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Daily Eastern News: April 22, 2014

Eastern Illinois University

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RENTAL RETURNS

Students have until May 9 to return all textbooks to the Textbook Rental Services in the Louis M. Grado Building at 975 Edgar Drive.

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BALANCING ACT

Senior history major, Ben Kennedy, juggles a passion for baseball and theater while attending Eastern.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Tuesday, April 22, 2014

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 98 | NO. 142

FESTIVAL OF COLORS



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Minh Luong, a biology graduate student, is thrown in a bath and has water thrown on her during Eastern's Holi April 26, 2013 at the North Quad.

Holi to brighten quad with color

By Vanessa Perez
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

The Library Quad will become a field of bright colors Friday when Eastern's Study Abroad Office celebrates Holi.

Holi, a traditional Hindu spring festival commonly known as the "Festival of Colors," will be from noon until 2 p.m. Friday in the Library Quad.

Holi is an agricultural festival celebrating spring's arrival, which is shown through the use of colored powders.

These colorful powders are referred to as "Gulal" and are splashed with water to create colors. The powders will be passed to students through cups.

Paige Cascio, a senior peer advisor, is a current student worker in the Study Abroad office and is looking forward for this year's upcoming Holi event.

Cascio said last year was the first Holi

SAVE THE DATE

What: Holi Festival of Colors

Where: Library quad

When: 2 p.m. Friday

Celebrate the traditional Hindu spring festival with colored powder.

event and its success has led it to happen again this year.

She also said Holi has been celebrated on Eastern's campus since a graduate assistant from the Study Abroad office studied in India last summer.

"She then wanted to bring the Holi celebration here to Eastern and thought it would be something that students here will

enjoy," Cascio said.

Cascio said this year they will be having "new elements" as compared to last year's event.

Some of these new elements include having a DJ on campus with a variety of music and Hindu traditional tattoos referred to as "hennah."

"Last year there was Indian music, but we also want this to be a celebration that all students can understand and that's why we'll have a mix of music this year," Cascio said.

Cascio also said other new elements to celebrate Holi this year is having a photographer with a picture booth so students can get their own pictures taken.

Vanessa Perez can be reached at 581-2812 or vperez@eiu.edu.

Steeples refuses appointed attorney



Larry Steeples

By Katie Smith
Photo Editor | @DEN_news

A Charleston man charged in the connection of a woman's death had his hearing Monday, which resulted in a final continuance before the defendant's preliminary hearing.

Larry Steeples, 52, said he wishes to continue to speak with his family about hiring an attorney, since he is refusing the appointment of Anthony Ortega, the public defender Circuit Court Judge Mitchell Shick appointed to Steeples.

The hearing has been extended to 8:50 a.m. Monday.

Steeples initially requested a continuance at his first appearance on April 14 in regard to the charges he currently faces in connection with the death of Gina Giberson, which occurred on April 7.

Steeples was arrested when Giberson was found inflicted by multiple gunshot wounds. He is facing charges for murder with intent to kill or injure and murder with strong probably to kill or injure.

Steeples may reserve the right to defend himself in court, should he choose to refuse to work with Ortega, or cannot hire an attorney.

The court will set a date for Steeples' preliminary hearing Monday. During this hearing, it must be proven that there is sufficient evidence suggesting the defendant is guilty of his charges.

If probable cause cannot be proven, Steeples' case will be dismissed.

Otherwise, his case will be bound over for trial, at which point Steeples may offer his plea.

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

S.E.E. Day to educate community on bullying issue

By Jarad Jarmon
Associate News Editor | @JarmonReporter

Bridge Voice Community mentors will be educating roughly 45-50 fifth to ninth grade students at 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Tuesday on real problems that come from "harmless" bullying.

During Social Experience Excellence Day, Children from schools in Charleston, Mattoon and Champaign who chose to be a part of the registered student organization's program will be split up into 13 teams, each focusing on a certain aspect of bullying or more specifically other avenues to go down

other than bullying.

Anyone from the community is free to join and help out in these activities

These teams will meet in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Felicia Green, the Bridge Voice Community vice president, said the children will be participating and activities that are expected to open their mind to how harmful bullying can be and how to handle bullying situations.

Green said the children invited to go were chosen because they were either victims of extreme bullying or bullies themselves. She added in many cases,

bullies and the bullied are one in the same whether it is by family members at home or others close in their life.

Some of the activities include role-playing as the bully and the victim. She said she hopes this will change in perspectives for these children when thinking about these, normally hostile, situations.

Green said these type of programs need to take place in order for bullying awareness to still be an important issue in the communities mind. She added she thinks there is a severe lack of awareness for the issue.

"I think people are ignorant to it and they don't

know ways to avoid," Green said. "They might be bullying and not know."

Green said the issue should be taken more seriously, especially with many committing suicide in response to bullying.

Green added she hopes the children will walk away with the knowledge to know how to prevent and stop bullying.

"Bullying is not just a part of life," she said.

Jarad Jarmon can be reached at 581-2812 or jsjarmon@eiu.edu.

Local weather

TODAY



Sunny
High: 64°
Low: 38°

TUESDAY



Sunny
High: 63°
Low: 47°

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

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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

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The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and twice weekly during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations. One copy per day is free to students and faculty. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents each in the Student Publications Office in Buzzard Hall. The Daily Eastern News is a subscriber to McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.

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The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds, or is made aware of by its readers, will be corrected as promptly as possible. Please report any factual error you find to Editor-in-Chief Dominic Renzetti at 581-2812.

Employment
If you would like to work for The Daily Eastern News as a reporter, photographer, columnist, cartoonist, copy editor, designer or videographer, please visit at the newsroom at 1802 Buzzard Hall.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

White Mule, (left to right) Smith Koester, Genevieve Koester and Andy Gribble, perform at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Festival of the Arts.

Fiddlers to hit campus for Festival

Staff Report

Fiddles will be howling Saturday as two old-time string bands, The Embarras Valley Haymakers and White Mule, will play songs rooted in east-central and south-eastern Illinois styles.

The Embarras Valley Haymakers will perform at 1 p.m. on the Celebration stage, which will be located at S. 7th St. between the Doudna Fine Arts Center and The Tarble Arts Center. White Mule will perform after at 2 p.m. Admission is free.

According to a press release, both bands have roots tied to the Indian Creek Delta Boys, Charleston's legendary old-time string band from the '70s and '80s, and the area's old-time stringed music traditions.

White Mule has Genevieve Koester on fiddle, Smith Koester playing banjo, and Andy Gribble on guitar. Koester is the daughter of two Charleston fiddlers --

the late Garry Harrison from the Indian Creek Delta Boys, and Gaye Harrison who plays with the band Motherlode. She sometimes teamed up with her father to perform in a band they called The New Mules.

Vaughn Jaenike organized the efforts of the Indian Creek Delta Boys to locate old-time players and record their tunes to become folded into other folk arts field research. At the time, Jaenike was dean of the college of fine arts. The research was funded through three National Endowment for the Arts grants and was headed up by folklorist Jens Lund.

Recordings of their tunes are available in the Tarble.

The Haymakers include Jesse and Levi Woollen-Danner, and Cliff Harrison.

Jesse on guitar, and Levi on banjo, are the sons of the late David Danner, a member of Indian Creek Delta Boys toward the end of its run. Fiddler Cliff Harrison

Festival of the Arts Performances - Celebration 2014

Embarras Valley Haymakers | 1 p.m. Saturday
White Mule | 2 p.m. Saturday
Admission is free.

is the son of Terry Harrison.

Celebration's old-time string band performances are part of the program "Illinois Folk Arts: From Generation to Generation at Celebration 2014." This is a cooperative program of the Tarble Arts Center, the EIU College of Arts & Humanities' Celebration: A Festival of the Arts, and Company of Folk.

The program is funded in part by a grant from the Ruth & Vaughn Jaenike's Access to the Arts Fund, Tarble Arts Center membership contributions, Friends of Celebration, and by

Company of Folk through grants from the Illinois Arts Council Agency, the Illinois Humanities Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Company of Folk is a non-profit organization dedicated to researching, preserving and presenting local and folk culture of Illinois and the upper Midwest. The Tarble is one of five sites in Illinois selected to host the exhibit "From Generation to Generation: Folk Arts of Illinois" and its related programs. The exhibit is on display at Tarble through June 22.

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DAILY EASTERN NEWS

We Want to Hear What You Want to Read

BLOTTER

Theft reported at Taylor Hall

- A cannabis complaint was reported at 9:52 p.m. Saturday in Taylor Hall. This incident was referred to the Office of Student Standards.
- A theft was reported at 3:40 p.m. Sunday in Taylor Hall. This incident is under investigation.

PLACES AN AD IN THE DEN

GETS BUSINESS

217-581-2816

Textbook rental return date approaching

By Alex Seidler
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

As the end of the year approaches, the hundreds of copies of textbooks are returning to Textbook Rental Services.

Students have until May 9 to return their textbooks.

Blake Akers, senior music education and textbook rental employee, said the most common mistake they run into is students leaving their books in their dorms.

"If they know they lost their books then they should let us know before they get to the five-day grace period," he said. "Afterwards, they have to pay the late fee."

The five-day grace period starts after the deadline allowing students to find your lost or forgotten textbook before you have to pay for a new textbook.

For senior kinesiology and sports studies major Quinn Hussey, textbook rental has proven to be very helpful in the past.

"It is so easy when I get there because I just swipe my card and immediately, I get my book list printed off," Hussey said. "They are helpful and they're working hard."

Even though Hussey did not have rips or tears in his own books he said he did notice it in his

friend's books.

"I do see some on the shelves that are more beat up than what I chose. I had three books that I didn't even touch," he said.

Akers said the most common damage students have with their textbooks is from water.

"We get a lot of coffee stains and ink stains," he said. "They are even stuck together sometimes, but the most common one is water damage."

Aker said the best thing to do when a book has damages is to let someone know so they can get it taken care of.

He also said when students lose their books they should contact textbook rental immediately in order for them to work it all out.

"Usually, what you should do is let us know immediately before you have to pay the late fine," he said. "If you have no books by Friday, you get a late fee then you get five days before you get charged with a replacement fee."

Aker also said things can be worked out if students talk with the textbook rental services about their lost textbooks.

"If they come talk to us we can try to work it out," he said. "Sometimes they just can't get it in time then they'll talk to us and we make arrangements with them so they don't get charged with the



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior special education and elementary education major Amanda Kurch, searches for her textbooks at Eastern's Textbook Rental at the beginning of the school year. Amanda had a total of 28 books for the semester to assist her in studying for her double major and English minor.

replacement fee."

Akers said he has some advice for all students about making sure they get their textbook in on time.

"They should check on their PAWS account to make sure they

have all their books because sometimes they will bring all the books they have but then forget a book they never used the whole year," he said. "Also make sure you keep your receipt from the beginning of

the semester to remember all your books.

Alex Seidler can be reached at 581-2812 or a seidler@eiu.edu

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Come back tomorrow to get the scoop on what's happening at EIU and in Charleston!

Letter to the Editor

Taking the EIU Society for Free Speech's advice of not using the editorial page as a religious approbation (April 18) is not possible. Ignoring all religious ideations promotes atheism, which is simply another belief system. Please do not be prejudice against all religions (or belief systems) with the exception of atheism.


Thank you,

Christina Henry

"LET'S GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT"

Have you ever been on a mission trip?

Get social

 The Daily Eastern News

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

Quote of the Day

"We all pay for life with death, so everything in between should be free."

- Bill Hicks

Write a letter to the editor

You have something to say. Knowing this, The Daily Eastern News provides a place for you to say it every day.

- 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. Letters to the editor can be brought in with identification to The DEN or sent to DENopinions@gmail.com.

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DRAWN FROM THE EASEL



SABRINA ANN DUNCAN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

STAFF EDITORIAL

Pension law has consequences for students

As Bill Weber, the vice president for business affairs, prepares to vacate his post in May – due largely because of the new state pension law – it is time to seriously consider what the consequences of this law mean to the students.

The pension law, which was passed late last year, has been highly controversial, and ignited outrage from faculty across Illinois.

Although the new state pension law is being brought to the courts to determine if it broke the Illinois Constitution, in the meantime, it is forcing faculty members out of Eastern.

As students, and a majority representation of this university, we should be aware of how this new law will affect our upcoming years at Eastern.

While for those graduating it may seem like barely a blip on the radar, it is in fact a cautionary tale as you prepare to head out into the working world.

Government employees, those who give

their money to the pension system, are being reworked and retooled and you may not like what is happening.

For those who are still here and plan to be here for a little while longer, it means you could see your favorite professor leave suddenly because the pension system is forcing them out.

This new law is attacking Eastern at all sides and even the students will pay the price for its outcome.

The quality of our education is at stake as professors who were not planning on leaving, must now choose to either wait out the new pension law or get while the getting is good.

And so, in will rush a new lineup of professors, and while Eastern is dedicated to making sure the professors are quality, it will not replace the experience others had before – at least not for a little while.

Pensions, a complex web of ideas at its simplest terms, can have detrimental effects on students – even if they don't realize it.

These are problem areas and why we should be focused on these seemingly "grown up" occurrences.

The hard reality is we are college students and part of the real world, whether we like it or not.

And what goes on inside the walls of this campus will have a real affect on the outside.

If we, as the newer generation, choose to ignore it or assume it has not application, then we will be doomed to forever be part of a system that is fine with breaking its word.

These issues need to be addressed by students and they need to be addressed now.

If nothing else, then the fact that Eastern is a teaching school and the university is putting new teachers into the Illinois school system every year, should be cause to make this pension law right.

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

Missionaries to fly overseas in July, build church

On July 6, 2014, it will be roughly a nineteen-hour flight, not counting the layovers before a five-person team of local missionaries land in Manila, the capital of the Philippine Islands.

After spending the night, they will catch a domestic flight to the island of Bohol, where they will be working in the town of Duero building a church for a local Christian congregation.

Duero will be a two-week stay for the missionaries of First Christian Church in Mattoon.

Building a church from ground up within two weeks is not an easy task. Typically, the churches are roughly twenty-four feet wide and forty-eight feet long complete with a baptistry.

Windows and doors are also installed along with the hardware to lock them. The building is painted inside and out, and when everything is complete, a Dedication Day is planned to celebrate the newly constructed building.

The long awaited church building is now ready for the congregation to grow and worship God.

The logistics to orchestrate this sort of undertaking is started about a year prior to when the actual construction starts.

The site needs purchased, the material needs to be ordered and arranged to be delivered to the site, and the workers needs to be arranged. All of this takes what every other



Paul Weber

project takes, a lot of money.

This is where donations and churches come into the picture. The labor is all-volunteer, and they fund their own way to the PI. I am part of the labor.

I made a trip last July to the PI to help with such a project, and this year I will be leading four other missionaries beside myself to help complete another one.

While there, we will also be witnessing to the local people around the neighborhood, and the local children will enjoy a Vacation Bible School hosted by our team.

Devotions and singing will take place before meals and I will deliver a short sermon the first Sunday we are there. An interpreter will be by my side to help those who do not speak English.

It is amazing to see the joy of these fine peo-

ple who are grateful each day they are able to worship no matter what the circumstances are.

The recent earthquake and typhoon took a heavy toll on the people and structures in the PI, but they still managed drive on. Many churches were spared during the catastrophes, but many were not as fortunate.

We take so much for granted here, and do not see what the other side of the world is going through, or without.

We have our own share of poverty here in the States, and our church does help locally with this. This project is just another way we venture out into the world.

We have been working to have fundraisers and have solicited personal donors to fund the trip.

If we are fortunate enough to be blessed with extra funds, the church we build will have a sound system and chairs to further bless them.

Overall, when our mission is complete, we will come home to with a different outlook on life.

Paul Weber is a Building Service Foreman at Eastern.

He can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com.

It's no big deal. Period.



DION MCNEAL | DAILY EASTERN NEWS

As part of their Feminist Theory final project (left to right) Phyllis Frimpong, a senior sociology major; Jenny Martin, a senior psychology major; Chelsea Eversole, a senior psychology major and Molly Ferris, a senior psychology major, put together the, "Period Party." The party was held in Doudna Fine Art Center's Red Room to get rid of the stigma of speaking freely and comfortably about a female's menstrual cycle.

Congressman to host art show at Tarble

Staff Report

Congressman John Shimkus (R, Illinois-15) will be returning to Eastern Sunday, and with him will be his annual high school art contest.

The art exhibit will be available for the public view from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. Sunday at the Tarble Arts

Center.

The exhibit centers on paintings, drawings, collages, prints, photographs, computer-generated art and mixed media – all submitted by students from Shimkus' 15th Congressional District. A reception will follow for the artists.

Members of the Coles County Arts Council will judge each of

the pieces. Shimkus will be the one revealing who the winner is at the conclusion of the exhibit.

The artwork will then be on display in Washington D.C., for the next year.

The winner of the art exhibit will be invited to participate in a ceremony in Washington D.C.

"I am excited with the response

we have received to this year's contest," Shimkus said in a press release. "This is the first such showing we have done in conjunction with the Congressional Art Competition, and we have received more than 50 entries from students throughout my district. I believe that is more than I have ever had for my contest."

Shimkus was at Eastern on April 14 to tour the Renewable Energy Center and the Center for Clean Energy Research and Education.

The staff of The Daily Eastern News can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

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Come back tomorrow to get the scoop on what's happening at EIU and in Charleston!

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Panthers to host doubleheader against Butler



**EASTERN ILLINOIS
VS.
BUTLER**

**TUESDAY | 3 P.M.
TUESDAY | 5 P.M.**
WILLIAMS FIELD
CHARLESTON, ILL.



34-11, 14-4 (OVC)

19-24, 7-7 (BEC)

By **Kaz Darzinskis**
Staff Reporter | @DEN_Sports

The Eastern softball team will host Butler Tuesday, as the Panthers prepare to play their third consecutive doubleheader.

Eastern is currently riding an 11-game winning streak, putting the Panthers at 34-11 overall and 14-4 in the Ohio Valley Conference, following doubleheader sweeps over Belmont and Tennessee State during the weekend.

Eastern coach Angie Nicholson said she is pleased with the way the Panthers are playing, but that they can be even better.

“My message has been the same all year and will remain the same,” she said. “Focus on us, play our game and play like it’s your last game.”

Butler, which is not a member of the OVC, comes to Williams Field with a record of 19-24. The Bulldogs are 7-7 in the Big East Conference.

Nicholson said the Panthers would continue to build on their pitching, which is coming off of two shutouts against Tennessee State.

“Having the pitching staff we do has been great and I think they would agree 100 percent that they also have more to give and they are very hungry,” she said.

Seniors Stephanie Maday and Hanna Mennenga have combined to post a record of 33-9 on the year for Eastern, with Maday posting a 1.98 ERA and Mennenga a 1.82 ERA.

Mennenga has struck out 160 batters in 158 innings of work this season, while Maday has struck out 108 in 127 innings thus far.

Offensively, Jennette Isaac has been dominant at the top of the order this season, as she has posted a .356 batting average to lead the team, while she shares a lead for stolen bases this season with 10 for Eastern.

Reynae Hutchinson surged into the team lead for home runs with seven and RBIs with 36, while she is tied with Isaac for the lead in stolen bases with 10. Hutchinson is also fourth on the team with a .324 batting average.

Hannah Cole and Brooke Owens are the other two Panthers batting over .300, as Cole is hitting .333 this season. Owens is second on the team with a .346 average. Owens and Cole, along with Hutchinson make up the major run producing portion of the lineup, as combined they have driven in 88 out of 175 runs this year for the Panthers.

Against the Bulldogs, Eastern will most likely face Kristin Gutierrez, who has pitched a leading 142.1 innings for the Bulldogs. Gutierrez is 11-10 on the season with a 2.90 ERA. She has 124 strikeouts in the 142 plus innings she has pitched.

Offensively the Bulldogs have three players batting over .300 this season.

Junior Sarah Gronowski leads the Bulldogs with 38 hits and is third on the team with a .317 average this season.

Game one of the doubleheader against Butler starts at 3 p.m. with the second game beginning at 5 p.m. Tuesday at Williams Field.

Kaz Darzinskis can be reached at 581-2812 or kcdarzinskis@eiu.edu.



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior infielder Bailey O'Dell throws the ball to first base against Tennessee-Martin on April 12 at Williams Field. O'Dell had two at-bats and one pick off during the game. The Panthers won the weekend series against the Skyhawks. The Panthers are 34-11 overall and 14-4 in the Ohio Valley Conference.

» BASEBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Schmitz will have senior Jaden Widdersheim start for the Panthers against the Illini, while Illinois coach Dan Hartleb will start Rob McDonnell.

Widdersheim has not made a start this season, but in 15 appearances he has gone 2-2 with a 4.98 ERA.

The Eastern senior last pitched Friday at Southeast Missouri and took the loss, allowing two earned runs in his one inning of work, as the Panthers saw their one-run lead disappear within two innings, ultimately coming away with an 11-7 loss.

Widdersheim has allowed an earned run in four of his last five appearances from the Panthers' bullpen. The right-handed pitcher's ERA has jumped from 3.24 on April 1, to 4.99 heading into his start Tuesday.

Eastern's offense goes up against McDonnell, who is 2-0 this season, mak-

ing three starts and appearing in six total games.

The left-handed pitcher has a 4.76 ERA, as he has thrown 17 innings, allowing 18 hits and nine earned runs. McDonnell has struck out 20 batters, while walking 12.

Illinois has four hitters with a batting average higher than .300 and three players with more than 20 RBIs to lead its offense.

Jason Goldstein has the Illini's highest batting average at .347, recording 41 hits in 32 games this season. Reid Roper has a team-high 23 RBIs for Illinois.

Caleb Howell, Brant Valach and Demetre Taylor lead the Eastern offense, as the trio of Panthers has a batting average higher than .340.

Valach is coming off a two-home run game that tied him with Taylor with a team-high five home runs. Valach is hit-

ting .346 this season and in his last 10 games he has recorded 18 hits.

Howell leads the Panthers with a .407 batting average and has a team-high 61 hits. Taylor is hitting .343 this season and has a team-best 36 RBIs to go along with his five home runs.

Schmitz also began to start Tyler Schweigert against Southeast Missouri and the right-handed hitter went 3-for-8 with two doubles against the Redhawks, scoring a run and taking a walk.

Batters are hitting .281 off of McDonnell this season, while Eastern is batting .287 as a whole this season.

First pitch is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday at Illinois Field in Champaign

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

» KENNEDY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Anderson also said he is impressed with Kennedy's talent to balance both of his passions daily.

“For him, it’s challenging,” Anderson said. “For us, it’s not a challenge. We never miss him in plays.”

Although the balancing could be stressful at times, Kennedy said a family was created both on the stage and on the field.

He described how he made a family with the theatre crew from his junior college, and how he made a new family at Eastern with both cast members and the baseball team.

“It was a new team with a new family,” Kennedy said.

Kennedy has been acting in theater since he was a sophomore in high school. However, he has not always been a singer. He started singing in

plays later in high school without any chorus or singing lessons.

“People describe my voice as the lead singer from Neon Trees and Linkin Park,” Kennedy said. “It’s an alternative, poppy sound.”

Although talent and work ethic in both baseball and theater is present, Kennedy plans to “retire” both passions.

“I just want to get a job with my history background,” Kennedy said. “I could pursue it, but I don’t see that. I need to pay back my parents. They’ve supported me throughout this entire process.”

Kaylie Homann can be reached at 581-2812 or kjhomann@eiu.edu.

PICK UP TOMORROW'S EDITION OF THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS TO READ ALL THE LATEST IN NEWS, SPORTS AND FEATURES!

Tuesday Tweener takes off at O'Brien

By Blake Nash
Staff Reporter | @DEN_Sports

The Eastern track and field team will host its second outdoor home meet of the year 3 p.m. Tuesday with the Tuesday Tweener at 3 p.m. at O'Brien Field, with throwing events to start.

This meet will host athletes who did not qualify for the Drake Relays, which begins this Thursday in Des Moines, Iowa.

The Drake Relays is an invitational only, and the Panthers who did not qualify for that meet will have their chance to compete Tuesday.

Saturday, pole vaulter Peter Geraghty tied the outdoor pole vault record, of 18-feet, 0.50-inches, which was previously held by teammate Mick Viken.

Javelin thrower, David Johansson, is also expected to compete Tuesday, coming off a pair of victories last month at the University of Illinois and the Big Blue Classic, hosted by Eastern.

Red-shirt senior Jalissa Paramore will also be available in the long jump and 100-meter hurdles.

She won a pair of events two weeks ago at Western Kentucky, and currently holds the school's record in the 100-meter hurdles, with a time of 13.57 seconds.

Finally, the men's 4x400 team of Christian Ilunga-Matthiesen, Calvin Edwards, Kaleel Johnson and Jamal Robinson will represent the Panthers in the men's 4x400 relay.

The Panthers emerged with top three finishes Saturday, with the women taking first and the men second.

Now forced back onto the track, the preparation for this meet has become harder to organize.

"This week looks difficult has far as scheduling practices goes," coach Tom Akers said. "Monday we're hoping to take it easy, compete of Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, train on Wednesday, and travel on Thursday it'll be a strenuous challenge."

While Eastern may find this week challenging, it can also use last week's meet at Southern Illinois-Edwardsville, as a measuring stick for where they are in regards to defending their outdoor Ohio Valley Conference championship, Akers said.

"The Edwardsville meet served as a solid measuring stick for us," Akers said. "Now we know our strengths, weakness, and areas we need to improve on. Plus it gave us a chance to study our opponents, and the facility to prepare for the OVC championships."

The OVC championships will take place May 2 and 3 in Edwardsville.

Eastern will host another meet, May 9, for the EIU Last Chance Meet at O'Brien Field.

Blake Nash can be reached at 581-2812 or banash@eiu.edu.



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior pitcher Ben Kennedy not only spends time on the baseball field, but on stage as well, appearing in theater productions at Eastern. Kennedy played the character Macheath in the production of *The Threepenny Opera* on April 12.

DOUBLE PLAY

Kennedy takes on baseball, theater

By Kaylie Homann
Staff Reporter | @KaylieHomann

Ben Kennedy, a senior history major, finished his last play he will ever perform on April 12.

Kennedy played Macheath, the protagonist and lead character in *"The Threepenny Opera."*

In the crowd, Kennedy could see his past cast members from his junior college, Lincoln Trail College Community in Robinson, Ill., the Eastern baseball team and pitching coach Jason Anderson took up the front row.

"My pitching coach came with his wife, so that means they had to get a babysitter," Kennedy said. "That meant a lot to me."

Kennedy not only performs in shows and musicals, is also a left-handed relief pitcher for the baseball team at Eastern.

Balancing these two activities is a delicate situation that results in long, 12-hour days, Kennedy said.

His daily schedule includes: waking

up, lifting, going to class, going to baseball practice, going to rehearsal, then doing homework before bed.

"I've gotten better," he said. "The higher you get in baseball, the more time you have to put into it."

Kennedy said both the baseball team and theater are major roles in his life.

The baseball coach is paid to train the players and win games; while the play director is paid to put on a good show, said Kennedy. So balancing both and doing his best for both is his goal.

Kennedy said leaving baseball practice for play rehearsal is more serious at Eastern than it was at his junior college.

When Kennedy leaves the field, he becomes a dedicated actor on the stage, said Seth Killen, Kennedy's musical and stage director for *"The Threepenny Opera."*

"Ben is completely comfortable in his own skin, and so, he isn't afraid to try anything," Killen said. "As an actor, he's fearless."

This fearlessness and intensity trans-



BEN KENNEDY

lates to a leader and role model to fellow cast mates.

"Ben is very serious about the process of developing a character, and he pushes himself to understand every line and every song," Killen said. "His seriousness pushes his scene partners to rise to the occasion and match his intensity."

Kennedy is described as a leader on the field as well.

"He leads more through his actions than vocally," Anderson said.

Killen's most memorable play Kennedy has acted in was *"Little Shop of Horrors,"* when Kennedy sang the role of the dentist.

Killen said it was a tough role to play because the dentist is not a likable character, and it takes a lot of dedication as an actor to commit fully.

"Ben was completely dedicated to the process and was a really creepy dentist," Killen said.

Although Kennedy practices for baseball daily, Killen said it does not take away from his dedication and talent on stage.

"Ben is such a hard worker and so dedicated to his craft that I knew he would be able to pull it off," said Killen. "It's rare to find a student that can balance both, but he's actually really good at focusing on the task at hand and keeping balance between all of the activities he takes on during the semester."

KENNEDY, page 7

Panthers, Illini set for Tuesday matchup

By Aldo Soto
Assistant Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

The Eastern baseball team is set to play against the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Illinois Field in Champaign.

Both teams were scheduled to play on April 8, but the game at Peterson Park in Mattoon was canceled because of rain – the exact same thing that happened last season.

Tuesday's game between the in-state rivals marks the 75th meeting between Eastern and Illinois, with the Illini leading the series 50-24.

	EASTERN ILLINOIS VS. ILLINOIS	
12-27, 6-12 (OVC)	TUESDAY 6 P.M. ILLINOIS FIELD CHAMPAIGN, ILL.	21-14, 9-3 (B1G)

Eastern coach Jim Schmitz has an 11-11 record against the Illini, including a 3-2 record against Illinois in their last five games.

Last year, Eastern traveled to Illinois Field and defeated the Illini 8-4 on April 9, as seven different Panthers

drove in a run, led by Cameron Berra, who went 2-for-4, with two RBIs and a run scored.

Eastern was able to put together singles in the top of the sixth inning, when it scored eight runs to get the win.

The Illini are coming off a three-game sweep of Penn State on the road, holding on to the 7-6 win Sunday that improved Illinois' record to 9-3 in the Big Ten Conference.

Meanwhile, the Panthers have had a couple of days off from action, last playing Saturday, when they beat Southeast Missouri 10-3, which avoided a sweep by the Redhawks.

Eastern is 6-12 in the Ohio Valley Conference and 12-27 overall this season. Illinois is 21-14 this season and 7-3 in its last 10 games.

BASEBALL, page 7