

8-30-2013

## Daily Eastern News: August 30, 2013

Eastern Illinois University

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## CADET CONDITIONING

Photo spread showcases ROTC cadets training in the Rotary Community Aquatic Center Thursday for water combat.

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## WILD WILD WEST

Eastern football team opens its 2013 season on the road against San Diego State.

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# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Friday, Aug. 30, 2013

“TELL THE TRUTH AND DON’T BE AFRAID”

VOL. 98 | ISSUE 11

CAMPUS | FINANCE

## Credit rating down for Eastern

By Rachel Rodgers  
Special Projects Reporter  
@rj\_rodgers

Because of state funding pressures and declining enrollment, an international credit-rating agency downgraded Eastern’s credit rating, the university’s ability to issue bonds to pay for buildings housed on campus, in early August.

Moody’s Investors Service also downgraded several other universities including Illinois State, Governors State, Western, Northern, Northeastern and Southern universities along with the University of Illinois.

University Treasurer Paul McCann said the reasoning for the downgrade was two-fold.

Moody’s decreased the state of Illinois’ credit rating to A3 from A2 in June, and this caused most state universities to be downgraded to A3 or lower, he said.

The other reasoning behind the downgrade came from declining enrollment and issues with state expenses, namely the state’s pension debacle.

The state carries an unfunded pension liability of about \$100 billion, and part of pension-reform deliberations have included the possibility of the state shifting normal pension costs to universities, which means universities like Eastern would have to pay millions of extra dollars each year.

According to the Moody’s downgrade report issued on Aug. 9, “If pension reform is passed, EIU may need to fund a portion of its pension expense, possibly as early as FY 2015. If pension reform fails to be enacted, we expect continued pressure on state operating appropriations.”

Even though Eastern’s rating fell to Baa1 from A3, the downgrade will not have an immediate effect on Eastern, McCann said.

“It really only matters when you’re buying a bond, and all of our bonds have been sold,” he said. “We’re not issuing any new ones imminently so there is no immediate affect on people buying our bonds.”

Another aspect that protects Eastern from the negative rating is the university does not have any variable-rate bonds. Eastern has fixed-rate bonds for the life of the bonds, meaning the interest rate is set.

Eastern has two main types of bonds, revenue bonds that primarily pay for the residence halls and certificates of participation for energy-conservation aspects and the Renewable Energy Center.

The university has about \$28 million outstanding in revenue bonds and about \$95 million in certificates of participation. The Renewable Energy Center makes up about \$85 million outstanding in the certificates of participation, McCann said.

“The revenue bonds are secured by the revenue that is earned by whatever we build, the housing revenue,” he said. “The revenue that we get from renting out those rooms goes toward paying the bond.”

The certificates of participation generally work like a mortgage. Bondholders get a sort of interest in the certificates but do not have the same authority as in a mortgage, where someone can repossess a home.

Rachel Rodgers can be reached at 581-2812 or rjrodgers@eiu.edu.



For the in-depth version of this article go to:

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ILLINOIS HOUSE BILL | NEW LAW

## Smoking bills



AMANDA WILKINSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

A new law passed by Gov. Quinn now specifically names cigarettes as littering material and can be punished with a fine of up to \$1,500. The law will go into effect Jan. 1, 2013.

## Cigarette litter to yield hefty fine

By Bob Galuski  
News Editor  
@DEN\_News

Smokers in Illinois may find the price of their cigarettes hit a huge increase if they choose to litter their cigarette butts after the first of the year.

Gov. Pat Quinn signed Illinois House Bill 3243 earlier this month that, beginning Jan. 1, would make tossing cigarette butts on the ground considered littering.

If smokers are caught littering their cigarettes, the first time conviction is a class B misdemeanor, with a fine to not exceed \$1,500. The second conviction is a class A misdemeanor, with the same fine.

However, a third and any convictions after may result in a class 4 felony, with a fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment of not less than one year and not more than three years.

The bill for the first time specifically names cigarettes in the laundry list of other waste products, which includes garbage,

debris, metal and plastic.

Crime Prevention Officer Dave Closson said after the law takes effect, discarded cigarette butts on-campus would be treated like any other offense.

“If we see it, we’ll address it,” he said.

Closson added there are numerous trashcans and ashtrays throughout campus for smokers to dispose of their cigarettes in.

Lt. Brad Oyer of the Charleston Police Department said the city currently has ordinances on littering.

“We don’t see an outcry from the city about cigarette butts,” he said. “But if certain areas did have a problem, we have the tools to help.”

Trisha Bailey, a graduate student in the biology department, said she even though she smokes, she sees no problem with the new law taking effect.

“(Groundskeepers) work really hard around here to make sure the campus looks nice,” she said.

Bailey also said she thought the penalties for the convictions were steep, however.

“If the point is to deter, they should start smaller, like \$100,” she said. “If it’s too high, people can’t visualize it. I can visualize losing \$100, but at that high it’s too hard to see as a deterrent to behavior.”

Ryley Davis, a senior family and consumer science major, said the new law would not bother him too much.

“There are always ashtrays around,” he said. “(The fine) doesn’t affect me either, because I won’t be littering.”

He also said the law would be a fact of life and people should adjust for it.

“It’s going to go into effect whether or not I like it,” he said.

Closson said one thing people need to be aware about is not being careless with their cigarette butts.

“People need to realize they cannot flick their cigarette butts wherever they want,” he said.


Bob Galuski can be reached at 581-2812 or rgaluski@eiu.edu.






Local weather

TODAY



Mostly sunny  
High: 91°  
Low: 72°

SATURDAY



Partly cloudy  
High: 94°  
Low: 72°

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

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LOCAL | SERVICE

Eastern joins fight to feed hungry

By Jarad Jarmon  
Student Governance Editor  
@JJarmonReporter

Eastern students and faculty will be working with Standing Stone Community Center, a local non-profit organization, running the Eat Program to continue their fight to feed the community.

The program will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Standing Stone on 201 North Sixth Street.

They will be serving hotdogs, pasta salad and various fruits, chips and beverages.

Along with food, other activities will be available for kids such as arts and crafts or even games.

Rachel Fisher, the director of student community services, said the activities all depend on who is there and what age group is attending.

Fisher said this will be the first time since the spring semester that Eastern has been a part of the program.

“During the academic year, Eastern students and faculty and staff volunteer their time to do it,” Fisher said.

Student Community Services members partnered with Standing Stone to ensure there would be a free meal over the weekend for those in the area.

Fisher said while Charleston did have a local soup kitchen, it was only open Monday through Friday.

“We didn’t have a free meal on the weekends, so Standing Stone and I

Currently, the Eat Program takes place on the last Saturday of every

hope to increase the frequency of the program offered later on.

The program was originally started in October because Charleston lacked the services to provide free meals over the weekend to those in the area.

Dawn Thompson, the executive director of Standing Stone, said hunger is an issue in Coles County as well as other places.

She also said one out of every six people in the county are food insecure.

When someone is food insecure, they are not sure when or where their next meal will come from.

Fisher expects mostly faculty and staff will be running the program, even though students normally run the program.

“For this particular weekend, due to the holiday, it is going to be easier to be for volunteers that live here locally,” Fisher said.

Fisher said the program is a nice way to meet neighbors, sit, relax and eat some free food.

“The best part is I don’t cook, so you know it is going to be good,” Fisher said.

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA WILKINSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS  
The Eat Program is based out of the Standing Stone Community Center and meals will be available to those who show up. It is going on from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday at Standing Stone .

got together and said, “Well, lets do something,” Fisher said.

month.  
Fisher said Standing Stone and her

COMMUNITY | GIRLS ON THE RUN

Firefly Run to continue recent success

By Blake Nash  
Staff Reporter  
@DEN\_News

Community members will have the opportunity to participate in a program to help girls become better leaders.

The Firefly Run will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Douglas-Hart Nature Center in Mattoon.

The goal of the race is to walk or run as many laps around the one-mile trail as possible, before the time ends at dark. This will be a free function and no sign-in will be necessary.

The trail will be lit with lanterns, and members of the Girls on the Run organization will hand out glow sticks to the participants.

The race is a part of the #somuchfun Fun Run Series, hosted by the organization.

Ashli Crowe, the director of the East Central Illinois branch of Girls on the Run, said the race is for anybody in the community who wants to have fun.

“The run is for anyone in the community who wants to get outside, have fun, and meet other families, and people with the same interests,” she said.

She also said the fun run can be a good training session for the 5K run later this year.

“The 5K run on November 9 is, without a doubt, our biggest event,” Crowe said. “Our first 5K in 2011 consisted of 15 girls in the program,

and 400 runners. Last year we had 229 girls, and 800 total runners.”

In 2007, the Girls on the Run organization was brought to East Central Illinois, under the direction of Crowe.

Crowe became active in the organization, which started in 1996, when she said she felt the need for escape from stressful situations.

“There were times in my life when I had no belief in myself,” Crowe said. “This program helped to change my life in the past, so I want it to be that way for the girls here.”

The program is a non-profit after-school program for 3rd-8th grade girls, utilizing a curriculum developed by Girls on the Run International.

She also said the organization helps

girls to become better leaders.

It also helps teach life skills, such as dealing with bullies, media, and body image, making healthy decisions and contributing to the community.

Crowe also said she was interested in having volunteers from Eastern to help with this year’s Firefly Run. Volunteers who are interested are encouraged to contact the Mattoon Area Family YMCA.

“I would love to have Eastern students participate in ways, such as, taking part in cheering stations, sponsors, giving notes of encouragement to the runners and even being coaches,” she said.

Blake Nash can be reached at 581-2812 or [banash@eiu.edu](mailto:banash@eiu.edu).

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HOUSING | CHANGES

# Lawson transitions to coed residence

By Laura Hamlyn  
Staff Reporter  
@DEN\_News

The commencement of the fall semester saw male students officially joining the Lawson Ladies after 46 years of Lawson Hall being a female residence hall.

Mark Hudson, the director of University Housing and Dining Services, said he was pleased with how easily Lawson transitioned to becoming a coed residence.

“All we had to do was the assignment process and put men in there instead of women, so it has worked out fine,” Hudson said.

The change came about in January after the Residence Hall Association voted on a solution to the room imbalance, which was brought about by Thomas Hall converting to a coed building.

“In the last two years we have converted two buildings. Thomas Hall used to be an all men’s residence hall and last school year we converted that to be coed,” Hudson said.

male/female space availability,” Hudson said.

Hudson explained the 350 students living in Lawson are coed by floor.

“There are four women’s floors and three men’s floors,” he said. “The largest percentage of any class are freshman, but there are upperclassmen in the building as well.”

Laura Imbirowicz, resident director of Lawson Hall, echoed Hudson’s sentiments, expressing her happiness with the transition.

She said that she was impressed with the amount of interest male residents had shown in becoming involved with life in Lawson.

“We’ve had a lot of interest in males wanting to get involved in hall council, which is really great,” she said.

Kenneth Barbee, a sophomore amongst the first men to live in Lawson, said he was eager to get involved.

“I work at the desk, and plan on joining hall council and becoming an RHA rep as well,” he said.



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Allie Heaton, a freshman elementary education major; Ryan Frazier, a freshman kinesiology and sport studies major; and Liz Pimentel, a freshman elementary education major, wait for the doors of an elevator to close in Lawson Hall Thursday. Lawson Hall became coed the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year after 46 years of being female-only.

ing living in Lawson so far.

“Me and a couple of buddies wanted to triple, and we ended up getting one of the nicest rooms here,” Barbee said.

Ashley McCray, a desk assistant in Lawson, has resided in the building since 2012 and said that having the males around has been good.

“I feel like it’s more sociable here since they’ve come,” McCray said. “Working here at the desk is

actually really helpful because I interact with all of them coming from the steps or down the elevator.”

Despite having lived in Lawson when it was a female residence, McCray said she did not feel things were any different now.

“It’s just getting used to them being here, but other than that it hasn’t been a major change,” she said.

Now that the Lawson Ladies are

sharing their building with men, the decision to change their name has yet to be determined.

“Our hope is once we get our hall council established, that by the end of this semester we have a new nickname and maybe even a new mascot,” Imbirowicz said.

“This year we did Lawson because of the interest, but also because we needed to balance our male/female space availability”

-Mark Hudson, Director of University Housing and Dining Services

“This year we did Lawson because of the interest, but also because we needed to balance our

Barbee, who previously resided in Taylor Hall, said that he was enjoy-

Laura Hamlyn can be reached at 581-2812 or lhamlyn@eiu.edu.

ACADEMICS | CURRICULUM

# Committee to redefine general education goals

By Robert Downen  
Administration Editor  
@den\_news

The Committee for Assessment of Student Learning will begin a campaign to redraft Eastern’s current learning goals next week.

The committee, which presented Thursday afternoon to the Council on Academic Affairs, has worked over the last two years to develop a newer and more universal definition of “general education” for the university’s curriculum.

Stephen Lucas, co-chair of the CASL, said the new goals “emerged organically,” though he also stressed the large amount of current research

that he said indicated a sincere need for the university to rework their current general education standards.

The five updated learning goals, which will go into effect pending approval from the Student Senate, Faculty Senate and curriculum committees from the university’s four colleges, place a prominent emphasis on critical reading and thinking skills, as well as speaking and listening, quantitative reasoning, and writing and critical reading.

Lucas said each of the five goals is an important aspect of critical thinking, and said when the committee originally sought to establish the new standards they adopted critical thinking as an “umbrella under which ev-

erything else falls.”

Additionally, the new goals place less emphasis on “responsible global citizenship”—one of Eastern’s four current goals—and simply “responsible citizenship.”

The small change, which Lucas said he views as an important distinction, is aimed at nurturing Eastern students into citizens who understand how to positively influence the world, whether at home or abroad.

“I like the idea that graduates could almost print out the new goals on the back of their diploma and be able to say, ‘These are real skills that I have,’” Lucas said.

The changes, pending approval, would go into effect this semester, and

would likely mean changes in syllabi for many general education courses across campus.

Rebecca Throneburg, a CAA member and co-chairwoman of the CASL, said while the new goals will first be implemented in general education courses, she hopes upperclassmen and major classes will adapt their curriculum accordingly within a few years.

Both Lucas and Throneburg stressed the importance of communication with university faculty in implementing the new standards, and said they plan to utilize multiple interactive platforms to discuss the goals with Eastern’s staff.

Lucas cited a webpage that he said will include surveys and other medi-

um for commentary, which he said the CASL will use to gather input from the Eastern community.

“We want to make this a very public process,” Lucas said.

He also noted a small grant from the Illinois Board of Higher Education that helped facilitate the CASL’s research, and said the state is very interested in improving higher education and common core standards.

Should the changes be approved, Throneburg said the committee would begin adapting general education courses by the middle of this semester.

Robert Downen can be reached at 581-2812 or jrdownen@eiu.edu



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STAFF EDITORIAL

# NSA puts privacy protection in jeopardy

OUR POSITION

- **Situation:** The National Security Agency was found collecting phone metadata.
- **Stance:** Without viable cause, the use and organization of this information should be considered a violation of privacy.

Every citizen has a certain right to privacy, and the National Security Agency’s collecting phone metadata should be a red flag of concern to all.

The Fourth Amendment helps to protect our right of privacy, but phone records are more of a complicated issue.

In *Smith v. Maryland*, a U.S. Supreme Court case from 1979, the court ruled that phone records belong to phone companies and are not protected under one’s general privacy rights. However, the information that has surfaced about the collection of phone metadata has sprouted much controversy.

The manner for which the data is being organized and used can reveal personal information that could lead to a violation of privacy that government agencies should not have access to with out viable cause.

An immense issue with this data collection is the possibility of not only abusing the information but also violating instances of anonymity. For example, many different hotlines exist where callers expect their identity to be kept private such as with suicide, domestic violence and sexual assault hotlines.

This could also put confidential sources, or “whistleblowers” in danger because their call history could indicate that the person was speaking with someone from a newspaper, police agency or law firm.

It is understandable that phone records can be useful when trying to track down someone who is breaking the law or plotting a heinous crime, but taking the data without cause to be suspicious of someone should be considered as a violation of privacy.

People should educate themselves on their privacy rights and should advocate to keep them safe.

The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of *The Daily Eastern News*.

**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* or to the [DENopinions@gmail.com](mailto:DENopinions@gmail.com).

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# Striving towards greatness, remembering a “King”

When I began writing this column, I came to the conclusion that great men often stand on the shoulders of other great men. I believe this is especially important when considering the lives of the two men in this article.

It was the beginning of a long struggle for peace, at the end of one of the largest wars in the history of our country. The effects of such a war would not only determine the fate of the nation, but the fate of one man. This man came from humble beginnings, he was not born powerful or rich, but he could draw a crowd and in this moment he gave a speech so powerful as to shake the very foundations of the earth. It was 1863 and the man in front of the crowd was Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States. He began:

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal...”

But then the unthinkable happened. President Andrew Johnson was elected and reconstruction began. It would be over a century before African-Americans could once again repulse the harsh realities of the deep south and racist tensions across the country in the 1960s. The comparison is not without its irony, even after the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments were passed the African-American community progressed towards equality only as much as the rest of society was willing to allow.



Sean Copeland

Then Lincoln’s legacy came to fruition through another leader. He wasn’t white and he wasn’t the president, but he fought for the very same ideals that drove Lincoln to be great. Martin Luther King Jr. (named after the German reformer, Martin Luther) was a proud black man and a Baptist minister. 50-years later when one speaks of civil rights, his name alone carries the weight and sacredness of a people, if any name could.

From his march in Washington to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, King stood as an Olympic figure of ethical fortitude. On Aug. 28, 1963 from his pulpit, he stood and gazed among the hundreds of thousands of supporters and told us of a dream. But before he echoed the most famous phrase of his speech, he spoke about another great man, and another great speech.

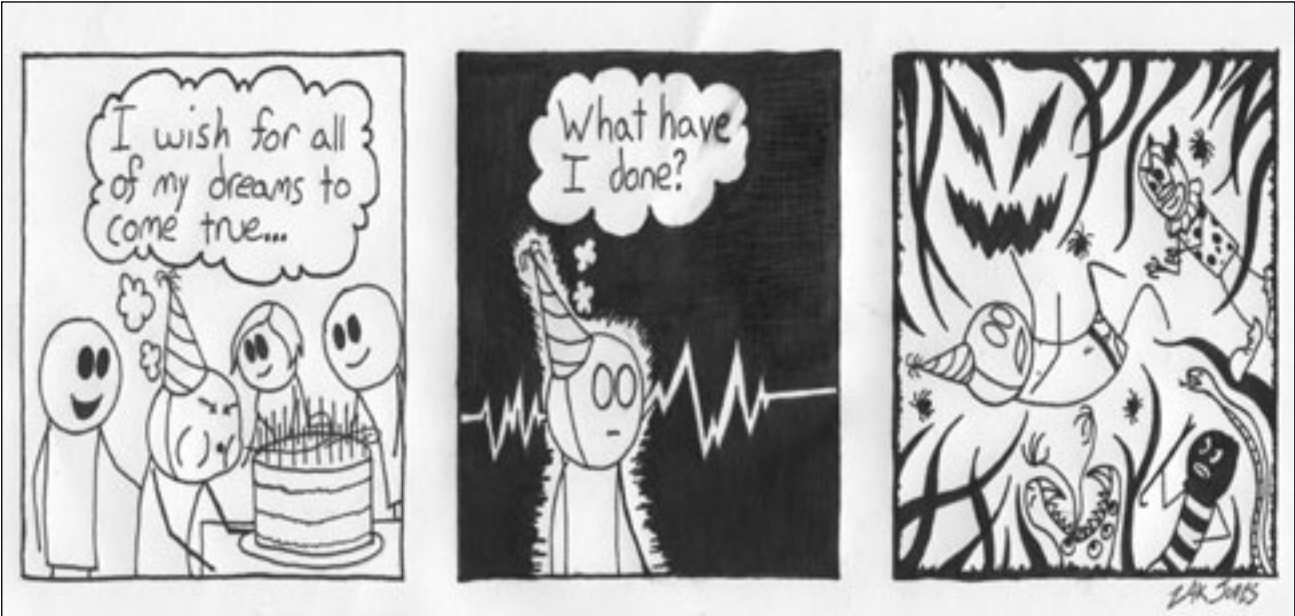
“Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of

hope to millions of negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity. But one hundred years later, the negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. And so we’ve come here today to dramatize a shameful condition.”

And yet in spite of all the tragedies both then and now that have threatened the equality Lincoln and King both strived towards, the dream persists. Though you may not agree with his policies or his political stances, we now have an African-American President (Or if you prefer, a president of African-American ancestry). As a white man, I will never know the trials and tribulations any African-American has gone through. But I will always honor the lives of these two great men by inspiring others to represent their ideals and live in a way that would honor the sacrifices made in the name of equality.

*Sean Copeland is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or [denopinions@gmail.com](mailto:denopinions@gmail.com)*

DRAWN FROM THE EASEL



ZAK JONES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

# Don’t overshadow cancer , all types are important

Many organizations, research groups, families and pediatric oncologists all over the world recognize September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

The sad thing is that anyone who is not affected by childhood cancer usually does not know that September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Every year, childhood cancer awareness is overshadowed by the following month’s awareness, breast cancer.

Now, I don’t want people to think I do not care about breast cancer because I do. I have been directly affected by breast cancer in my life, but childhood cancer, especially leukemia, has become common in our lifetime and it is not recognized like it should be.

I wrote a column Monday on the Relay for Life and how I am a childhood cancer survivor of leukemia. Since transferring to Eastern in the fall of 2011, I have contacted multiple organizations on campus that raise money for cancer and have told them about



Emily Provance

September being Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and no one has responded to me or done anything about it.

Breast cancer fundraising is a wonderful thing, but it usually starts in mid-September and therefore it overshadows any hope of being able to speak up for the children that can’t speak for themselves.

I have been going to a camp for children with and survivors of cancer since 1999. I started as a camper and now I am a counselor. Over the 14 years I have been attending camp One Step At A Time, I have had to comfort myself and fellow friends as we had

memorials for friends (campers and counselors) of ours that lost the fight.

Having done some research and being involved in the world of pediatric oncology since 1998, I know that many children die every year fighting the painful battle.

According to The American Cancer Society, 11,630 children under the age of 15 will get diagnosed in 2013 and 1,310 children who have cancer are expected to die in 2013. The American Cancer Society also said cancer is the second leading cause of death in children 15-years old or younger and that a child’s chances of dying from cancer are 53 percent, this is less then in 1975 but 53 percent is still a high percent.

I think it is time to help the children, the world is always talking about how the children are our future, let’s help the children make it to the future.

*Emily Provance is a senior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or [denopinions@gmail.com](mailto:denopinions@gmail.com)*



ROTC | WATER COMBAT TRAINING

# RTOC train at Rotary Community Aquatic Center



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Cadets in the EIU Army ROTC walk toward the pool to begin swimming for ten minutes for the water combat training at the Rotary Community Aquatic Center Thursday.



Master Sergeant Michael Gately, a senior military instructor, pushes a cadet off a diving board.



Jeremy Limp, a freshman political science major, pulls his uniform off of his head.



Craig Sharp, a senior kinesiology and sports studies major, pushes Zach White, a junior sociology major, into a pool for ROTC water combat training at the Rotary Community Aquatic Center Thursday.



White attempts to take off his gear while underwater.



Cadets tread water for five minutes in the pool.



Piles of cadets' gear lay on the ground.



Cadets swim for 10 minutes in the pool.



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WOMEN'S SOCCER | TOURNAMENT PREVIEW



DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS  
Bianca Navejas, a sophomore midfielder, moves the ball past Oakland midfielder, Stephanie Pilarski, at Lakeside Field on Aug. 23.

# Eastern enters Green Bay in search of win

## Tournament to be streamed for free online

By **Dominic Renzetti**  
Managing Editor  
@domrenzetti

Three of the four teams in this weekend's Green Bay Phoenix Tournament are all seeking their first wins of the season.

Eastern (0-2), Northern Iowa (0-2) and host Green Bay (0-1-1) are all winless through the first week of the season and hoping to make a step in the right direction this weekend in Green Bay.

The only team without a zero in the win column is Western Illinois (1-1), which is coming off perhaps one of its biggest wins in program history after the Aug. 23, 2-1 double overtime win against Northwestern.

That was Western's first ever win over a Big Ten team following senior defender Kristin Becker's game-winner.

For Eastern, the tournament comes following a weekend in which the Panthers gave up eight goals in two matches against Oakland and Northern Illinois.

The Panthers started two different goalkeepers in each of their last two matches: sophomore Emily Hinton and red-shirt freshman Kylie Morgan, but interim head coach Jason Cherry is not saying who will get the nod this weekend.

"As of the moment, the goalkeeper situation is a game-time decision," Cherry said.

The team's first matchup will be at 2 p.m. Friday against Northern Iowa, a team that beat Eastern 2-1 in double overtime at Lakeside Field last season.

"Last year, we were up 1-0 at halftime and they were able to battle back and tie the game towards the end of regulation," Cherry said. "They play with great urgency and



DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS  
Meagan Radloff, a junior midfielder, heads the ball during the Aug. 23 game against Oakland at Lakeside Field. The Panthers lost 5-1.

determination and are a team that plays with a sense of passion."

Northern Iowa has dropped its last two matches against Ball State and IPFW.

Sophomore midfielder Maggie Riley has Northern Iowa's only goal of the season so far.

The team's leading scorer from last season, junior midfielder Charlotte Jones, has not appeared in either of the team's first two matches or the team's Aug. 13 exhibition against Viterbo.

Jones had three shots on goal against Eastern last year and totaled four goals in 2012.

Northern Iowa has also been splitting time between its goalies.

Senior Nicole Postal and red-shirt freshman Whitney Blunt each played in one half of the team's previous two games.

Postal has started both games, allowing one goal so far this season.

Blunt has allowed three goals this season, with both goalkeepers totaling three saves each.

"UNI is a very competitive team that plays until the last whistle," Cherry said. "They are technically sound on the ball and very smart in their decision making."

Eastern's second match will be at 2 p.m. Sunday against host Green Bay.

The Phoenix enter the tournament following a 1-1 draw against IUPUI and a 3-0 loss against Ball State. Cherry said from his experience against Green Bay, the Phoenix would be a solid opponent.

"Green Bay has always been a team that is very structured and disciplined," he said. "They are very organized in their attack and play fundamentally sound. They are a team that does not make mistakes, however, are excellent at capitalizing on their opponent's mistakes."

Senior forward Helka Palmadottir has Green Bay's lone goal of the season.

The Ireland native started 10 games for the Phoenix last season.

Sophomore goalkeeper Nastacia Behle has started both of the team's last two matches.

Eastern and Northern Iowa begin the open tournament at 2 p.m. Friday in Green Bay.

Western Illinois and Green Bay will follow at 4 p.m. Play will resume on Sunday with Northern Iowa and Western Illinois at 11 p.m., with Eastern and Green Bay following at 2 p.m.

The tournament will be shown free of charge online via [greenbay-phoenix.com](http://greenbay-phoenix.com).

*Dominic Renzetti can be reached at 581-2812 or [dcrenzetti@eiu.edu](mailto:dcrenzetti@eiu.edu).*

VOLLEYBALL | PREVIEW

# Panthers head to Toledo

By **Anthony Catezone**  
Sports Editor  
@AnthonyCatz  
@DEN\_Sports

The Eastern volleyball team will start its 2013 campaign with the Toledo Blue/Gold Invitational in Toledo, Ohio. The Panthers will play Loyola at 9 a.m., followed by Marist College for the first time in program history at 4 p.m. Friday.

"It is very important to the team that we start off this season strong, and that starts with the very first point of the very first game, no matter who the opponent is or what conference they are in," sophomore setter Marah Bradbury said.

On Saturday, Eastern will face off with West Virginia at 9 a.m., and then end with host Toledo at 6 p.m. The invitational is the first of four non-conference tournaments on the Panthers' schedule.

Bradbury said this season is the start of a new tradition for Eastern volleyball and that is to refuse to lose every game, including non-conference, even though they do not directly affect the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament.

"Starting off the season well will help us make a statement for the teams in our conference," she said.

Of the Panthers' 21 losses last season, nine were in their non-conference pre-season tournaments, where they only accumulated three wins in 12 matches.

Eastern's season-long 10-game losing streak last year began with the final four games of its non-conference preseason schedule, and ensued into the first six games of the OVC schedule.

Bradbury is one of three Panthers to earn postseason honors in 2012. She and outside hitter Abby Saalfrank were both named to the All-Newcomer team. Saalfrank also won the OVC Freshman of the Year last season. Outside hitter Reynae Hutchinson garnered All-OVC honors last year.

This season, Hutchinson and Saalfrank, the Panthers' top two kill leaders from last season, both received All-OVC preseason honors.

Loyola is returning its second kill leader from last season, junior right side hitter Laura Purcell. She finished with 288 kills. The Ramblers lost last season's kill leader, Anna Eytchison, with 488 kills, to graduation.

Marist, meanwhile, has a 6-foot, 2-inch middle blocker in Mackenzie Stephens. The junior led the team in kills last year with 268. She also had a hit percentage of .303.

*Anthony Catezone can be reached at 581-2812 or [ajcatezone@eiu.edu](mailto:ajcatezone@eiu.edu)*

## » RUGBY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"This is the team we want to try and play our best, and we know (Quinnipiac) is going to want to play their best," Graziano said. "We haven't really talked about game two or anything like that, especially since game one is such an unknown to the girls that have never played before. It would be unfair to them."

The match starts at 1 p.m. Saturday at Lakeside Field.

*Bob Reynolds can be reached at 581-2812 or [rjreynolds@eiu.edu](mailto:rjreynolds@eiu.edu)*



## FOOTBALL | PREVIEW



DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Trey Pendergrass, a red-shirt sophomore, returns a kick during the game against Jacksonville State University at O'Brien Field on Oct. 13, 2012. The 2013 season opener is at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

# Panthers travel to San Diego State for season opener

By Aldo Soto  
Assistant Sports Editor  
@AldoSoto21  
@DEN\_Sports

The Eastern football program joined the NCAA Division I ranks in 1981 and since then the Panthers have played 29 FBS programs, winning four times.

On Saturday night coach Dino Babers will lead Eastern onto Qualcomm Stadium to face San Diego State. Babers said it will not be easy against the Aztecs, but Eastern is going in looking for the school's fifth victory against an FBS program.

"You don't go to war thinking you could lose, I mean that's not good for the troops," he said. "We know we have a difficult assignment, we know we have to travel a long way."

San Diego State finished the 2012 season, losing to Brigham Young 23-6 in the Poinsettia Bowl after winning a share of the Mountain West championship with a 7-1 conference record (9-4 overall).

The Aztecs return 17 of their 22 starters from last year.

Junior running back Adam Muema rushed for 1,456 yards and scored 16 touchdowns last season. Babers said

Muema has a large offensive line in front of him.

"They have big time tailback that's being recruited by the National Football League and is protected by five 300-pound trees, so he's hard to get to," Babers said.

Babers was close.

San Diego State's offensive line from left tackle to right tackle starts with senior Bryce Quigley, senior Japheth Gordon, sophomore Jordan Smith, red-shirt freshman Nico Siragusa and junior Terry Poole.

According to the Aztecs' depth chart Smith is the only starting offensive lineman not to weigh at least 300 pounds. Smith comes in at 280 pounds.

The average height and weight of the Aztec offensive line is 6-foot-4 inches and 300 pounds.

Red-shirt junior Adam Gristick is one of three returning linebackers for Eastern and said the key to stopping Muema is to get as many hands on him as possible.

"(Muema) is a tough running back, but we're just going to gang tackle him and run to the ball," Gristick said.

Offensively Eastern will see a defense that makes many defensive sub-

stitutions.

During Tuesday's press conference Aztec coach Rocky Long said how the defensive substitutions are realized.

"We play 22 to 24 kids on defense and they substitute themselves," Long said. "They have a rotation period of a number of plays. One guy is in for four plays and he goes out then another guy comes in for four plays. Now, in a lot of cases it's six-to-two."

Long said he had not decided whom the starting cornerbacks would be and the players themselves would not know until Thursday.

The Aztecs will have junior J.J. Whittaker, sophomore walk-on Pierre Romain, freshman Damontae Kazee and junior King Holder rotate as the cornerbacks against Eastern.

Red-shirt senior Erik Lora, who is the Panthers' No.1 receiver, said San Diego throws out a lot of confusing coverages on defense.

"They play a lot of man defense and they send a lot of complicated blitzes, so it's going to be really on us (the receivers) to help the quarterback and the offensive linemen with hot routes and the funky coverages they throw at us," Lora said.

Babers said he recently watched one of San Diego State's games on

film and said the Aztecs do a fabulous job of disguising their defense.

"You can't tell where they are coming from," he said. "You're not going to be able to figure out where they coming from and they're going to be coming from a lot of different places. So it's going to be a difficult task for our offense to say the least."

San Diego State intercepted 14 passes and sacked quarterbacks 32 times last season.

Eastern senior quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo threw 15 interceptions in 2012 and was sacked 29 times.

Gristick and Lora both said Eastern is going to San Diego to win.

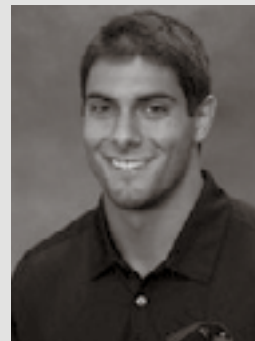
If the Panthers come away with a victory it will be the first against an FBS team since Sept. 25, 2004, when Eastern defeated Eastern Michigan 31-28 on the road.

Kickoff is scheduled at 7 p.m. Saturday at Qualcomm Stadium.

The game will be carried exclusively online by CampusInsiders.com as part of the Mountain West Conference package of games.

Aldo Soto can  
be reached at 581-2812  
or asoto2@eiu.edu

## PLAYERS TO WATCH



JIMMY GAROPPOLO, QB  
EASTERN



ADAM MEUMA, RB  
SAN DIEGO STATE

## RUGBY | MATCH PREVIEW

# Eastern rugby team to take on Quinnipiac at home

By Bob Reynolds  
Staff Reporter  
@DEN\_Sports

Two familiar faces will be returning to Eastern Saturday, as the Quinnipiac Bobcats come to Charleston to play the Panthers in the season-opening rugby match.

Rebecca Carlson and Michelle Reed are both former student-athletes at Eastern and former assistant coaches under Panther coach Frank Graziano, and are now the head coach and the

assistant coach for the Bobcats, respectively.

Graziano said he loves coaching against Carlson and Reed, because they have enormous respect for each other.

"We are not only colleagues, but we are friends," Graziano said. "I enjoy coaching against them, and they enjoy coaching against me. It is about as friendly as a rivalry as it can get. It is a pleasure having them back out on the field."

Quinnipiac defeated the Panthers in the season-opener last year and Graziano said he knows this match will be challenging.

"I think this will be one of our biggest challenges we have had in the last decade," Graziano said. "We have analyzed Quinnipiac. I have been looking over their talent. For us to go out on the field with girls that have are playing in their first rugby game, that will certainly be our biggest challenge."

The Panthers will be heading into

this game with 10 or 11 players that will be playing their first rugby match.

Graziano does not expect the women to be as nervous as people think they are going to be.

"The girls are working hard, and we are going over our game plan, trying to lock-in to ourselves" he said. "I think we have a great game plan prepared. If we do well the first 10 or 15 minutes that will build our confidence."

The Panthers have been practicing new plays and different tactics, Grazia-

no said.

"How well we execute those, I don't really know that yet," Graziano said. "We have been practicing new plays, but it still comes down to defense. You have to tackle the girls. They do not possess any physical advantage over us."

Graziano has not looked a day beyond Saturday's game against the Bobcats and said this is the team that they want to play.

RUGBY, page 7



# VERGE

The Daily Eastern News' weekly arts and entertainment section

Interactive art and more...  
Catch it while you can!



AMANDA WILKINSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS  
BRITTANY CONTRATTO, A GRADUATE ASSISTANT AT THE TARBLE ARTS CENTER, DEMONSTRATES SPINNING ONE OF THREE PAINTINGS BY PAUL HENRY RAMIREZ TITLED "SPIN (PINK, RED & ORANGE)." THE PUBLIC IS ALLOWED TO GENTLY SPIN THE PAINTINGS WHILE WEARING WHITE GLOVES.

## Tarble sets art work in motion

By Stephanie Markham  
Verge Editor

Sometimes it seems like the objective of a piece of artwork is to just sit there and look pretty. An exhibit currently displayed in the Tarble Arts Center attempts to prove otherwise. The exhibit, Motion: Real and Implied, includes 2-D pieces that suggest motion, paintings that physically move on the wall and various movable folk-art sculptures. Michael Watts, the director of the Tarble who put the exhibit together using pieces from the Tarble's permanent collection, said artists have been trying to capture motion since man first painted running figures on cave walls.

"With static art like paintings, the motion has to be implied," he said. The exhibit features several paintings and drawings that convey motion in nature, including a folk painting of horses galloping and various artists' depictions of running streams of water. Watts said several of the pieces represent similar images but have great stylistic differences as well. "I tried to get a range of different styles of media found in the collection," he said. Another piece of folk art included in the exhibit is a carousel sculpture that rotates and propels toy horses up and down like the real thing. A pop-up picture book by contemporary artist Kara Walker is also part of the exhibit. The book features black-silhouetted figures protruding from

the pages, illustrating themes like racism and sexism. For those who are used to the hands-off policies of art galleries, the SPIN paintings by contemporary artist Paul Henry Ramirez allow viewers to break that barrier. The exhibit includes three of Ramirez's SPIN paintings, each of which the viewer can spin on the wall to create different juxtapositions of the images. The paintings, composed of different sized circles and lines surrounded by bright pink, orange and red borders, were not painted using a paintbrush, Ramirez said.



REVIEW

'Lee Daniels' The Butler' has its flaws, still inspiring

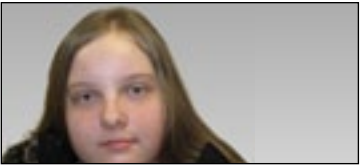
For those who are interested in history, or those who just enjoy watching an inspiring and eventually feel-good movie, the current best bet would be in "Lee Daniels' The Butler."

This movie can be called a fitting ending to a summer filled with a great deal of racial tension in the U.S. with the controversial Trayvon Martin trial and Food Network star Paula Deen's use of a racial slur.

Forest Whitaker plays Cecil Gaines, a character inspired by the real life Eugene Allen, an African-American who served as a butler at the White House for more than 30 years. Oprah Winfrey gives a memorable performance as Cecil's wife, Gloria.

The movie begins by depicting Gaines' childhood on a cotton plantation. After a tragedy that includes the murder of his father, Cecil, years later, decides to move on and find a new way of life.

After finding work in Washington D.C., Gaines is eventually rec-



Jordan Thiede

Verge Reviewer

ommended for a job at the White House, which he receives.

Gaines starts working during the Eisenhower administration and continues on until the Reagan administration.

Throughout the movie, viewers are witnesses to several historical events of the last few decades including schools becoming racially integrated, the John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinations, the Vietnam War and President Richard Nixon's resignation.

While all of these events appear to be tearing the country apart, Cecil is facing his own problems at home.

His wife Gloria feels that his

new job has taken away her husband.

Meanwhile, their son Louis has become heavily involved with the civil rights movement while away at college, much to his father's disappointment, although it is obvious he is more concerned for his son's safety than anything else. The couple's other son, Charlie, heads off to fight in the Vietnam War.

"The Butler" continues until the historical election of President Barack Obama in 2008.

One thing "The Butler" is not missing is star power. Along with those in the leading roles, there are quite a few stars playing parts of varying lengths.

Mariah Carey plays Cecil's mother in a blink-and-you-miss-it role. Robin Williams plays the first president the audience sees, Dwight Eisenhower.

Others in the cast include Lenny Kravitz, Terrence Howard, James Marsden, Liev Schreiber, John Cusack and Cuba Gooding, Jr.

Then there is the ironic casting of outspoken liberal Jane Fonda as former first lady Nancy Reagan, wife of a republican president.

According to the Associated Press, this casting choice has become controversial enough that a Kentucky theater owner will not be showing the movie.

Ike Boutwell, who trained pilots during the Vietnam War, is refusing to show "The Butler" because of Fonda's famous opposition to the conflict.

Overall, the casting in the film is quite good. When it comes to the legendary figures the public is familiar with though, mainly the different presidents, the casting could have been better.

It appears that big names may have been sought rather than other actors who may have looked and sounded better for the part.

There has been some criticism of the film. Many feel that it plays loosely with the facts regarding Eugene Allen's actual life, especially

where it concerns his sons.

Some characters did not even exist in real life, and other events were changed to add drama to the movie.

All of this appears to be done in an attempt to better demonstrate the civil rights movement and the African-American experience in U.S., though.

It is after all just "inspired" by the real-life man. Having the characters the audience is already familiar with be so closely involved with everything that is happening makes it much more hard-hitting and dramatic.

Overall, "Lee Daniels' The Butler" is not perfect because of the questionable casting and historical inaccuracies, but it is definitely a welcome change of pace from the usual, mindless summer blockbusters of the past few months.

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COLUMN

Twerking, theatrics too much for MTV's Video Music Awards

Everyone needs to stop being so vulgar all of the time. There is a constant need for entertainers to be different or shocking. (Lady Gaga should be partially blamed for this trend.)

This brings me to MTV's Video Music Awards last Sunday, or more specifically, to Miley Cyrus' performance for "We Can't Stop."

It's understandable that Miley Cyrus is 20 years old now. She can't be tamed! But no one needs to see her half attempts at trying to twerk and grind all over Robin Thicke.

Instead of doing all her horrid dance moves, she should have practiced her singing because she was off key quite a few times. Cyrus should really learn a thing or two about a good performance from Lady Gaga.

Lady Gaga performed and opened the VMAs. Most people have said at one time or another that Lady Gaga is weird or dress-es crazy.

That being said, she is an amazing performer. Her performance for her song "Applause" actually had a storyline to it.

Her dancing (as well as her



Paige Bennett

Verge Reporter

back up) was perfect.

The most important thing though was that she sang live, unlike many of her contemporaries.

Justin Timberlake was classy and gave a nice performance. Michael Jackson wants his dance moves back, Justin.

MTV let Timberlake perform for 15 minutes straight. His performance should have been cut down to 10 minutes.

However, it did give me a huge sense of nostalgia to see 'NSYNC perform together again for the first time in years. It was nice of Timberlake to let the other members have a few seconds of fame again.

One thing that was annoying was the camera constantly showing Taylor Swift in the audience. It really started to seem like this had

become Taylor Swift's reaction to watching people sing and dance, not the VMAs.

The most-boring-stage award would have to go to Katy Perry. The stage was some sort of tropical boxing ring.

Perry's dancing was a bit lack-luster, but she has never been much of a dancer anyway. Perry performed her song "Roar." Although the song is boring, it has a great positive message.

Macklemore and Ryan Lew-is gave a good social-commentary performance with their song, "Same Love." The song is about how people should be with the one they love regardless of gender.

Their performance was really the only thing with any real meaning. With all of the twerking and theatrics of the VMAs, it was nice to see an act with substance.

Overall, the VMAs have been a lot better in the past. If you didn't watch it, you didn't miss out on much.

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REVIEW

‘Elysium’ divides human kind in futuristic world

When you think someone is about to die, they don’t.

When you think someone has died, they don’t stay dead.

This is the reality in "Elysium," directed by Neill Blomkamp ("District 9"). The movie is a mixture of action, science fiction, drama and a hint of romance.

"Elysium" takes place on Earth about 140 years from now. The human population is divided between Elysium, a manmade space habitat, and Earth.

The rich live on Elysium where people do not have to worry about sickness or death. The poor live on Earth where it is overpopulated and wildly over-polluted.

Max (Matt Damon) lives on Earth. Through an attempt to keep his job, Max is overexposed to radiation and is diagnosed to die in five days.

Once he realizes this, he decides he will make his lifelong dream to get to Elysium true.

From the beginning, there is a constant battle between the people of Earth and the people of Elysium.

Secretary of Defense Jessica Delacourt (Jodie Foster) kills innocent people to keep them from



Amanda Wilkinson  
Assistant Photo Editor

entering Elysium.

Delacourt does not see the lives of the people on Earth as human lives. She talks about them like they are a plague.

Max levels the playing field when he realizes he has nothing to lose by trying to get up to the man-made habitat.

He has an exoskeleton to improve his strength and a transmitter installed onto his body.

Enter Agent C. M. Kruger (Sharlto Copley), who does not care about either side.

He is commissioned by Delacourt to ‘take care’ of the people of Earth who try immigrating. He then goes after Max.

The sad realization of the movie is that Max, the anti-hero, is going to die whether he makes it to Elysium or not.

There are a few close calls, and the viewer will not know at what point Max is going to die.

Delacourt is a cold-hearted she-devil. She wants to be on top of this wealthy habitat, and she is willing to do anything. Foster plays her so well that the audience may hope for her death.

Copley’s performance is even more dramatic.

Kruger is psychotic and has a “world-is-mine” complex just like Delacourt.

In "District 9," the audience sympathized with Copley’s character Wikus van de Merwe and cared for him.

In Elysium, the audience may want nothing more than to kill him themselves.

While the movie is sci-fi, a future of overpopulation and overwhelming pollution does not seem that far off.

"Elysium" is no cookie-cutter movie that gets redone every five years or so. Its originality is refreshing.

It makes the audience question the social order of the universe, especially when 99 percent is left staring at the sky.

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MOTION, FROM PAGE 1



SUBMITTED PHOTO

“These SPIN paintings aren’t actually physically hand-painted,” he said. “They’re actually silk-screened on prime canvas linen, and so that’s another approach to art making which I always wanted to do.”

Ramirez said he tries to push the boundaries of traditional paintings by creating new ways for the viewer to experience the work.

“Typically you would see a painting static on a wall and view it and appreciate it that way,” he

William Gropper’s "Good and Evil" is one of many pieces displayed at the exhibit.

said. “That’s a traditional way of seeing art, so what I like to do is really try to push it in different ways.”

The exhibit also features a 1937 painting called “Mountain Stream” by Paul Turner Sargent, an artist who graduated from Eastern in 1906 and painted landscapes of Coles County and other places he had travelled.

Watts said Sargent was given an exhibit in Old Main after his death in 1946, and those paintings helped to start Eastern’s permanent art collection.

Watts said this exhibit is a good representation of the types of art included in the Tarble’s permanent collection, most of which is folk art.

The exhibit will be on display in the Brainard Gallery of the Tarble Arts Center until Nov. 24.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

The band consists of Tyson Tolliver on banjo, Bill Sanguinetti on bass, Caleb Gerber on mandolin, Doug McDevitt on fiddle, and Nick Poe on Guitar.

# Firebox band plays shows to keep bluegrass alive

By **Stephanie Markham**  
Verge Editor

Bluegrass music has had its ups and downs in popularity over the years, but for the most part, musicians and fans of the genre know it does not catch much mainstream hype.

That is what makes touring so important for the Firebox Bluegrass Band.

Tyson Tolliver, the band's banjo player, said the group plays mainly to get their music out there and educate people about the history and traditions of bluegrass.

The Effingham-based band, which also includes Nick Poe on guitar, Bill Sanguinetti on bass, Caleb Gerber on mandolin and Doug McDevitt on fiddle, will be performing at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Historic Five Mile House in Charleston.

Tolliver said a lot of people are not bluegrass fans simply because they have never heard the music before.

"People say that we're the first bluegrass band they ever heard and they really, really enjoyed it," he said. "So I think that the more exposure that people get, and if they're open-minded going into it, people usually tend to really enjoy it."

Tolliver said bluegrass was popular when it first emerged as a sub-genre of country, but it was largely overshadowed when rock 'n' roll became popular.

"Bluegrass happened and then rock 'n' roll came out and it just kind of took the stage away from bluegrass," he said. "The folk revival in the '50s brought it back, but it's never been a real mainstream thing."

Despite the differences in the two genres, Tolliver said he still en-

joys classic rock bands like The Beatles and Led Zeppelin.

"I listened to music my whole life," he said. "I started listening to more rock 'n' roll and stuff, but I got switched over to bluegrass (in the early 2000s.)"

The two musicians Tolliver said influenced him were Earl Strugs, a pioneer of bluegrass banjo playing, and Jimmy Martin.

Tolliver said Firebox plays covers of songs and writes some of their own.

Themes in their songs include traditional bluegrass topics like love lost, love found, trains, gospel and tragedies.

Tolliver said there are many "murder ballads" in bluegrass, one of the more famous examples being the song "Banks of Ohio."

"They're usually about loving a woman, and then it's only one-sided love or something, and then the gentleman murders the woman," he said.

The band formed in 2008 when the group of friends got together in Tolliver's garage and started practicing.

Having musicians play together who actually get along is just as important as having musicians who are talented, Tolliver said.

"For as much time as we spend together, we get along pretty good," he said.

Tolliver said the best part of performing is interacting with fans and getting to know the community.

"Whenever you go to see a country band or a big band, you don't hardly get to see the people unless you have like a backstage pass or something," he said. "But at most bluegrass shows, as soon as they're done playing, they come out and they'll talk to whoever is there until the last person is gone."

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## Position 12? to bring unique, alternative sound to The Roc

By **Stephanie Markham**  
Verge Editor

When alternative rock trio Position 12? goes on stage, the objective is to get the audience to feel as cool as they do.

"It's the best times ever when the three of us are there and we find the crowd and our fans and friends are with us and we're all on the same plateau of coolness at the same time," said Aaron Wilson, the band's singer, songwriter and guitar player.

Wilson said the group, which also includes drummer Jarrett Gibbons and bassist Andy Ervin, started playing music when they went to high school together in Newton, Ill.

"Me and the drummer specifically, we literally started together," he said. "I got a guitar from a pawn shop and he had a crappy old drum set and we set up in my grandma's garage and we would just play."

Wilson said he left the group for nearly eight years, and when his friends heard he was back in town, they picked up right where they left off and started Position 12?.

"(We) get along a lot better now just because we grew up together and we're from the same old town," he said. "So we're just really a bunch of friends that get together and play music more, and we consider ourselves friends before a band."

He said different styles could be heard in their songs ranging from groove and funk elements to grunge.

"We try to have a little something for everybody really and we're kind of diverse," Wilson said.

Although the band took influence from classic rock musicians like Tom Petty and Frank Sinatra, grunge bands like Nirvana and Pearl Jam and metal bands like Iron Maiden and Megadeth, Wilson said their style is unique.

"Our music's kind of a creation in itself," he said.

Vocally, Wilson said he admires Chris Cornell of the bands Soundgarden and Audioslave and Freddie Mercury of Queen.

He said he pushed for more of a raspy, alternative sounding voice when he was a teenager, but he has since developed his own distinctive style.

Lyricaly, Wilson said he is a storyteller.

"Usually (there are) a lot of double meanings and stuff behind my lyrics," he said. "But inevitably like every song that I've ever written has been

from some sort of a life event or certain situation that I've got myself into."

Wilson said the band is currently working toward releasing their second album, though there is no specific time frame they are working with.

When the band released their debut EP, they hired a producer and pushed them selves to work 10-hour days in the studio, Wilson said.

"It was just crazy hectic to record that fast and four guys laying out all the tracks and sleeping in a hotel for like nine days just partying," he said. "It was a rough week."

Although the band had fun and learned a lot from the experience, Wilson said the group decided to produce their new album themselves to allow more creative freedom.

He said the band will keep playing music whether they "make it big" or not because it is what they enjoy doing, and it gives them an excuse to hang out.

"We're all pretty happy right now," Wilson said. "That's good. It makes it a lot easier to play good music when you're happy about what you're doing."

Position 12? will be one of four bands playing at 8 p.m. Friday at Roc's Black-front Restaurant and Lounge. The other acts include Skydiver Autopsy, Matty Till Dawn and Jake Schlich.

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