Eastern Illinois University The Keep

June

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Daily Eastern News: June 18, 2009

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"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, CHARLESTON

UNIVERSITY | RENOVATION

The DAILY EASTERN NEWS

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2009

CAMPUS | STREET Nickname given to **Grant Ave**

"Panther Way" hopes to create school spirit, help city's economy

By KAYLEIGH ZYSKOWSKI **Online Editor**

A portion of Grant Avenue will be named "Panther Way" after Tuesday night's city council meeting.

Grant Avenue, from University Drive to Fourth Street, will now have a sign above the street sign that reads "Panther Way."

This is not renaming the street, but an honorary naming, no one's address will change," Mayor John Inyart said.

According to the resolution that was passed for this signage, this will promote the economic and natural relationship between Eastern and the city of Charleston.

Ryan Gilmore, director of marketing and promotions for Eastern athletics, said this project has been in the works for a year, since the new athletic administration came into office last summer.

"Now, as our fans come up to the games, they will have more of a feel of coming to an event to with school spirit and to support the teams," Gilmore said. "Ît's a real positive step forward between the city and the university."

Inyart said they are looking into manufacturing the signs for sale out of the Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union Bookstore.

In other business, two bid awards were approved to the lowest bidder for street materials and seal coat for the city streets.

Ne-Co Asphalt was the low bidder for the seal coat at \$103,713.

The low bidders for the street materials were Ne-Co Asphalt, Charles Heuerman Trucking and Charleston Ready Mix, Mid-Illinois Concrete.

The materials include concrete mix and rock to be used through out the year to do patch work

Scott Newman, left, and Gary Thurman, right, apply grout on Thursdays and Fridays to allow 72 hours of drying time and install tile Monday through Wednesday at the Student Recreational Center.

Rec adds new additions

By SPENSER NOBLES News Editor

Some may have noticed the Student Recreational Center has gone through some changes in the past year.

Students who have visited the facility recently have noticed even more alterations.

This summer, the rec center's floor has been under construction. The old tile is being replaced with new tile that represents Eastern's school colors, blue and gray.

Along with the new tile, the rec center has added new furniture, and the walls have undergone a makeover, all of which support the new color scheme that focuses on Eastern's school colors.

"It's a time when the university needs to be recognized by its logos, by its school colors," said Ken Baker, director of campus recreation. "We want students to take pride in blue and gray."

Cleanliness is something that has been

"Working closely with Health Services, we've had the foresight to keep things clean," Baker said.

There are hand sanitizers in many different locations of the facility, but the new upgrades will also help with the goal of cleanliness.

The newly placed tile is easier to clean than the old tile, and the new HealthTech furniture is also easy to clean. Baker said sanitation within a facility like the rec center is "critical."

"A lot of centers have problems with that," Baker said. "We haven't."

In the past, students were able to put their belongings in cubbyholes, which some students did not think were very safe.

That will no longer be the case because lockers (with self-programmable locks), which were about \$12,000, according to Baker, will replace the cubbyholes.

Both the lockers and new bikes were purchased by the Apportionment Board.

"We need to give credit to the Apportionment Board," Baker said. "The board works really hard and they are very supportive of the rec center.'

Baker said the rec center is "continually upgrading," bringing in new equipment and trying to improve for students and others who may use it.

"It's a showplace," Baker said. "We want it to look nice. We think it's a high profile facility."

So far this summer, four new bikes have been added. Along with benches, there will be more equipment added, including 15 new cycling bikes that will be used for the new cycling program in the fall. The program will take place in the new fitness studio, in which there will be a big-screen projector installed.

The program is designed to give students the feeling that they are biking through different places in the world.

"You can cycle down through Italy or Route 1 in California," Baker said. "That's a new program that we're excited about students seeing in the fall."

The estimated price for the new lockers, bikes, the floor and fan is about \$157,700.

WWW.DENNEWS.COM

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throughout the city, Inyart said.

A resolution was passed to allow expenditures from the tourism fund to cover the expenses for the East Central Illinois Farm Equipment Show on July 17 to 19 at the Coles County Fair Grounds.

Before the meeting started, a moment of silence was held by the council and the audience to reflect on the late Scott Lindecker.

Lindecker was a Charleston police officer that was found dead in his apartment on Sunday, June 7.

Two items were removed from the agenda in hopes of being addressed at the next city council meeting.

The items included a resolution to allow a line of credit for Carnegie Public Library as well as an ordinance for conceptual proposal for Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Prairie Pavilion.

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stressed while remodeling the recreation center, both in appearance and actuality.

Spenser Nobles can be reached at 581-7943 or at dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

STATE | ILLNESS Illinois officials report 3 more swine flu deaths in Chicago

The Associated Press

suffered from the virus and passed

away.

CHICAGO - An 8-year-old suburban Chicago boy and two Chicago adults have died after falling ill with swine flu.

This brings the state's total fatality toll from the illness to eight.

The virus is continuing to spread, unlike seasonal influenza, which normally has tapered off by late spring, health officials said.

The 8-year-old, a resident of Oak Forest, died June 13, one day after he was admitted to a hospital.

He had no other known health problems, Cook County health officials said.

Two Chicago residents also

A 26-year-old woman and a 52-year-old man, died last week, said Chicago Department of Public Health spokesman Tim Hadac.

The woman died June 9 after being in a hospital in Chicago for a week.

The man had other health problems and died on June 11 after being admitted to a hospital on May 30.

It's unclear whether the boy was the first child to die of the virus in Illinois because Cook County health officials wouldn't release the age of a female who died in May.

In all the other cases, the vic-

"This tragic death underscores the need for people to remain vigilant in preventing the spread of illness."

- Stephen Martin Jr., chief operating officer of the Cook County health department

tims were adults, ranging in age from 20 to 74.

Illinois has had nearly 2,000 confirmed swine flu cases in 22 counties.

Stephen Martin Jr., chief operating officer of the Cook County health department, urged people to wash their hands, and cover their mouths when they cough. He said that it is best to stay home instead of going out when people get sick.

"This tragic death underscores the need for people to remain vigilant in preventing the spread of illness," said Martin, referring to the child.

ontact any of the above staff members you

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You may also call 581-7942 or visit the student publications newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

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CORRECTIONS



EIU WEATHER

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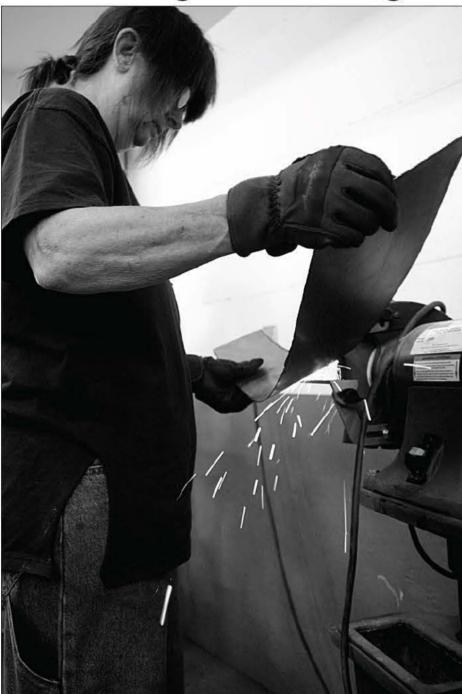
Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of thunderstorms and showers. Expect a bet-ter chance of thunderstorms and showers tomorrow. Warm temperatures prevail over the region today through the weekend.

For current conditions visit EIU WeatherCenter at www.eiu.edu/~weather

CAMPUS | PHOTO OF THE DAY

Smoothing Down the Edges

6



CARI WAFFORD | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS Nelda Shaw smooths down the edges of a metal piece to be attached to a larger hood ornament. The piece will adorn the main north entrance of the Doudna Fine Arts Center and was designed by her son Clint Shaw.







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ABOUT THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, III., during fall and spring semesters and twice weekly during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations. One copy per day is free to students and faculty. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents

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UNIVERSITY | CAMPUS WORKER

Financial aid advisor always happy to help

By KAYLEIGH ZYSKOWSKI Online Editor

One of the most challenging things for a college student to figure out and have patience for is their financial aid.

Everyone is grateful when the money comes through, but trying to fill out the paperwork and forms can seem endlessly draining. Luckily there are people out there to help students and parents.

Cindy Starwalt is a financial aid advisor. She can be found in the financial aid office in the Student Services Building.

"Basically, I advise students and their parents on their completion of their FASFA federal application and that whole process," Starwalt said.

Starwalt began working at Eastern 14 years ago, when she started in the business office.

After one year, she was offered a promotion to move to the financial aid office.

While doing all of this work, she was more than a regular fulltime employee - she was also a student working to receive her bachelor's degree.

Sometimes it was kind of rough, but I don't have any kids, and when I think about all of the people who are trying to go back to school, hold a full time job and raise a family it made



JOE MCCUE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Cindy Starwalt, the campus worker of the week, works in the Financial Aid Office as an advisor. The Office of Financial Aid can be found in the east wing of the Student Services Building.

it easier to get through my college," Starwalt said.

Starwalt said she received her bachelor's degree in 2005.

Though she appreciates the opportunities to help people, sometimes working in the financial aid office is harder than people would think.

'Sometimes it can be a little hectic in here, and when I can't help a student is when it becomes frustrating," Starwalt said. "But I enjoy being able to help people and sometimes being able to relieve some of their frustrations."

Kayleigh Zyskowski can be reached at 581-7943 or at kzyskowski@eiu.edu.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

OCAI

Textbook Rental closing in two weeks

The Textbook Rental Service will be closed Monday, June 29, through Thursday, July 2, for inventory. There will be no business conducted during this time. Textbook Rental asks that business be made prior to or after that time.

-Compiled by Editor in Chief, Sarah Jean Bresnahan

BLOTTER

A blue Honda was damaged while parked at the Tarble Arts Center Monday.

A theft was reported Monday from a vehicle parked in the Stadium Lot.

Gregory Link, 43, of 306 N. Hayden Gillespie, was arrested at 2:18 a.m. Tuesday on Lincoln Avenue and A Street. He was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol.

CORRECTION

In Tuesday's edition of The Daily Eastern News, it was reported "Taps" was performed at the Illinois Girls State flag ceremony. The song that was performed was "To The Color." The DEN regrets the error.

COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS, OR EVENTS

To report any errors, local events or general suggestions for future editions contact Editor in Chief, Sarah Jean Bresnahan, via: Phone | 581-7936, E-mail | DENeic@gmail.com Office visit | 1811 Buzzard Hall

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OPINION



Kayleigh Zyskowski



MATT ZIMMERMAN

consequences of the 'public option'

At the heart of the proposed "American Health Choices Act" is the "public option." This gives every American the option of buying into a health care plan run by the federal government.

Ostensibly, this would provide competition and choice that would put downward pressure on the price of health care and improve quality of care.

While many recoil at insinuations that President Obama and the Democrats are pushing European-style socialism, this is precisely what they are doing.

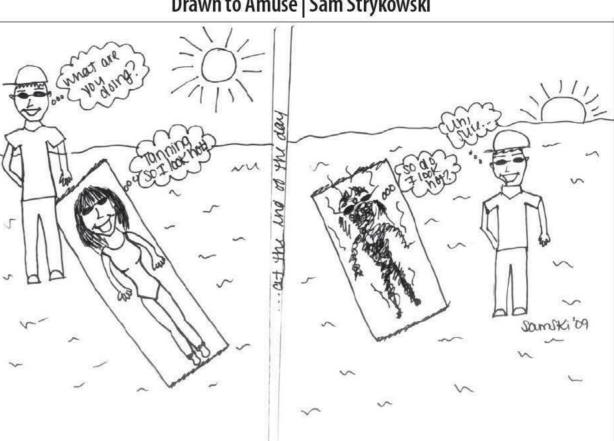
Obama is quick to say that he does not want to interfere in the doctor-patient relationship, that he wants to give consumers a choice, and that he wants to foster competition, but look at the consequences.

According to a study by the Lewin Group, the consequences of this plan would force 120 million Americans off their employer-provided health plans and into a government plan.

Rather than simply covering the elderly, disabled, and poor, this plan would extend government health care to all Americans. Because a taxpayer funded program will always be able to undercut any private plan, and considering the plan is funded by taxing private health care plans, this plan provides the perverse incentive for business to drop their employees into government-run plans.

Interestingly, this plan will only entice 28 million of the 49 million Americans without health insurance to purchase health insurance.

Rather than trying to help those who need help, the Democrats are taking advantage of the fact that they make the laws to distort the free market. It will make it impossible for the free market to compete and it will therefore force 100 million Americans into a health care plan in which the federal government inserts itself into the decisions that should be made between the patient and his or her doctor. If this sounds far-fetched, just consider that Congress already keeps the prices 20-30% below the costs of private health care plans. Enrollees in Medicare and Medicaid are also currently bound by the federal government in what medicines and procedures that will be paid for and therefore, what health care they will receive. Also consider that the man Obama attempted to appoint as Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tom Daschle, advocated the British policy of denying life-saving health care to the elderly in an attempt to save money. Instead of attempting to help people without health insurance - a noble goal - the Democrats are using their majority in Congress to push an agenda that ignores the people without health insurance and instead attacks Americans who are happy with their health care plans, forcing them into government-run plans in which they will be a third party to the decisions that effect them. This plan insures that those without health insurance will remain without health insurance, those that are happy with their health insurance will be forced into inferior plans, and the wealthy elite will still be the few able to purchase the best health care in the world.



<u>STAFF EDITORIAL</u> Rec's renovations prove money was well-spent

At first glance, spending money generated from student fees for a new floor, furniture that's easier to clean and a new color scheme may sound a bit foolish. While the old furniture and brown-tiled floor may have been dull and unattractive, it was still functional.

However, after getting a view of the overhauled Student Recreational Center, it is plain to see the money spent on renovating the facility was a wise investment.

The focus of the refurbishment was mostly to increase a sense of school pride by displaying Eastern's logo and colors, blue and gray. The designers accomplished this goal by incorporating the colors into the new, modernized look. The facility now feels more like a workout space for a collegiate or a professional sports team, rather than a generic fitness club that could be found in any affluent suburb.

The renovations were not just about appearances, however. The planners of the project should be applauded for addressing the issues of student's health and safety.

Fitness centers are not usually considered to be the cleanest of places, with machines and equipment being used daily by a multitude of sweaty individuals. To combat the spread of germs and bacteria, the project added hand sanitizers throughout the facility. In addition, the new furniture is made of a material that easily wipes clean, making it easier to maintain a healthy facility.

Concerning student safety, new lockers were installed that will replace the old cubbyholes that many students did not feel comfortable leaving their belongings in.

Additional upgrades included a few new bikes and benches, replacing some of the older equipment that was beginning to show its age. The inclusion of the new equipment goes well

with the other refurbishments; old, worn out equipment, if left in the room, would have contrasted negatively with the new tile floor and furniture.

The new look of the rec center allows the Eastern community to take pride in the facility. Visitors - mainly potential new students - will instantly be amazed by the facility, which could become a huge selling point to attract new students.

What makes the renovation at the rec center a success is that the aspects of the project were designed with the students in mind. Eastern students will directly benefit from all of the improvements made.

What many may not realize is the Student Recreational Center here at Eastern is a unique amenity that some at other schools do not have. The building offers weight rooms, a running track, basketball and racquetball courts, bikes with televisions attached to them, a climbing wall, a pool, and a place to relax and watch Sportscenter.

While many other schools do offer similar facilities, one thing is different here at Eastern - any student can use the facilities, for free, provided they show a valid panther card. No memberships. No additional fees.

The university has made it obvious it is committed to providing top-notch facilities for its students. With the new renovation, the rec center is one of those facilities that are now even better than before.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editorial is the majority opinion of The DEN editorial

Drawn to Amuse | Sam Strykowski

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board. Reach the opinions editor at: DENopinions@gmail. com.

YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New Tobacco Bill To Protect

Federal officials have finally been given the ability to regulate the largely unregulated business of tobacco, including cigarettes. Last week the Senate approved The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, which will give the Food and Drug Administration the right to impose strict new controls on the making and marketing of tobacco products.

This is coming just weeks after Congress also passed the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure Act, another measure meant to protect the consumer.

There's certainly going to be disagreement over whether this law crusades against

tobacco users' right to consume it. But it will finally treat tobacco like any other consumer good under the FDA. Tobacco has always been exempt from other basic consumer protections like ingredient disclosure and product testing. It doesn't seem unreasonable that tobacco products be regulated under the "safe and effective" standard that exists for other products.

Also, empowering the FDA to protect impressionable youth from predatory marketing campaigns is acceptable; the law consistently belives that the youth are not old enough to be aware of the consequences of their actions. There are limits to what good parenting can do, and in this case they need

help.

Although some of the restrictions to advertising that are in this bill, like prohibiting ads near schools and playgrounds, seem geared more toward selling the bill, others will have an enormous impact. For instance, gravely misleading words like "low tar" and "light" are to be banned from use.

Congress has done well over the past several weeks creating new laws that aid consumers without being unfair to business. In this case, tobacco will lose its privileged position as an atypical consumer good, free from common-sense regulation.

The Indiana Daily

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.

Coalition Battles Meth in Coles County

By Sarah Ruholl

Staff Reporter Methamphetamine is a drug that affects the family, friends and community of its users.

In 2001, Coles County was the leader in Illinois meth-related arrests.

In 2003, the Coles County Meth Awareness Coalition was formed by local social services providers, law enforcement and concerned citizens.

The CCMAC set its mission to educate the community on substance abuse problems and to support and facilitate a prevention effort with local agencies.

The coalition in junction with WEIU-TV launched its first campaign in April 2004. The campaign was called "Meth: Slingshot into Destruction."

Educational programs were held in Coles, Moultrie, Shelby and Douglas counties.

The CCMAC also works with the Meth Watch program, a group started in Kansas to "help deter suspicious sales and theft of pseudoephdrinecontaining medicines and other products used in the illegal manufacturing of methamphetamines," according their Web site, www.colescountymeth.org.

The program is focused on retail stores who carry products that can be used to make meth, also known as "speed," "crank," "glass" or "ice." These items include some common household objects such as coffee filters, paint thinner and matchbooks.

Children and pets found in meth houses during busts are often removed, and the transition can be

\$99.00

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Michelle Eaton shares a sticker with a young girl at Community Day, which took place on June 6 at Morton Park. The event was to raise awareness about the use of methamphetamines.

difficult.

The CCMAC has a Kids Carepack program to help make the transition easier for these children.

Items from diapers to large containers to clothing and toys are gathered, made into care packs and given to displaced children. A full list of volunteer efforts and donations the program needs is on their Web site.

A Carepacks for Canines and Cats was recently formed as a graduation project for Jeff Seafler, a recent graduate of Coles County Drug Court. Drug Court is a program designed to help substance abusers overcome their addictions. This is achieved through a minimum of 13-month program of counseling, drug testing and meetings with a probation officer. May 2009 was the first month in history that drug court graduations took place in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. The Coles County graduation took place May 21.

SAM STRYKOWSKI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sarah Ruholl can be reached at 581-7943 or seruholl2@eiu.edu

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BASEBALL I CHICAGO

Sosa's story doesn't register with Konerko

The Associated Press

CHICAGO - Sammy Sosa may have been slamming balls with the aid of performance-enhancers, but Chicago White Sox slugger Paul Konerko wasn't quite ready to believe it.

He wants more evidence.

Slammin' Sammy became the latest in a line of stars implicated in steroids use when The New York Times reported Tuesday he was among the 104 players who

BASEBALL I CHICAGO

tested positive in baseball's anonymous 2003 survey. The paper cited lawyers with knowledge of the 2003 drug-testing results who spoke on condition of anonymity because they did not want to publicly discuss material under court seal.

In Konerko's mind, there are "only two ways this becomes a story."

"Put your name behind it," Konerko said before Wednesday's game against the Chicago Cubs. "Put your

face out there and tell people who you are. Or, Sammy's going to admit to it and that's what happened in the Alex Rodriguez thing."

Rodriguez admitted using steroids from 2001-03 with Texas following a report by Sports Illustrated that his name was on the list.

Sosa, who last played with Texas in 2007, hit all but 64 of his 609 homers with the Cubs and ranks sixth on baseball's home run list. He denied in a 2005 Congres-

sional hearing ever taking "illegal performance-enhancing drugs" but stated carefully: "I have not broken the laws of the United States or the laws of the Dominican Republic."

SPORTS

The list has been subject to a protracted court fight by the players' association, which maintains federal prosecutors seized it illegally in 2004. The case is currently before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Konerko doesn't think it should be made public.

No. 0514

Danks pitches Sox over Cubs

The Associated Press

CHICAGO- John Danks pitched like he did at the end of last season and that was good enough to beat the struggling Chicago Cubs.

The left-hander didn't allow a run through seven strong Wednesday, Alexinnings ei Ramirez homered in the first and the White Sox parlayed some NL-style small ball into some late runs to beat the Cubs 4-1 at Wrigley Field.

"You know the Cubs are going to swing the bats and that helps you calm down to throw strikes and let them put the ball in play. Fortunately, they were hitting them to our guys," Danks said.

"It is fun to come here in this atmosphere."

Danks won a one-game playoff against the Twins with eight shutout innings to send the White Sox into the playoffs last season and also captured an ALDS victory against Tampa Bav.

He'd had a couple of rough outings this season, but came up with one of his best performances of the year. He gave up one run and five hits with no walks and nine strikeouts in sevenplus innings.

Danks (5-5) worked out of some early jams in a meeting of crosstown rivals who've struggled offensively this season.

"I just knew I had to make tough pitches. I wanted to make them earn it. Fortunately, we were able to get out of it," Danks added.

start hitting. If not, you got to give somebody else a chance. That's all," he said.

Leading 1-0, the White Sox added a run on Chris Getz's RBI triple in the second off a wild Ryan Dempster (4-4) and got a third run in the seventh on a squeeze bunt single from Scott Podsednik. In the eighth, a walk, single by Paul Konerko with a runner breaking and a sacrifice fly by A.J. Pierzynski made it 4-0 when pinch-runner DeWayne Wise beat Soriano's throw to the plate.

"I could have done a better job," Dempster said. "Getting behind and getting down 2-0 and Danks was throwing the ball really well and that kind of put us in a tough spot. I didn't attack the strike zone very well."

Ramirez lifted his sixth homer of the season into the basket in left field on a 1-2 pitch from Dempster in the first.

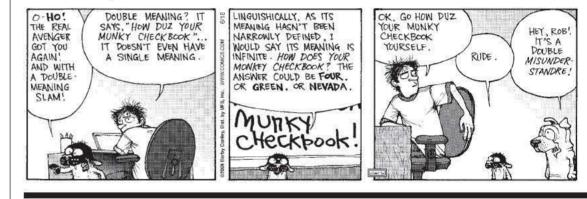
Dempster, who walked six, was removed after issuing backto-back free passes to Getz and Gordon Beckham in the seventh. After Danks swung away after showing bunt, reliever Angel Guzman made a nice stab of his grounder and threw to second to get Beckman, leaving runners at first and third.

With Getz breaking for the plate, Podsednik delivered a perfect squeeze bunt — a play called by manager Ozzie Guillen - and beat it out for a single to make it 3-0.

"He likes that style of ball. He likes get-'em-over-get-'emin, squeezing. He likes those types of plays more than home runs," Podsednik said of Guillen. "He likes raw baseball, so you've got to be ready."



GET FUZZY | BY DARBY CONLEY



The New Hork Times Edited by Will Shortz Crossword

ACROSS 56 End of many company names 1 Shindigs 57 Cork's home: 8 Elf costume add-ons, maybe Abbr Unchanged 58 15 Overwhelmingly 62 Boxer's handler? 16 Property receiver 63 Made safe 17 Vitamin A 65 Composer 18 Game with four Antonio jokers 19 Qty. Sequestering, legally speaking 20 Like loot, often 68 Cowardly 22 Caste member 69 Trudge 23 Spilled the beans 70 Foreign currency 25 Abbr. often unit repeated redundantly DOWN 26 Detection device 28 Monterrey month 30 Big truck

33 Big truck

animal

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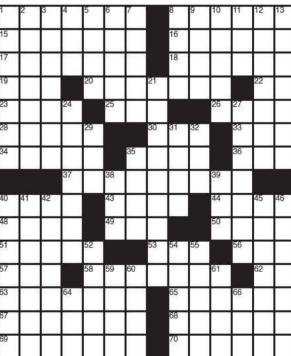
37 See 21-Down

1 1979 World Series champs 2 Literally, "daughter of the 34 Asian goatlike wind 3 Mojave Desert 35 Official gemstone sight 4 Prefix on

many chemical

compound

names



He left after Aaron Miles doubled to lead off the eighth.

White Sox's center fielder Brian Anderson then leaped in front of the ivy-covered wall to catch pinch-hitter Jake Fox's long drive. Miles took third on the play and scored on Alfonso Soriano's RBI grounder off reliever Scott Linebrink as the Cubs averted a shutout.

Bobby Jenks pitched a perfect ninth for his 15th save in 17 chances.

The Cubs have lost 5 of 6. And over the last 26 games, they have scored one run or less 10 times, going 9-17 in that span.

"It's getting to the point where I'm going to have to start making some tough decisions and get different people in the lineup," Cubs manager Lou Piniella said.

Piniella acknowledged that slumps by proven hitters makes it even more perplexing.

"Sooner or later you got to

The Cubs had several chances against Danks but couldn't convert.

Derrek Lee singled leading off the second to extend his hitting streak to 14 games and Geovany Soto followed with a hard hopper off third baseman Beckham for an error, putting runners at first and second. Beckham then started an around-the-horn double play before Mike Fontenot grounded out.

The Cubs had runners at the corners with no outs in the fourth, but when Anderson made a nice catch of Lee's sinking liner, Cubs' baserunner Ryan Theriot had already broken off third and couldn't get back in time to tag up.

Danks then fanned Soto and got Reed Johnson on a fielder's choice grounder.

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The DAILY EASTERN NEWS www.dennews.com thursday, June 18, 2009

SPORTS EDITOR Jeff Jurinek DENsportsdesk@gmail.com

BASEBALL | CHICAGO

Changes could be on deck for Cubs

The Associated Press

CHICAGO— The Chicago Cubs just fired their hitting coach, and now, more changes are waiting on deck.

Tired of watching his team flail away at the plate, manager Lou Piniella is ready to "make some tough decisions" after a 4-1 loss to the Chicago White Sox at Wrigley Field on Wednesday. That means a makeover is in order for his lineup. Or least a tweak or two.

Hear that, Alfonso Soriano? "He has to do something because we're doing nothing offensively," he said.

Piniella has some sympathy from Milton Bradley. He'd prefer more hits and runs.

"I feel for Lou because he's doing all he can do," Bradley said. "All he can do is write the lineup. ... He shouldn't have to go through what he's going through."

At the moment, that would be frustration. A heavy dose of it.

The Cubs are batting .244 this season and have been particularly bad of late. How bad?

They've scored zero or one run in 10 of the last 26 games while falling from 21-14 to 30-31. They've stranded 67 runners over the last eight games, including two on Wednesday, and are 14 for 75 (.187) with runners in scoring position over that span.

These are the the two-time defending NL Central champions?

"They've got a good ballclub," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "All respect for St. Louis, Milwaukee, all those teams, the Cubs are going to be in the pennant race. People in Chicago, relax. Quit panicking. Worry about something else. Worry about the family, kids going back to school and having good grades. Don't worry about the Cubs. They'll be fine."

Well, their general manager and manager are concerned. So are the players. And no one can really explain it.

General manager Jim Hendry fired hitting coach Gerald Perry on Sunday and now, Piniella is targeting his lineup, although he didn't specify what changes might be coming. Dropping the struggling Soriano from the top of the order could be an option, although he's not the only underachiever. The lineup is filled with players who have successful track records, which makes this even more perplexing. "For the most part, they are proven hitters," Piniella said. They're just not, um, hitting We've got a lot of good hitters," Soriano said. "I don't know what's going on. I don't know if there's a lot of pressure in this clubhouse or what, but what I see is not fun."

Drafted Panthers sign with MLB teams



File Photo | DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior Jordan Kreke has signed with the Atlanta Braves after being drafted in the 13th round of the MLB First-Year Player Draft June 9.

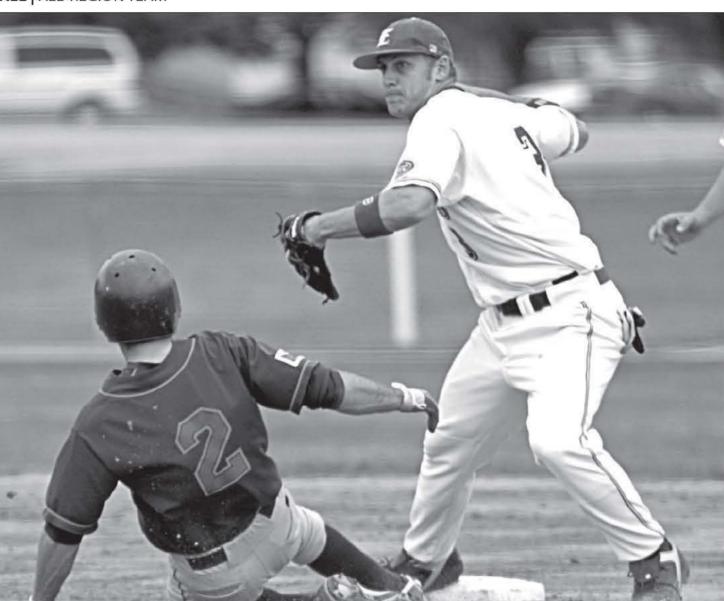
BASEBALL | ALL-REGION TEAM

STAFF REPORT

All three Eastern players drafted in last week's Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft have signed with their new ballclubs, and are in the process of being assigned to minor-league teams.

Junior pitcher Tyler Kehrer was selected 48th overall by the L.A. Angels of Anaheim in Compensation Round A. As expected, the southpaw signed with the Angels, choosing to wave his remaining year of NCAA eligibility and effectively ending his career at Eastern. He is expected to begin play in the Rookie League with the Orem Owlz of the Pioneer League, based in Orem, Utah. Senior Brett Nommensen was picked by the Tampa Bay Rays in the eighth round, and has since signed with the club. The Rays have not yet determined Nommensen's first assignment; according to the team's website, the outfielder could expect to begin play with either Port Charlotte of the Gulf Coast League, the Princeton Rays of the Appalachian League or the Hudson Valley Renegades of the New York-Penn League.

Shortstop Jordan Kreke was selected in the 13th round by the Atlanta Braves. After recently signing with the Braves, Kreke is expected to begin his minor-league career with the Appalachian League's Danville Braves in Danville, Va.



Second baseman Jordan Tokarz was one of three Panthers named to the 2009 NCAA Mideast Region Second Team.

File Photo | DAILY EASTERN NEWS

SPORTS

Three players receive All-Region honors

By JEFF JURINEK

Sports Editor

Weeks after the conclusion of the season, members of the Eastern baseball team are still racking up awards for their accomplishments during the year.

The latest Panthers to receive honors are second baseman Jordan Tokarz, and pitchers Josh Mueller and Mike Recchia. All three were named to the 2009 NCAA Mideast Region Second Team.

The three players are the first Panthers to receive All-region honors since Mark Chagnon in 2006. Eastern is one of only three schools in the region to have three All-Mideast selections, joining Indiana and Ohio State.

The all-region first and second teams are voted on by the head coaches of every team in the region.

Tokarz was the team leader in a number of categories this season, including home runs (13), runs scored (55), and sacrifice flies (7). The senior ended his career at Eastern riding a ten game hitting streak. In the field, the second baseman helped turn 26 double plays on the year. Of the 107 games Eastern has played over the past two seasons, Tokarz has started at second in 106.

Mueller went 8-1 this season for the Panthers. In a 10-3 win over UT-Martin on April 10, the sophomore struck out a season-high nine batters and threw the first nine-inning complete game by an Eastern pitcher since 2007. For the season, the Panthers went 11-2 in games that Mueller started.

Recchia posted an 8-2 record in 2009 after the sophomore earned the win in each of his first six appearances, including an 8-6 victory over 15th-

ranked Oklahoma on March 15. His ERA of 3.02 for the season is the lowest by an Eastern pitcher to start at least ten games since the school began play in the Ohio Valley Conference in 2007.

Mueller and Recchia are both expected to return to the Panther's rotation in 2010. This summer, Mueller will be pitching for the Wareham Gateman of the Cape Cod Baseball League.

Jeff Jurinek can be reached at 581-7944 or at densportsdesk@gmail.com

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