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SANTA’S VILLAGE

Jim Morgan tells his story on becoming Santa Claus, helping kids believe and teaching adults to be more kind.

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RUNNING ON RECORDS

Eastern runners Nyjah Lane and Dhiaa Dean broke two Eastern track records.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014 "TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID" VOL. 99 | NO. 71

Illinois comptroller dies at 70

By Stephanie Markham News Editor | @stephm202

Illinois Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka, who was elected in November to serve a second four-year term, died Wednesday morning at the age of 70 due to complications with a stroke, according to the Chicago Tribune.

In addition to serving three terms as Illinois treasurer from 1995 to 2007, Topinka served in the state's House of Representatives from 1980 to 1984, then served 10 years in the Senate.

Former chair of the Illinois Republican Party, Topinka was the first woman from her party to be nominated for governor in the state when she challenged incumbent Gov. Rod Blagojevich in 2006.

She received a bachelor's degree from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in 1966 and went on to work as a reporter and editor along with starting a public relations business.

Richard Wandling, chair of the political science department, said Topinka's death is a major loss to the state.

"She had a distinguished career in public service, and she was widely respected regardless of party divisions," he said.

Topinka was known for being fiscally conservative, but moderate to liberal on social issues such as abortion rights and gay marriage.

Wandling said Topinka had the ability to reach out to others and was an independent thinker.

"As comptroller, everyone had full confidence that our fiscal situation was being managed well," he said.

Wandling said he believes the state would have been a lot better off if Topinka had won the governor's race in 2006, as he said Illinois is still paying the price for Blagojevich's second term.

He said Topinka was a strong candidate who would fit in with other successful moderate Republicans like former Gov. Jim Edgar.

He said he hopes the modern centrist tradition will continue after Topinka with future generations.

"She was a very colorful politician, and definitely a free spirit," Wandling said.

While the treasurer is in charge of investing funds for the state, the comptroller signs off on checks, monitors the state's financial situation, and provides reports and data to the legislature, Wandling said.

He said the best source of information for the financial situation of the state is the comptroller's office.

"Despite Illinois having lackluster governors, to say the least, many of them sent to prison, we have a good track record of high quality comptrollers, regardless of political party," Wandling said. "We have been well served, and Judy Baar Topinka is part of that legacy."

Stephanie Markham can be reached at 581-2812 or samarkham@eiu.edu.



KEVIN HALL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

A few memebers from the DePue Brothers Band perform for the crowd as they wait for their remanding memebers to come to the stage in their performance at the Doudna Fine Arts Center Wednesday in the Dvorak Concert Hall.

Family band blends bluegrass, Christmas music

By Jackson Mortka Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

The DePue Brothers brought bluegrass music to Eastern with its "Magical Grassical Christmas" performance Tuesday night in the Dvorak Concert Hall.

The group members, who performed at Eastern in 2011, was brought back as part of Doudna's "Best Of" series after concertgoers voted for them to be a returning artist.

The audience heard the band perform a handful of selections from its own Christmas album, "When It's Christmas Time."

Alex DePue introduced his own composition to kick off the concert, a song titled "The Fat Man" about Santa Claus.

Following that, banjo player Mike Munford kicked off a medley of Christmas Carols he had arranged, including "Sing We All of Christmas" and "Carol of the Bells."

Munford is a Grammy-nominated banjo player who has toured with various bands for the last 35 years.

Tuesday night's performance was notable in that

the band members announced they would not be performing the set list printed on the concert program.

"Just ignore that page for tonight, we're going off the cuff," said Wallace DePue, the lead vocalist and oldest brother.

The variety of the songs highlighted the classical and rock influences of the band's sound, in addition to more obscure influences.

Before the first intermission, Wallace showcased his ability to yodel on a traditional Bavarian Christmas song.

"That's what got him the girls in high school," brother Alex said after the performance.

Aside from Wallace, Munford and guitarist Mark Cosgrove, every member of the group performed on multiple instruments: Alex DePue played guitar, brother Jason played mandolin, drummer Dom Liuzzi played vibraphone and French horn for "Oh Holy Night" and Kevin McConnell alternated between upright and electric bass.

Having three violins in the group allowed for a wider variety of melodic parts; the brothers took to playing unison rhythms, with one playing higher in pitch and

one lower, and other times two brothers would play a simple harmonic pattern while the third would solo.

Following the intermission, the band jumped into a version of "Sleigh Ride" that mirrored the original Leroy Anderson arrangement, complete with whip cracks from Liuzzi.

Toward the end of the concert, Cosgrove performed lead vocals on the gospel song "Can I Get an Amen."

The set closed with a traditional bluegrass standard song titled "Orange Blossom Special," known as the "fiddle player's national anthem."

The band performed the song notably faster than any other bluegrass song of the night and upon ending received a standing ovation from the Dvorak Concert Hall crowd.

Following the song, Wallace jokingly said "I think we played it a little slower than last time, guys."

After the backing band members had left the stage, the DePue brothers performed a slower, somber rendition of Ave Maria with Alex playing piano.

Jackson Mortka can be reached at 581-2812 or jnmortka@eiu.edu.

Housing and Dining rates to be set

By Debby Hernandez Administration Editor | @DEN_News

Housing and Dining Services is working on finalizing the possible 2 percent increase on room and board rates for the next academic year, while making plans to finish renovations this year and begin others next fall.

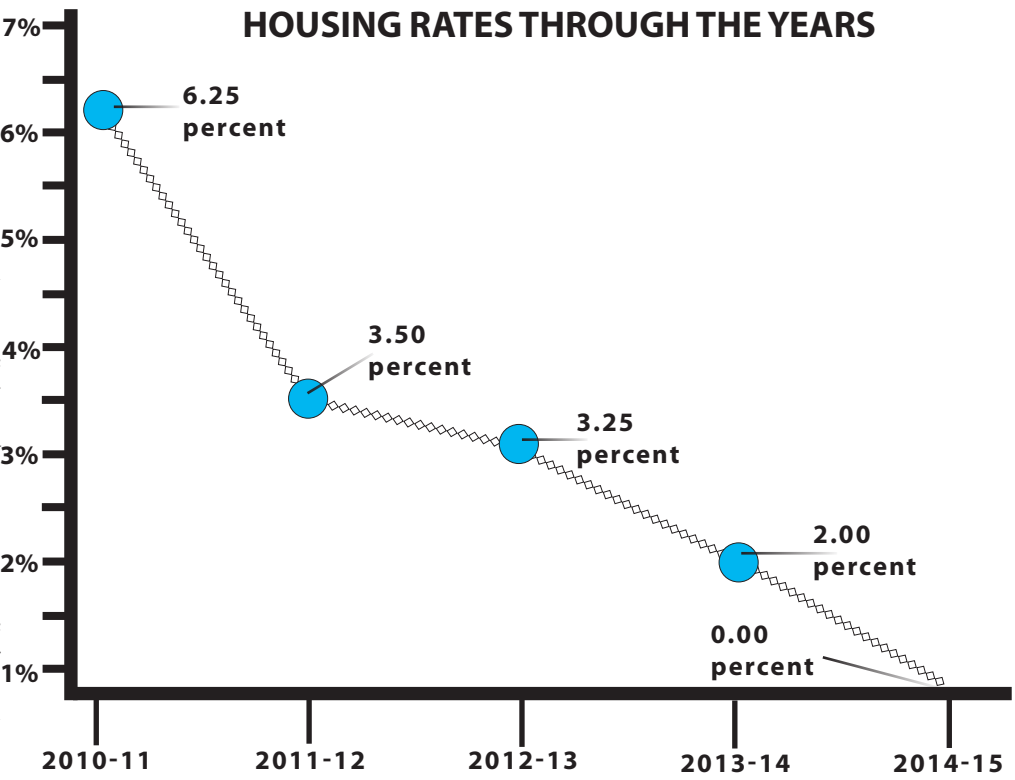
Mark Hudson, the director of Housing and Dinning Services, said the Bond Revenue Committee has reviewed the possible increase.

"They said certainly if the minimum wage goes through, 2 percent is reasonable, but they also are supportive of our capital projects we want to continue to work on," he said. "They said if (it) doesn't go through, maybe we should still do 2 percent to raise money to try to keep working on projects, because that benefits the students as well."

He said while legislators might not act upon minimum wage this year, they could do so the following year, which would affect budget for the next academic year.


Hudson said the committee was also fine with the possibility of not having increases.

HOUSING, page 5




Local weather

THURSDAY



Cloudy
High: 39°
Low: 26°

FRIDAY



Cloudy
High: 44°
Low: 33°

For more weather visit dailyeasternnews.com




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

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Do you wanna build a snowman?



JORDAN GAY | DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Allison Sheehan, a senior recreation administration major, dresses up as Anna from "Frozen" and helps one of the kids who attended the "Winter Wonderland" make Olaf in the University Ballroom on Wednesday. The NRHH opened the "Winter Wonderland", themed like "Frozen", to all kids in the Charleston-Mattoon region in an attempt to get kids hyped up for the holidays.

Students react to use of body cameras

By Roberto Hodge
Multicultural Editor | @BertoHodge

Some students and faculty believe the use of body cameras on police officers during their shift may help lessen instances of police brutality, but not necessarily change the issues within minority communities.

Tylen Elliott, a sophomore communication studies major, said police brutality is a sad issue that has been going on within the African-American community for a long time, but because of recent events, it is now being brought into the light.

Elliott is referring to when 43-year-old Eric Garner was confronted by New York police officers for allegedly selling cigarettes illegally this past July.

Garner was put into a chokehold from behind and taken to the ground. A video capturing his last words went viral.

"I can't breathe, I can't breathe," said Garner, repeatedly.

Garner's death came two months prior to 18-year-old Michael Brown, who was shot and killed by Ferguson, Mo., police officer Darren Wilson.

Missouri's grand jury did not indict Wilson for Brown's death.

New York's grand jury decided not to indict officer Daniel Pantaleo, who choked Garner, which sparked protests and demonstrations now known as "die-ins" around the nation.

Die-ins are a form of peaceful, but radical protest by way of laying deathly still on the ground in honor of lives lost to police brutality.

Elliott said the decision not to indict either officers Pantaleo or Brown sends a bad message that the lives of black men do not matter and they are not valued within this country.

Kevin Anderson, a professor of political science, said the decision sends a conflicting and disappointing message that police actions, which are designed to

serve and protect a community, can be enforced in a manner that is harmful to that very same community.

In light of both cases, President Barack Obama requested \$263 million in funding for more than 50,000 cameras.

Some are skeptical of their effectiveness, questioning if they would help the situation because of the decision not to indict the officer who was caught on camera choking Garner.

"(They're) only going to help those it intends to help," said Akeem Forbes, a sophomore English major. "It's just something to satisfy."

Brittany Fisher, a political science major, said she felt the usage of the body cameras could help, but the evidence would not be used properly because it may not show who actually attacked the victim because of the cameras being able to be shut off.

Fisher said both situations are unfair and show a sign of injus-

tice on the black community; she, like Forbes, suggested if the shoe was on the other foot with Wilson being black and Brown being white, the officer would have been arrested without the 100-day waiting period.

"The message that it sent is that this is OK. Black lives don't matter. It paints an image that our black men and women will always be targets," said Alex Neff, a political science major.

Both Anderson and Forbes said they believe a possible solution to police brutality would be heightened training sessions, evaluations and policing review on their actions to help them figure out the most effective ways to reduce crime without creating resentment between the citizens and police officers.

"This is 1968 all over again," Forbes said.

Roberto Hodge can be reached at 581-2812 or rlhodge@eiu.edu.



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Students to protest police brutality

By **Roberto Hodge**
Multicultural Editor | @BertoHodge

Students will march from the Doudna steps to Lincoln Street and have a die-in demonstration in honor of those who have been killed by police brutality or racism at 6 p.m. Friday.

Akeem Forbes, the coordinator of the march, said the march is to raise awareness of racial profiling happening around the nation.

He said all minority organizations are welcome and encouraged to join the march, and though the issue deals primarily with African-Americans, it affects everyone.

“It takes more than black or African-Americans to make a change,” Forbes said. “There are others that are considered minorities, it’s an everyone (issue).”

Forbes said the demonstration, which is formally called “The Movement...continued” as a sort of spinoff from Black Student Union’s earlier Movement, will have two phases.

The first will allow students to meet at the Doudna steps where they will be able to give speeches and speak out about the injustices African-Americans have gone through.

Then, students will march to Lincoln Street to organize their die-in.

Participants will all lie on the ground for 17 minutes — one minute for each of the 17 deaths due to police brutality in the past year, Forbes said.

“There has been this cry for action,” Forbes said.

Not only will the students march, they are all asked to wear black in solidarity for a united front as well as hold signs, chant and pray.

Forbes said students still need to do more work and take more initiative to talk about the issues, but beyond the talking, action needs to follow.

“We remain in the cycle of being reactive,” Forbes said.

America has a lot of growing to do when it comes to the basis of racism, he said.

Roberto Hodge can be reached at 581-2812 or rhodge@eiu.edu.

Santa Claus is coming to town

By **Katie Smith**
Online Editor | @DEN_News

Jim Morgan’s devotion to Santa Claus began mid-shift in a factory in Central Illinois. Up until the moment his full, white beard landed him in a Santa hat and delivering gifts at his company party, Jim Morgan spent his time as a deacon, a coach or a husband – but never a Santa Claus.

“That first year his coworkers gathered around and told him, ‘You’re doing a terrific job, with the kids. They’re so happy,’ said Jim’s Mrs. Claus, Linda Morgan. “I told them ‘Well, they ought to be happy. He’s promising every one of them a pony and a baby brother.’”

Since then, Jim Morgan books 40-70 Santa gigs a year, and has learned to never make promises to the children who throw themselves onto his lap, and real personal sentiments.

“Some will tell us, ‘we want our mother to be cured from cancer for Christmas,’” Linda Morgan said.

The spirit of Christmas is sometimes enough to bring Jim Morgan to tears.

“They think I can do something about it,” he said.

Trying to do something about it, however, is precisely why Jim Morgan became involved with the Central Illinois Santa Club.

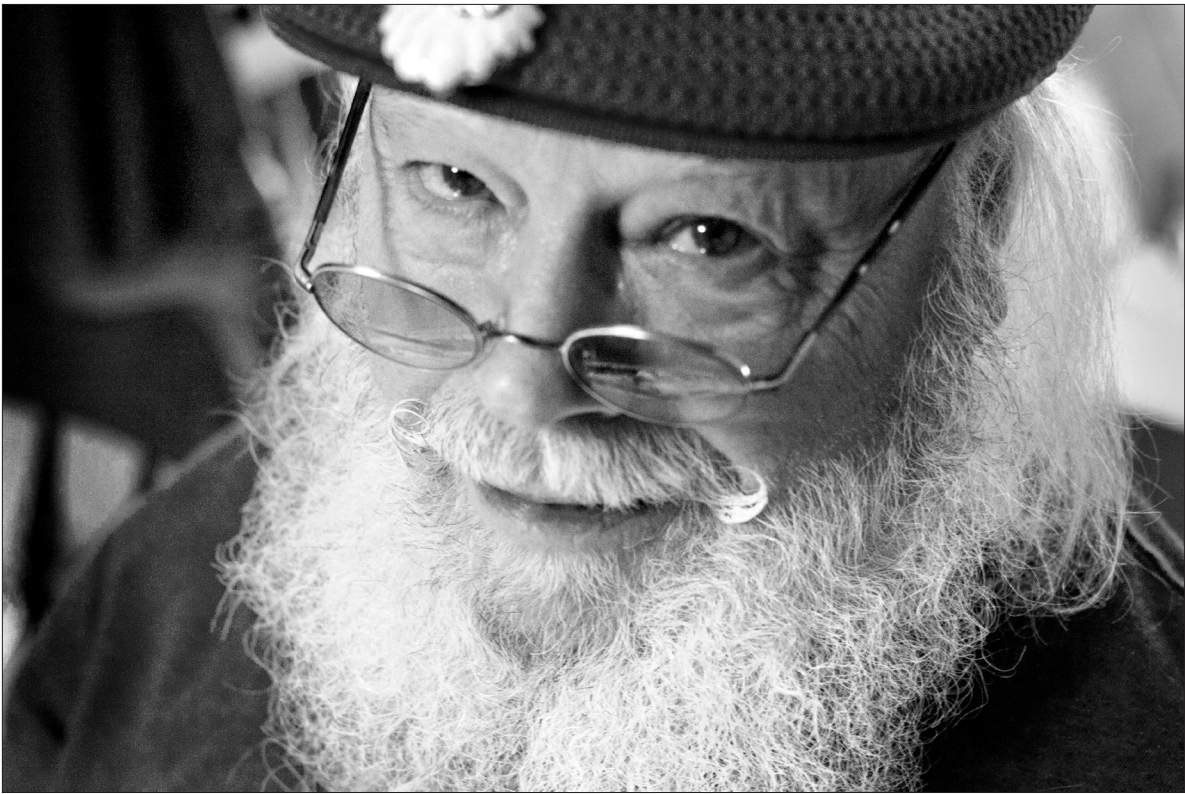
Scattered throughout the region are roughly 25 enthusiasts clad in red year-round, in the spirit of reminding people of the magic of Santa Claus.

“We have no leader. We have no dues. We have no constitution,” Jim Morgan said. “We just get together.”

Over the years, the Morgans have met and befriended couples who share their busy, holiday-inspired lifestyle.

“People will ask, ‘why do you get together?’” Linda Morgan said. “Well we have something in common, so we enjoy each other’s company and we share stories.”

From season to season, the Central Illinois Santas commit to their roles, wearing red no matter the weather, and always remaining in



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Jim Morgan, a member of the Central Illinois Santa Club, has booked 40 appearances with his wife, Linda Morgan, for this holiday season. The couple considers their hobby as a lifestyle, and they remain in character year-round, should a child recognize them in public.

character.

“There’s a spirit there, whether you believe in Santa Claus or not. People are kinder and nicer during Christmas time and we wish that prevailed all year long,” Jim Morgan said. “We hear stories that are sad sometimes and we can’t do anything about it. But we can try to make them feel better and we can hug them and tell them to do their best.”

One memory stands out to the Morgans as a manifestation of the Christmas Spirit they so ardently celebrate.

Seated at a table set for Breakfast with Santa was an unenthusiastic 12-year-old boy, who the Morgans described as trying very hard not to talk to Santa. After about 40 minutes the boy left his chair and surprised Jim Morgan with an innocent gesture.

“I looked up and he had taken a napkin and written a Christmas list, and came over and hugged me around the neck and said, ‘I made a list,’” Jim Morgan said.

“He decided he did believe,” Linda Morgan added.

The daughter of a Christian woman and a farming father, Linda Morgan lived a childhood absent of Santa Claus.

“My mother was Christian, my father was not,” she said. “He was a hard working dirt farmer and he wanted credit for everything we got. So we were not taught Santa Claus.”

Even when she was faced with the decision to teach her own children about Santa, she opted out.

“And I did not teach my kids Santa Claus because I was a Christian and I didn’t want them to confuse the two,” she said.

In fact, when Linda and Jim Morgan married, she only agreed to be Mrs. Claus under the condition she would be allowed to solicit the “true story of Christmas” at events.

“We not only believe in Santa, but we believe in the miraculous birth of Christ,” Linda Morgan said.

The Morgans believe today’s image of Santa Claus can be attribut-

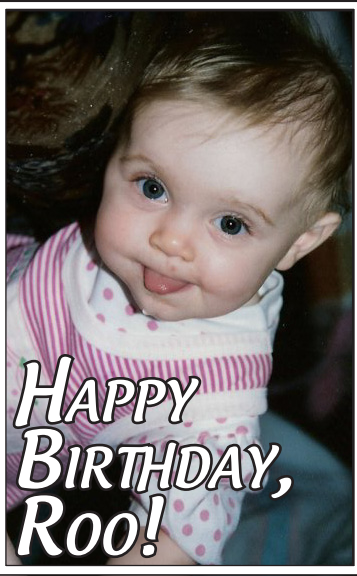
ed to a Greek Orthodox priest in Turkey by the name of Saint Nicholas. The wealthy priest lived among impoverished peoples, Jim Morgan said. At the end of each day, he added, the children would hang their stockings up by the fireside where Saint Nicholas would leave gold coins to prevent daughters from being sold into marriage.

“He paid their dowry so they wouldn’t have to be married when they were little girls,” Jim Morgan said.

Despite the Morgan’s religious affiliations, the couple lives the lifestyle of Mr. and Mrs. Claus to see the pleased reactions of those they encounter.

“I only believed in Santa until I was about four or five. I had an older brother,” Jim Morgan said. “I’ve seen kids 13 or so – I think they still did believe. I never assume that they don’t.”

Katie Smith can be reached at 581-2812 or kesmith2@eiu.edu.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Roo!

Holiday Memories Auction

Saturday, December 13, 2014
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December 11, 2014		What's Happening at EIU?
Tarble Exhibits 10 AM - 5 PM		Illinois Biennial Drawing/Watercolor & Frankie Flood: Machines that Work both on display
Sigma Tau Delta End of the Year Event 5 PM		Reservations are preferred; Pemberton Hall lounge
EIU Talks: "Community. Conflict. Conclusion" 6:30 PM		A proactive dialogue addressing different issues of racial and ethnic diversity; MLK Union
Check out more upcoming events at www.dailyeasternnews.com		

Holiday helpers



MACKENZIE FREUND | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Brianna Littlejohn, a sophomore communication studies major, and Harriet George, a junior biology major, serve a holiday dinner to Tyiesha Steele, a sophomore kinesiology and sports studies major, Wednesday in the Thomas Hall Dining Center.

» HOUSING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Maybe if we do a percent increase, it helps us be more competitive in the market of recruiting students, and that’s good too,” he said.

Housing and Dinning did not increase room and board rates this academic year, keeping the same costs from the 2013-2014 academic year for a 15 meal plan at \$9,358; the 12 meal plan at \$8,996; the 10 meal plan at \$8,670; and the seven meal plan at \$8,300.

In the past five academic school years, cost increases for room and board have gone down.

During the 2010-2011 academic year, rates increased 6.25 percent, with the 15 meal plan costing \$8,584, and the seven meal plan costing \$7,616.

By the 2011-2012 academic year, the cost for a 15 meal plan increased by \$300 and the seven meal plan went up to \$267, making it a 3.5 percent increase.

Increase in costs continued to decline from a 3.5 percent increase in 2011-2012 to a 3.25 increase in 2012-2013, raising costs for a 15 meal plan by \$289 and the seven meal plan by \$256.

Last year, costs increased by 2 percent, raising prices for a 15 meal plan by \$184 and by \$162 for a seven meal plan.

Hudson said other variables need to be reviewed before deciding on a possible increase, such as pension reform and health costs.

“If they decide the solution is to pass those costs back to us, then we have to figure out how to cover those costs,” he said.

He said renovations in residence halls will depend on how the variables affect the budget, but a 2 percent increase will help finish projects.

Hudson said a floor and a half of room renovations have been completed in Lawson Hall, and residents will move to these new rooms while their current ones and others are being renovated.

“Our goal is by the end of the spring semester, we would have finished three more floors of renovated rooms. That would leave two floors left; our intention is to do them next summer,” he said.

Possible renovations for fall 2015 include lobbies, floor lounges and furniture treatments.

Hudson said the big renovation project for the fall 2015 academic year will be Pemberton Hall.

“Probably what would happen during the year is we will continue on Pemberton Hall room renovations, so we can continue to make progress on getting that building to where we want it to be,” he said.

Hudson said major projects typically are done in the summer.

“It’s a little unique we’re working in these

rooms during the year, but we are in a good position to do that because we have available space,” he said.

Housing and Dining has conducted surveys on what students in residence halls think needs to be renovated.

“There is a process by where we are currently evaluating input from students to do a priority list,” Hudson said. “Our surveys indicate that we have some of the most satisfied residents for the services they get.”

He said one suggestion was to enhance the Thomas Hall convenience store.

“One of the challenges is the room it is in does not have running water in it, so it limits what you can do in it,” Hudson said.

He said one idea is to get running water into the room to install things such as a quick coffee machine.

Hudson said Eastern remains among the top in low room and board rates.

“Eastern remains one of the very best bargains for room and board in the state,” he said.

“We are amongst the very least expensive in (residential state universities).”

Debby Hernandez can be reached at 581-2812 or dhernandez5@eiu.edu.

BLOTTER

Two arrests made Tuesday

• Robert Wenthe, 19, 304 E. Walnut St., Teutopolis, was arrested at 2:24 a.m. Tuesday at 2100 Seventh St. and charged with driving on a suspended license. He was released at 2:58 a.m. with a notice to appear.

• Criminal damage to state property was reported at 4:31 a.m. Tuesday at Klehm Hall. The incident is under investigation.

• Jamal Moore, 20, 1911 10th St., Apt. 3, Charleston, was arrested on an in-state failure to appear warrant at 4:44 p.m. Tuesday. He was released at 5:40 p.m. after posting 10 percent of a \$3,000 bond.

• A cannabis complaint was reported at 12:47 p.m. Wednesday at Thomas Hall. The incident was referred to the Office of Student Standards.



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Have yourself a very cheesy Christmas



MACKENZIE FREUND | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Thomas dining staff prepare cheeseball snowmen for the Christmas dinner Wednesday in the Thomas Hall Dining Center.

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements

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Graphic artist and advertising assistant are both needed at The Daily Eastern News. Hours vary. Must be a motivated team player and have experience, preferably majoring in art/marketing. Apply in person, 1802 Buzzard Hall. Must be a student without a grad assistantship.

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Panthers host Huskies for in-state match-up

By **Jehad Abbed**
Staff Reporter | @Jehada

Head Coach Jay Spoonhour hopes the Eastern men's basketball team can recover quickly from its loss to California-Davis on Tuesday and prepare for its match up with Northern Illinois at 7 p.m. Saturday in Lantz Arena.

"Each individual guy needs to figure out what more they can do," Spoonhour said. "Things will start working out."

Eastern (3-6) is set to face Northern (3-2) in what will be only the second time it has seen the Huskies since February of 2013.

The Panthers beat Northern 59-47 in their last meeting.

With Eastern coming off a 80-70 loss Tuesday against the University of California-Davis, it looks to come back with a strong performance this weekend.

"We did not do a very good job of guarding them," Spoonhour said. "They are a tough team to defend."

Spoonhour said the team is able to change up the game plan more than in the past because of a large amount of returning players.

He said they change things up from game to game more than he ever has.

"There will be things we do against Northern Illinois that we didn't do against Davis, Cincinnati, or anyone else," He said.

The Huskies are coming to Eastern following a 78-67 loss to DePaul a week ago. Northern is led by sophomore guard Aaric Armistead, who is averaging 14.2 points per game. Armistead scored 16 points against DePaul on 6-of-13 performance from the field.

The Huskies are second in the Mid-Atlantic Conference in the rebounding category while Eastern sits in last place in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Northern averages almost 11 more

rebounds per game than the Panthers. This provides a possible concern for Eastern going in to Saturday's game. If the Panthers allow too many rebounds, they could be forced to contest a lot of shots from right under the basket.

Spoonhour said they allowed UC-Davis to make too many shots right at the rim.

"If you are letting teams get too much stuff around the rim, then you are in trouble," he said.

Senior guard Reggie Smith only played three minutes in the Panthers' win against Ball State University because of a minor knee injury.

Smith came out Tuesday and played 27 minutes leading Eastern with a team-high 16 points on a 5-of-8 shooting performance.

"(Reggie) bumped knees with somebody the day before the Ball State game," Spoonhour said. "His knee got to feeling better last night."

Smith is averaging 7.9 points per game on 36 percent shooting for the season. Spoonhour said Smith's offense is not necessary for him to have a good performance.

"People typically judge a player on how many points they had," he said. "But even if (Reggie's) shots were not going in, he still would have a really good game."

The Panthers gave up as much as 20 more points than they average for the season Tuesday against UC-Davis. After a day off Wednesday, they will begin to prepare for Saturday's game.

"These guys are young," Spoonhour said. "They will bounce back from that stuff."

Eastern will host Northern Illinois at 7p.m. Saturday at Lantz Arena for its last home game until January.

Jehad Abbed can be reached at 217-581-2812 or Jaabbed@eiu.edu



KEVIN HALL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior guard, Luke Norman attempts to get past a defender in the game Wednesday against Ball State University in Lantz Arena.

Wide receivers biggest need in offseason

By **Aldo Soto**
Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

Heading into his first full offseason, Eastern football coach Kim Dameron has the task of bringing in several skill position players, as the Panthers are losing two running backs, three wide receivers and their All-Ohio Valley Conference tight end.

The biggest departure will be Charleston native Adam Drake, who was named to the OVC's first team and was one of the best wide receivers in the entire FCS.

"Well, you have the No. 1 yardage receiver in the country in Adam Drake that's not going to be back, so statistically you can say probably wide receivers are our biggest loss," Dameron said. "You have Drake, (Stephen) Bravo-Brown, Joe Powell and (Jeff) LePak all gone."

The quartet combined for 179 of Eastern's 237 receptions from Panthers' wide receivers and tight ends.

Anthony Taylor, who was a red-shirt freshman, is one of the receivers that Dameron said has to step up next season for Eastern, with the loss of so many vital weapons.

"He's going to be somebody that we're going to look at more and more," he said. "But we have to go out and recruit and that's something we're really focused on, finding good talent at wide receiver."

Taylor was second on the team with two receiving touchdowns and finished the year with 23 catches for 306 yards.

"We have to develop the talent that we have here and we do have some talented young men – they have to be put



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Red-shirt senior wide receiver Adam Drake avoids the tackle during the Panthers' 48-26 win over Murray State on Sept. 8 at O'Brien Field.

in that situation where they're the guy, but they have to earn that," Dameron said.

Red-shirt junior Shepard Little was the Panthers' best running back, rushing for 797 yards and three touchdowns. Yet, Taylor Duncan and Jimmy Lera, who combined for eight touchdowns, will not return after completing their senior years.

On defense, Dameron has almost all of his starters returning next year, but two of his top three leading tacklers will not.

"The skill positions on offense we lose quite a bit," Dameron said. "Defensively, the linebackers are basically it, where we have to replace Robert Haynes and

Adam Gristick."

The duo had 155 tackles, with Gristick having 80 and Haynes 75.

Dameron was first hired in early January, less than a month before National Signing Day, when high school recruits commit to schools. After a full year, Dameron and his staff have been able to narrow down their search in the recruiting process.

"It's totally different now opposed to last year, when we were just trying to put together a class that was well rounded," he said. "Now, we're a little more position specific."

After completing his first season as a head coach, Dameron said the recruiting doesn't end once signing day comes.

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» THWARTED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"I was tired of watching our starters," Black said. "I don't think they showed up. At that point, you have to try other people. They didn't quit. We did a really good job with them. They showed me a lot of guts."

Smith, Madison and Griffin played a combined 27 minutes in the second half, scored 11 points, and had two steals between the three of them.

With being down 20 so late in the game, the Panthers slowly came back with the help of Milwaukee's turnovers and missed shots.

They cut it to eight at one point late in the second half, but that is as close as they got.

The 43 points scored in the second half, was the most the Panthers scored all year.

Despite losing, Black said there were some positives that came out of the game.

"You have to make up some sort of silver lining here," she said. "We did some good things. I love not-quit kind of play. I saw that at the end of the game. We gave ourselves a chance and that is all you can do. You can't dig a 15 point hole and expect to come out of the game and win by 20."

Sabina Oroszova continued her hot stretch with 20 points and 15 rebounds on 9-of-17 shooting.

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JEHAD ABBED | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Nyah Lane, a freshman sprinter on the Eastern track team, broke the program record in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.53 seconds at the EIU Early Bird. The Panthers next meet is Jan. 17 at the Illinois Intercollegiate in Champaign.

Nyah in the fast ‘Lane’

Freshman breaks record at EIU Early Bird

By Mark Shanahan
Staff Reporter | @DEN_Sports

It didn’t take long for Nyjah Lane to showcase her speed. In the Eastern track and field team’s first meet of the season, Lane, a freshman, broke the program’s 60-meter dash record with a time of 7.53 seconds in her first collegiate track meet at the EIU Early Bird last Friday. At Highland High School, Lane

advanced to the IHSA class 3A state championships in four events her senior year. She competed in the 100-meter dash where she placed 8th and the 200-meter sprints. Lane was also apart of 4x100 and 4x200-meter relay race teams. She set school records in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes for her high school. Lane runs the 60 and 200-meter races at Eastern and is ready to

keep working hard after breaking a school record. “My goals are to really do my best and to focus on my time and just focus on being better,” Lane said. “We do a lot of speed work so that helps and just a lot of practicing on blocks and continuous running.” Lane started running track at a young age. “When I was younger I realized I didn’t want to play basketball

anymore and I was actually good at sprinting so I tried out for the track team when I was in the fifth grade,” she said. “I really didn’t start till my eighth grade year but I just really liked the adrenaline rush that I got when I was running.” The Illinois High School State Championships at Eastern helped bring Lane to school as a student after high school. “I came here for state meets multiple times and it always felt

like home,” Lane said. “Before I came here I didn’t realize that Eastern was more than just track, so when I saw the other buildings it was a really pretty school and they had the major that I wanted to go in to. It pretty much just fit who I was.”

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Dean sets new all-time mark

By Mark Shanahan
Staff Reporter | @DEN_Sports

Junior Dhiaa Dean also broke the record in the 600-meter dash with a time of 1:32.94 at the EIU Early Bird. Dean competed in both indoor and outdoor track and field in both 2013 and 2014. In 2014, she competed in the 400-meter, 600-meter and 800-meter in the indoor season earning first team All-OVC in the 800-meter. She was also named to the first team All-Ohio Valley Conference with the distance medley relay team. In high school, she placed third in the 800-meter dash at the Illinois state championship meet. She also reached the state championships with the 4x400-relay team as



DHIAA DEAN

a high school senior. Dean participates in the 400-meter, 800-meter and 4x400 relay for Eastern and is looking to improve even more after breaking a school record. “For the 800, I want to get down to at least a 2:07 and in the 400 at least a 54,” she said. Dean did extensive training in the off-season. “During the off-season I did a lot of mileage and basically base training,” she said. “I did a lot of five to six mile runs everyday with people from my old school. I did a lot of weight lifting and just basic speed work.” Dean also had a love for track at an early age. “It started when I was in fourth grade and I decided to run with the big kids and it really excited me when I beat one the older girls in the 100 and it just progressed from there.” Eastern being a smaller school made Dean feel more comfortable coming here. “I decided to come to Eastern because I wanted to go to a smaller school,” Dean said. “I was kind of intimidated by the bigger schools like U of I and SIU-E and I liked the program here for KSS.”

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Comeback attempt thwarted for Panthers

Women’s basketball falls to 3-5

By Bob Reynolds
Staff Reporter | @BobReynoldsDEN

The Eastern women’s basketball team lost to Wisconsin-Milwaukee 72-63 in Milwaukee on Wednesday at Panther Arena. With the Panthers leading 20-15 at the 8:20 mark in the first half, the Milwaukee would go on a 20-0 run to end the half and lead 35-20. Also in the first half, the Panthers committed 18 turnovers, which is their season high and shot 36 percent in the half. Eastern coach Debbie Black said it was nothing Milwaukee did, but more of what her team couldn’t do. “The biggest number that stands out to me is our turnovers, and turnovers for no reason,” she said. “We were throwing it across the gym. It was kind of bizarre to

watch it from our end as coaches. We are not quite sure how that happened, to be down 15.” The start of the second half wasn’t much different than the first half for the Panthers. They turned the ball over on the first inbounds play and could not seem to stop Milwaukee. With about 11 minutes left in the second half, Milwaukee brought its lead back up to 20 with a three pointer by Jordyn Swan, who had 10 points on the day. The Panthers started to make a comeback attempt late in the second half, with the help of three freshmen and a sophomore, who were only the floor for the majority of the second half, due to Black not liking the way her starters were playing. Jalisha Smith, Mariah Madison and Bh’rea Griffin , along with Erica Brown, played important minutes down the stretch in the game and put the Panthers in a position to make a comeback according to their coach.

NAME	NEW RECORD	OLD RECORD
NYJAH LANE	7.53 SECONDS 60-METER	7.58 SECONDS 60-METER
DHIAA DEAN	1:32.94 600-METER	1:34.28 600-METER