons are rarely used in homicides.

Scott Thomson, Camden County chief of police, is quoted in the USA Today article as saying "98% of crimes are not committed by assault weapons."

He goes on to say the weapon of choice is a 9mm handgun.

This makes sense because a handgun is easily concealed.

Good luck tucking an AK-47 in your waistline and not getting noticed.

Gun control laws miss the bigger picture. The reason for this violence is lack of jobs, opportunity and education.

The violence and murders are due largely to criminal activity and gang life – a life that val-

ues criminal records and murder as a normal way of life or business as usual.

If there were more jobs, people would not turn to crime and gangs as a means support themselves.

For a lot of children in crime-ridden areas they only have drug dealers and gang members as role models.

With more jobs, parents will be around for their children instead of on the streets or locked up in jail or prison.

This will bring about an end to the cycle of crime and gang life plaguing American cities because the parents will be around to teach and set good examples for their children.

With children turning away from gang life, what will be needed is better and more access to education, which will once again be achieved by having employed parents at home.

In order to bring down murder rates down, we need social change not more useless gun control laws.

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

Library receives grant for book series

By **Samantha McDaniel**
@Sam_McDaniel20

Booth Library was one out of 125 libraries to receive a two-part grant to help fund a series called "Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys" for Spring 2014.

Kirstin Duffin, Pamela Ortega and Janice Derr applied for the grant to help fund a series of book discussions on five books awarded to the library previously.

Ortega said in order to receive the monetary grant of \$4,500, the library had to be one of the 800 libraries or councils to receive the book grant.

The book grant gave each library copies of books related to a specific theme chosen by the library, Ortega said.

Duffin, the lead project director, said the first part of the grant is called "Bridging Cultures: Muslim Journeys Bookshelf."

That was an award of 25 books on five different themes, three films and access to Oxford Islamic Study online, Duffin said.

In order to receive the grant, a scholar had to agree to lead programs and book discussions. Brian Mann, a history professor, studies the modern Middle East and modern Iran and will be leading part of the discussions.

"I went to talk with him to see if he would be interested in help, and he was from the beginning very excited and very enthusiastic about helping us and leading the discussions," Duffin said.

Jay Shinde, a business profes-

or, will also be participating in the book discussion.

Ortega said the professors were the ones that picked the theme.

"At first we thought we could cherry pick the books from across the board of the 25, but then we discovered that the grant required us to choose the books within a certain theme," Ortega said.

The professors chose "Pathways to Faith."

Duffin said they chose the theme because it was most relevant to the students.

"The scholars have noticed in their students a curiosity of exploring other faiths, so this is a way of doing that and exploring Islamic faith," Duffin said.

Ortega said along with the book discussions, they would like to have

an interfaith panel discussion.

"A number of years ago, the science department did an interfaith panel on evolution and science," Ortega said.

She said they talked about hot-button issues, and she thought it would work well with their discussions.

Ortega said they had a problem when deciding when to have the discussion because of other exhibits taking place in the library in the fall.

"We didn't want to have too many things going on at the same time, so we decided to hold off until Spring 2014," Ortega said.

The Academy of Lifetime Learning and the Interdisciplinary Center for Global Diversity are partnered with the library for this series.

The grant money will go to fund the purchase of more copies of the books to give out to participants during the discussion and travel expenses for a mandatory orientation for the project leaders.

Ortega said she hopes the discussions will help clarify some of the common stereotypes about Muslims.

"It's really important to have an open-ended discussion based on history, on fact, on writings and documents," Ortega said. "A discussion where people can express their feelings and beliefs and get appropriate feedback, rather than on hearsay."

Samantha McDaniel can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

Fishing derby to remember founder

Derby provides opportunities for children of all age groups

By **Jourdan Wickliffe**
@DEN_News

Alex Russell's legacy continues through the annual fishing derby.

Alex Russell was the husband of Joy Russell, the department chairwoman of early childhood, elementary and middle level education.

He died in an automobile accident in 1999, but before he owned a local boat shop and was a member of a fishing club.

Brian Jones, director of operations at Charleston Parks and Recreation, said Alex Russell started the fishing derbies for the children in town.

"He thought if he got young kids involved it would get them interested in fishing and give them some-

thing to do for the rest of their lives," Jones said.

Alex Russell began his work in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources' "Free Fishing Days."

"This gives people without a fishing license an opportunity to try fishing," Jones said. "If they like it, they can go out to get a fishing license."

After Alex Russell died, the fishing derby was continued in his honor.

The derby is all about the children.

All money raised for the derby goes towards the prizes the children can win.

CJ Applegate, the athletic supervisor for Charleston Parks and Recreation said Russell was an avid fisherman.

"The derby is more than just fishing, however" Applegate said.

The derby is a way to get families to come out and spend time together while playing games and having a good time.

Activities for the morning in-

clude a slip-n-slide, fishing and other summertime fun games.

Every participant receives a prize just for their participation.

There is still a sense of competition because there are first, second and third place prizes for each of the age groups, which range from 5-8, 9-12 and 13-15.

"In order to win one of the first place prizes, the participant must catch the overall biggest catfish and bass," Applegate said.

All the adults are the judges of the competition; they measure the size of the fish and record it on the participant's card that hangs around their neck.

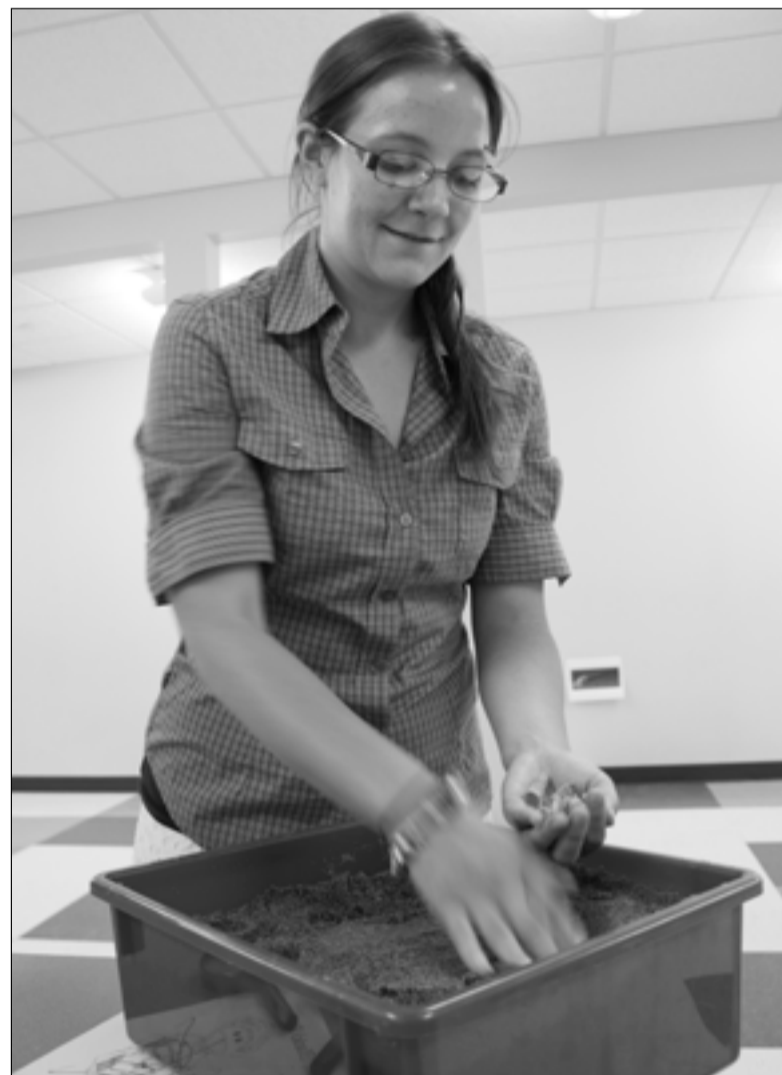
The expected turnout for the fishing derby is anywhere from 70-100 children, depending on the weather.

The fishing derby will take place on Saturday at Lake Charleston.

Registration is from 8-8:30 a.m., and the competition will be from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Jourdan Wickliffe can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

» **FOSSILS** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



AMANDA WILKINSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Kara Baker, a senior earth science major, hides small fossils into sand for children to find during the Fossil Dig Wednesday.

"That's the biggest they've found. The average on those was really like 6 inches, but some of them could get that big," he said. "For the ammonites, the biggest shell they've found of those was about 6 feet across."

The most exciting part for the children was being able to discover and dig

up their own ammonite, orthocera and gastropod fossils.

"Oh yeah, kids love digging in dirt," Curtis said, laughing. "I love digging in dirt."

Amanda Wilkinson can be reached at 581-2812 or akwilkinson@eiu.edu.

» **PLANT** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The improvements on Williams' properties include replacing exterior walk-in doors, painting and installing an awning.

The council also approved to generalize an ordinance for no parking zones near O'Brien Field during Eastern events.

The amendment to the ordinance was placed on file for public inspection at the May 21 meeting.

The ordinance designates all of Orchard Drive, Chamberlin Drive from C Street to University Drive, C Street from west Grant Avenue to the dead end on C Street to be closed during commencement ceremonies, home football games, state high school track meets and Special Olympics celebrations.

The no parking zones will be enforced two hours prior and two hours following the scheduled event.

Rennels said the city plans on putting up permanent signs on those streets that will have a "drop

down" feature so they can be "locked in" during the events.

He said people will be ticketed and towed if they violate the ordinance.

The council also awarded a bid award for general maintenance street materials.

Rennels said the city is just identifying the low bidder for the different materials they may use for street maintenance.

"This doesn't mean we necessarily purchase anything," he said. "This just approves these bidders as the appropriate company to make the purchase with."

At the end of the meeting, members of the public were invited to speak their minds.

Charleston resident Gary Henigman said he was concerned about the rental property construction he sees every year.

"I don't own rental properties in Charleston, but I have talked to a couple of people that do and there

is a concern about an oversupply of apartments," he said.

Henigman said he thinks it is important to have more property generating property tax for the city but enrollment is also down for Eastern.

Rennels said when the rental owners meet the requirements to build, it is difficult to decide who can build.

He said he has hopes the enrollment will increase, especially since the freshmen applications have increased for the next school year.

Scott Smith, the city manager, said the city cannot dictate if rental owners can build but they have tried to steer them to build closer to Eastern.

"That's where we've encouraged that type of development," he said. "As long as they meet the requirements, they can do that."

Amanda Wilkinson can be reached at 581-2812 or akwilkinson@eiu.edu.

» **FESTIVAL** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I shouldn't encourage (it) because I'm going to spend an hour in the dunk tank," Titus said.

Drake said people can win baskets, a quilt and cash prizes at the different raffles.

The auction will begin at 3 p.m. and will have items such as a pool table and antiques.

Titus said he brought up the idea of having a community picnic when he joined the church about six years ago.

"Communities like Effingham, Teutopolis, Springfield, places where I've served in the past always had picnics, so I mentioned it at our parish council meeting," he said.

Titus said he went with a group to check out bigger communities' picnics to get ideas.

"People got excited about it," he said. "We began to make plans. The first

year, people didn't really quite know what it was, especially people who have lived here all their lives."

The festival has grown every year but has had some setbacks, Titus said.

The first year, he said they planned to have the festival on past 5 p.m.

"Right on 5 o'clock Sunday evening, we had this torrential downpour," Titus said. "Last year, it was so unbearably hot."

He said he has high hopes for a large community turnout this year since the festival has continued to grow.

"We try to be good neighbors. We try to be part of the community," Titus said. "We see this as a way of reaching out in the community and saying, 'We're having a party, come over.'"

Amanda Wilkinson can be reached at 581-2812 or akwilkinson@eiu.edu.

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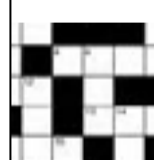
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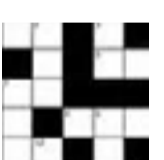
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Music Review



Robyn Dexter

Savoy brings groovy beats with new EP

Savoy has no need to go against nature in their latest EP, "Three Against Nature."

The mainly instrumental EP features bold beats, groovy synths and the constant epicness that IS Savoy.

They are known for their live performances, crazy laser shows and collaborations with other well-known artists such as Heather Bright, Krewella and Big Gigantic.

DJs Ben Eberdt, Gray Smith and drummer Mike Kelly deliver another solid four-song EP that shows how much the group's style can change in just a few months.

This is the third EP the trio has released in the past year, and it mixes many different elements of electronic music that are unique to the what makes the trio who they are.

However, "Three Against Nature" is vastly different from "Supertrail," which was the seven-song EP released in August 2012.

"Three Against Nature," though only four songs long, brings elements similar to those of Big Gigantic, Daft Punk's new album and even a hint of Breathe Carolina-like vocals in "I Wouldn't Mind."

"Say Yes"

This is a great kickoff song to the EP because it is a great showcase song to introduce first-time listeners to the electronic madness of the trio. This track is purely instrumental and is sure to be absolutely killer live.

"Make Me Feel Good"

This track reminded me of a combination of Big G and several songs off of Daft Punk's new album as soon as I heard it. "Make Me Feel Good" is the definition of a groovy, upbeat electronic song, and though it's more chill than a lot of their previous work, it's great to bop your head to.

"I Wouldn't Mind"

If I didn't know any better, I'd say this song was by Breathe Carolina in the first 30 seconds. The semi-pop/punk vocals and driving electronic dance beat remind me so much of one of my old favorite groups, and I love it.

"You & I"

This one's another groovy track to close out the EP, though it's a bit harder electronically than "Make Me Feel Good." I can only think of one word to sum it up, and that is: epic.

Overall, I really liked how different the tone is on this EP. The trio focuses more on instrumentals than the vocals, which not many artists can pull off successfully. Though it's very different from "Supertrail" and "Personal Legend" (the second EP), I'm sure I'll still have it on repeat for weeks to come.

Robyn Dexter can be reached at 581-2812 or redexter@eiu.edu.

CONCERT PREVIEW



"Jazz it up"

Musician learns from Gypsies

— by Samantha McDanel —

Inspired at a young age, a visiting jazz artist learned a Gypsy-jazz tradition starting around the age of 13 or 14.

Cyrille Aimee will be performing at 4 p.m. Sunday on the Melin Steps, also known as the Doudna Steps.

Aimee said she would watch the Gypsies perform when they would visit her hometown of Samois-sur-Seine, France, for a festival that honored guitarist Django Reinhardt.

"He was a Gypsy, so they have a festival in his honor, and Gypsies from all across Europe and his family come to honor him," Aimee said. "I started to hang out with them, and that is how I got into the music."

She said the Gypsies' free nature is one thing she liked about them.

"They really live every day like it is their last," Aimee said. "They are very day-to-day people."

They performed a lot of jazz swing music, and Aimee said the music was a big part of their lives.

"Music is a part of their lives, just like food," Aimee said. "They need it and it comes with every day."

Since she was 13 Aimee would spend her summers learning about the music.

"There was one guy who would teach me how to play the guitar, and in exchange I would teach him how to read," Aimee said. "It is thanks to him that I really got into the music."

She was influenced by the Gypsies, but she said she was also influenced by Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald and other jazz names.

Aimee came to America about seven years ago and started playing in different places.

"I started professionally when I arrived in New York and started playing in clubs and bars in Manhattan," Aimee said. "I never say no

to a gig, so I sing a lot, so the more I sang the more calls I got for gigs."

Aimee said her music focuses on her life experiences and feelings she has.

"I'm not really a heartwrenching girl, but I have more uplifting songs than down-lifting," Aimee said.

The steps are located on the west side of the Doudna Fine Arts Center near the Library Quad.

Audience members are encouraged to bring something soft to sit on and there is a small area that can accommodate lawn chairs.

The tickets cost \$15 and include a barbeque dinner after the concert.

Aimee said she will pick songs based on the vibes of the crowd.

"I like to feel the vibe and adapt to the audience that I have, but in general I like good-spirited songs."

Samantha McDanel can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

New music releases...

Albums out June 4:

- s "Forever Halloween" - The Maine
- s "Grinning Streak" - Barenaked Ladies
- s "The Sun Comes Out Tonight" - Filter
- s "Where It All Began" - Matthew Morrison

In theaters this weekend ...

Man of Steel

Director: Zack Snyder

Writers: David S. Goyer, Christopher Nolan

Plot: A young boy learns that he has extraordinary powers and is not of this Earth. As a young man, he journeys to discover where he came from and what he was sent here to do. But the hero in him must emerge if he is to save the world from annihilation and become the symbol of hope for all mankind.



NCAA | POLE-VAULTER

Viken comes up short at nationals

Eastern pole-vaulter exits competition in fourth round

By Michael Spencer
@tmskeeper

After a record setting season, red-shirt junior pole-vaulter Mick Viken was eliminated from the NCAA National Championships after failing to make his fourth jump at a height of 18 feet. He finished 12th out of 24 competitors.

Viken marched through the first and second jumps.

When the standards were raised to 17-feet, 9-inches (5.40m) in the third round, Viken got up from the mat rubbing a spot on his right thumb after a miss on his first attempt. Pole-vault coach Kyle Ellis said Viken's thumb had been bothering him as a result of blistering and raw tissue from his work while competing in the NCAA West Regional.

"He had some open cuts from regionals," Tom Akers, Eastern Director of Track and Field said. However, Akers said he is not convinced it was the thumb pain that was bothering him.

Viken, who was battling a hamstring injury sustained at the Ohio Valley Conference championships, had a strip of compression tape on his leg for the competition Wednesday.

"He had to take three weeks off because of the hamstring at the conclusion of our conference meet (during which) he was vaulting very

good," Akers said.

At the NCAA championships, the pole vault began at 16 feet, 8 inches and then progressed to 18 feet, 2 inches before going by five-centimeter increments for the remainder of the competition.

Athletes are allowed to miss on three consecutive attempts before being eliminated from the competition. After a first miss, an athlete can choose to pass to the second round but then only have two chances to make the vault.

In the fourth round, Viken, the Rolling Meadows, Ill. native failed to clear the bar on all three tries at the 18 foot level and was eliminated from the competition.

"We're a little disappointed because he had great clearance on his first two attempts, but he just took (the bar) off with his chest and then

"I think he could do big things next year."

Kyle Ellis, Pole-Vaulter coach

on the last attempt he got a little too far under on takeoff," Akers said.

Akers said he hopes that Viken has not created a mental barrier for himself when the standards are raised to 18 feet.

"I think that 18-foot barrier is a mental barrier for a lot of vaulters," Akers said.

Ellis felt Viken fell short of his potential.

Ellis said directly following the competition.

However, Viken's exit from the national championships is not a fair indictment of his season as a whole.

The OVC conference champ set school records in indoor and out-

door track while qualifying for his third straight NCAA National Championship.

"He should have gained a lot of confidence this year with the way he vaulted today, and the way he has been vaulting in practice, there is nothing but bigger and better things next year," Akers said.

The defending 2012 pole vault outdoor national champion and Oral Robert's senior Jack Whitt fell to Mississippi sophomore Sam Kendrick who captured the NCAA national championships with a final jump of 18 feet, 8 inches—two inches better than Whitt.

Kendrick's victory is an upset as he entered the competition with a seed of 17 feet, 2 inches.

Whitt competed at the Olympic trials last summer and made the Olympic team as an alternate for the pole vault. Next, Whitt will look to climb the latter to the international stage.

The next step for Mick Viken is to have a good off-season.

"I think the biggest thing we're going to work on next year is to continue getting faster and stronger," Ellis said. "He had high aspirations and goals for (Wednesday) and he was pretty disappointed. I know he will be hungry to come back next year and kick some butt."

Viken will have another chance to prove himself on the national stage as the Wisconsin transfer red-shirted his freshman year with the Badgers before coming to Eastern.

"I think he could do big things next year," Ellis said.

Michael Spencer can be reached at 581-2812 or densportsdesk@gmail.com.



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Red-shirt senior pole-vaulter Mick Viken prepares to make a jump at the OVC Championship in the Lantz Field House.

BASKETBALL

Four players recruited during spring recruitment

By Zachary White
@zacharywhite

The Panther men's basketball team added four recruits during the spring signing period.

Leading the group is Anthony Johnson of Oblong High School, who is coming off of 24.7 points per game in his senior year of high school, which ranked him third in the state.

Johnson also averaged 9.6 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 2.6 steals per game. And he finished his time at Oblong as school's leader in scoring and rebounding with 1,990 points and with 801 rebounds.

"The best part of (Johnson) right now is that he played four years for me, and he's only going to get better," Brent Harper, the head basketball coach at Oblong High School, said.

Harper said Johnson's work ethic is "unreal." He was the type of player who would want to get in the gym and keep working until he became the best he could be, Harper said.

"Even when he had football going on, he was one of those kids who would get done with practice and stick around to practice more,"

Harper said.

Johnson is one of those players who does not stop working to be better, Harper said.

"I've had high school athletes who are very talented but settle for how good they are," Harper said. "But (Johnson) didn't settle. He decided he wanted to be the best."

Along with Johnson joining the Panthers, the three other recruits are 7-foot-2-inch center Mat Piotrowski out of Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville, guard Donald Moore from Blinn Junior College in Brenham, Texas and guard Zach Dickerson out of Argyle High School in Argyle, Texas.

At 7-foot-2-inches Piotrowski will be the tallest person to ever play for the Panthers.

"The first thing that strikes you about Mat is his size. However, he is more than just a big guy, he can play the game," Jay Spoonhour, the men's basketball head coach, said.

Spoonhour said Piotrowski's height is not his only asset. He also has a great understanding of the game and can pass and defend very well as a post-player.

With Piotrowski as the tallest to ever join the Panthers, Donald Moore will be coming in as the sec-

ond shortest player on the team at 6-foot-1-inch.

In his freshman year at Blinn Junior College, Moore averaged 10.3 points, 3.8 rebounds and 3.8 assists per game.

"He's about as fast as anyone going from end to end," Spoonhour said. "His ability to create shots is something that will be a big benefit to us."

Moore will be joining the team with three years of eligibility left to play college basketball while the Panther's final recruit, Zach Dickerson, comes in with all four years of eligibility on the table.

As a senior, Dickerson earned all-region honors in Texas averaging 14.6 points, 3.3 rebounds and 3.9 assists per game and shot 80 percent from the free throw line.

"As a junior, he was a facilitator for a really good team that won the state title in Texas," Spoonhour said. "As a senior, he was asked to do more scoring and he showed he is capable of playing anyway he needs to. That ability is what attracted us to him as a player."

Zachary White can be reached at 581-2812 or ztwhite@eiu.edu.

SPRING BASKETBALL RECRUITS



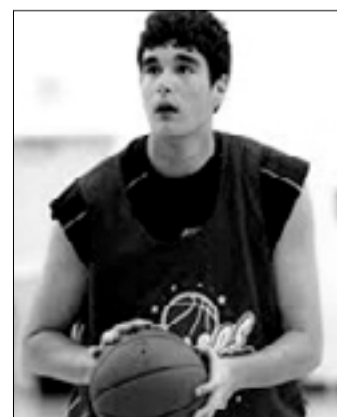
Zach Dickerson



Donald Moore



Anthony Johnson



Mat Piotrowski