

4-13-2016

Easterner, Vol. 67, No. 23, April 13, 2016

Associated Students of Eastern Washington University

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Recommended Citation

Associated Students of Eastern Washington University, "Easterner, Vol. 67, No. 23, April 13, 2016" (2016). *Student Newspapers*. 916.
https://dc.ewu.edu/student_newspapers/916

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THE EASTERNER

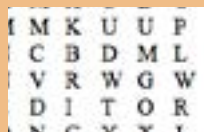
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Coffee connects cultures

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Code Blue stations a tool of safety on campus



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Men's track and field continues streak of success



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Editor's note: The one about language

Eric Long | editor-in-chief



Language is a distinct human characteristic and without it, there is no culture.

Eastern has a pretty good-sized international student population, which brings a wide range of cultures and languages. Many of these students are learning English and there is no better way to learn another language than submerging oneself in an area where one language dominates.

In this issue, readers will learn about Coffee Talk, a weekly event hosted by the International Students Association in the Fireside Lounge.

This event aims to bring international and domestic students together to have conversations, which helps international students with their English and gives domestic students a taste of a different culture.

Read more about Coffee Talk in the article “Diverse interactions every week at International Students Association’s Coffee Talk” on page 9 by contributing writer Montse Franco.

Also in this issue:

Those wanting to know more about EWU President Mary Cullinan, read the article “From the office of the president” on page 3 by contributing writer Luke Kindred.

Joe Matthews weighs in on the hot-button issue of gun safety in “Isolated incidents bring bad rep to gun owners everywhere” on page 11.

Learn what it takes, grade-wise, to be a member of the Greek community in “You Beta believe Greek Life helps students achieve” on page 7 by contributing writer Colette-Janae Buck.



Front page art explained

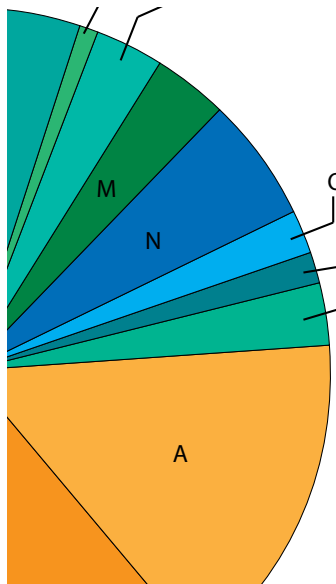
I wanted to highlight the coffee theme on front this week. I used a coffee stain font style and kept a mocha and EWU palette. The smoke provides a backdrop for our flag to sit on for legibility.



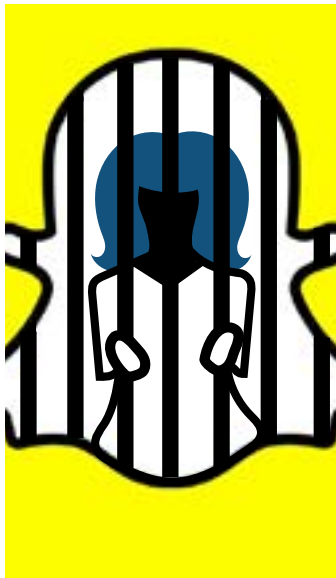
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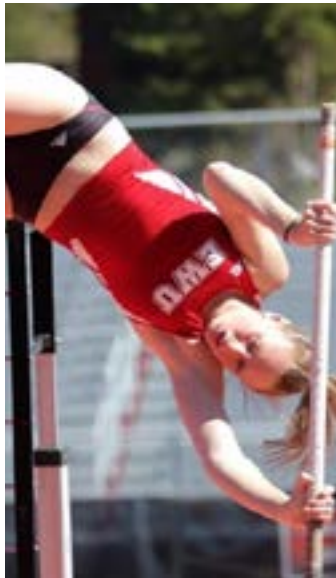
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Track and field set records | page 14

Front created by Kayla Lee

ABOUT THE EASTERNER

Our Mission: The mission of The Easterner is to inform the students, faculty, staff and nearby residents of Eastern Washington University of the governance, activities and views of the campus while providing a learning environment for students interested in journalism and related fields. Our main goal is to publish high-quality news content to the community of Eastern Washington University.

Circulation: The Easterner publishes a weekly print version as well as web content during the week <http://www.easterneronline.com>. The Easterner is distributed throughout the Cheney campus and business district as well as Riverpoint and various Spokane businesses. If you would like The Easterner to be distributed at your business call the Advertising Department at 509-359-7010.

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From the office of the president

By Luke Kindred | contributing writer

EWU President Mary Cullinan grew up in the District of Columbia where her father was a speechwriter for politicians. She could not see herself academically pursuing anything other than English. “I was dictating books to my mother before I could even write,” said Cullinan. “I always wanted to be a writer, and I always wanted to be involved with books in some way.” Cullinan received her bachelor’s in English from the University of Pennsylvania before continuing her education at the University of Wisconsin. There, she received her master’s and Ph.D. in English.



Mary Cullinan

“I would never want a job where I wasn’t on a college campus, the joy is still for me, being with students, working with students, knowing that what I’m doing is going to hopefully positively affect students,” Cullinan said.

She said she did not envision a life in management and administration. Starting out as a faculty member at California State University, Hayward, now CSU East Bay, she was then asked to step in as interim dean.

Some days Cullinan sits in her office, other days she is flying to Olympia to meet with legislators, and she also spends time on EWU’s Spokane campus often. Her job is very busy and not too routine; that is what she said she likes about it. Cullinan described her job as EWU’s president: “It’s like being the CEO of a very large and complex business that involves a lot of people.”

Carly Korando, a sophomore at EWU, said of Cullinan, “I have never personally met our president, but I know what she looks like and I have seen her on campus a lot. She always has a smile on her face and looks like a really genuine person.”

When asked why she loved EWU, Cullinan said, “The faculty and staff have a very clear understanding of the mission here, and they love that mission. So when I meet with faculty and staff they talk about transforming students’ lives; they’re really committed to that mission that students come to us from all sorts of families, all

sorts of experiences, all parts of the state, the country and the world, then we do our best to make their lives better, and their families’ lives better. That mission is so engraved in the minds and hearts of people here that I think it makes Eastern Washington University a particularly special place — it’s pretty amazing.”

The EWU “Values, Mission and Vision Statement” can be found on the EWU Office of the President website which states, “EWU expands opportunities for personal transformation through excellence in learning.”

Cullinan said she regretted not taking advantage of all the opportunities she could have. She said, “If you have the opportunity as I did to go to school, live on campus, be done in four years, I could have taken so many opportunities that I didn’t take, so I can look back on that and say ‘Wow, I’ll never have those four years [back].’”

One thing she would like to encourage all students is to take full advantage of their educational opportunity. “I didn’t use [my days in college] to the max. That would be a word I would always have for students, that when you’re here make the most of it because these days, they won’t come back again,” she said.

Cullinan also had the chance to speak on the upcoming Pence Union Building renovation. She mentioned how big of a project it was and how beneficial it is going to be for EWU students. Cullinan mentioned that the student government, and others working on the PUB, are about to go out and start listening to some things that students want to see in the new PUB as well as getting more information out about

the project. She also said there would be an adjustment period as food services located in the PUB will have to be relocated, most likely to Tawanka.

According to the EWU Access website the project will take approximately two years and vendors will have to vacate the PUB by May 31, 2016, for the renovations to begin.

Cullinan said there was one thing that she would like the EWU community to know about her: “I am just happy every day to be here. I feel like I have had the luckiest life in the world ... Being president of a public university I think is a tremendous honor, I love our mission, so to have the chance to be here in this beautiful place

“
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Mary Cullinan | EWU President

with a university that has been here for 130 years doing incredible things for students, changing peoples’ lives. I just cannot imagine a better job and a better place to be. So I would just hope that everybody here gets a little sense of how lucky they are to be here.”

She wanted to leave this thought with the EWU community:

“There’s a quote from the Irish writer W.B. Yeats. He says, ‘Education is not filling the pail but lighting the fire.’ And I love that because it’s not just like we are going to fill

your brain with lots of facts [while] you’re in school, but if we can light the fire and make you passionate about learning then that’s the transformation, that’s where you go forth for the rest of your life, with an inquisitive mind and a desire to keep learning.”

Code Blue Stations increase campus safety

By Josh Svik | contributing writer

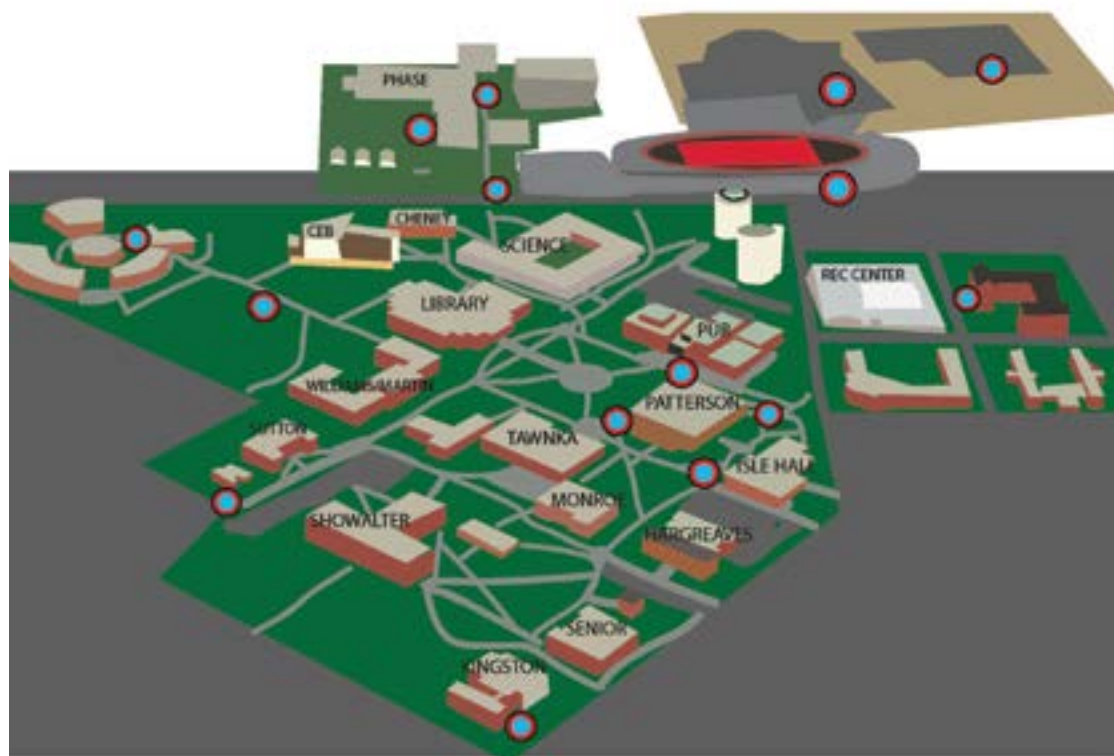


Illustration by Heidi Watchel

Campus security is an integral part of every university, and at EWU, Code Blue Stations help ensure the safety of the students.

Code Blue Stations allow immediate contact to a 911 operator, who is then able to pinpoint the student's exact location based on which tower they have used. The operator then stays on the line to provide help, support and deploy police units depending on the situation.

"It adds an extra layer of security for the staff, students and faculty," EWU Campus Police Chief Tim Walters said.

"The towers are, in a way, more streamlined than using a cell phone," Walters said. With a cell phone, your location is relayed off a tower and it is difficult to identify your location. The Code Blue Stations put the student into direct contact with 911, along with

giving them the student's exact position on campus.

Walters has been chief of police at EWU for 12 years and said there are more accidental pressings of the button or people intentionally playing around than there are actual usage of the stations.

EWU police cadets do monthly checks on each station to confirm they are working properly. There are 16 towers located at key points on campus. According to EWU's website, anyone who uses the tower will be connected to a 911 operator within 20 seconds and is asked to stay by the unit to relay any further information to help with the officer's response.

"I always feel safe while I'm on campus," said sophomore Hannah DuVall. "And I am confident the stations would work if I needed them to."

EWU English masters program revises classes

By Ryan Arnold | contributing writer

Deciding what is next after college can be a frustrating experience for some college students. Luckily, EWU offers remedies to this confusing time in a student's life by offering graduate-level studies for students who are not ready for the professional realm in the job markets.

One graduate program in particular, Master of Arts in English literature and writing located in the English department in Patterson Hall, has recently been revised to attract students interested in teaching at the community college level in English literature and also students who desire their Ph.D. in literature studies. This program consists of advanced literary theory and practice, pedagogical grammar and composition, history rhetoric and contemporary rhetorical theory, and many other important aspects of English to supply the graduate student with an even stronger foundation of the English language that can help graduate students who enter the professional world.

Logan Greene, Ph.D. and English department chair, supplied insight for students considering the program, which starts in fall 2016. "This graduate-level program has recently been revised to cast a wider net for those students who are ready to elevate their understanding of not only

English literature but also their academic studies for teaching at the collegiate level," she said. Greene discussed the program revision as something that was necessary due to the lack of students. With this revision of classes, Greene said she and her graduate faculty are hopeful that student interest peaks and class sizes increase.

Ryan Wise, an EWU senior majoring in English with literary studies option, discussed his decision to apply for the master's program. "I'm most excited about the professors and the critical pedagogy aspect of literature within the classroom setting," said Wise. "Honestly, the professors within the English department are what made my decision and I'm excited to hear back on my application."

Greene said she is happy with the revisions that were done to the program. The program allows the flexibility of graduate students living nearby because the schedule is much like an undergraduate schedule consisting of Eastern campus classes only. "Our main demographic in the past has been students who are interested in teaching at a community college, and they have been successful at this. Our changes make this focus clearer," Greene said.

When deciding what to do as graduation approaches, students should look at options that can heighten their

successes by continuing their educational studies with EWU. Not only is the tuition competitive to other universities nearby, but it also allows students to experience an environment much like their undergraduate studies.

As Eagles, our motto is "Start Something Big," and with graduate studies and the newly revised Master of Arts in English literature and writing, individuals complete what they have started within their undergraduate work and are fully prepared for what the future has in store.

“The professors within the English department are what made my decision and I’m excited to hear back on my application.”

Ryan Wise | EWU senior

Week long events taking place at the Get Lit! Festival

By Kalli Wolf | staff writer

Get Lit! director Melissa Huggins described the program, which takes place April 11-17, as a week-long book festival. “It was started in 1998 and it’s been a part of EWU ever since,” she said.

There are near 40 events taking place throughout the week. Huggins said Get Lit! brings in locally, regionally and nationally-known authors to the festival.

However, GetLit! is not limited to book authors. There will be a variety of events such as live music, poetry slams, readings and writing workshops.

Get Lit! reaches out to a variety of authors including graphic novelists, historical novelists and poets. “We try to have a little bit of something for everyone,” Huggins said.

The events will take place throughout downtown Spokane, the EWU Riverpoint Campus and EWU’s campus in Cheney.

On April 15, the headlining poet Cornelius Eady will be at The Lincoln Center along with his band, Rough Magic.

Though events will be taking place all week, Huggins said the event is somewhat weighted towards the second half of the week. “Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we’ll have a couple of events each day in the evening and then Thursday, Friday, and particularly Saturday, are kind of the busy days,” she said.

The events on April 16 will be held at the Spokane Convention Center and will consist of book launches, readings, book signings and more.

Huggins and Tony Payne, EWU graduate student and Get Lit! assistant coordinator, have been working all year to make the festival happen.

Around 10 other students have been working alongside Huggins and Payne as well. Huggins said the students are a mix of undergraduates and graduate students and are from a variety of different departments. Students work on things such as social media, web design, graphic design, writing, editing and more. One of the accomplishments is the 32-page Get Lit! Festival guide that was completely produced by the students.

Get Lit! works with The Inlander to print and distribute the guides. “They’re one of our biggest sponsors,” Huggins said.

Huggins said tons of EWU alumni and EWU faculty help and participate with the festival as well.

Get Lit! provides opportunities for students from a variety of departments. Payne was formerly an intern for Get Lit! and learned skills such as grant writing just by holding his new position as assistant coordinator. “There’s a whole lot of opportunities within Get Lit!,” he said.

Payne is also responsible for tasks such as coordinating volunteers and editing students’ blog posts. “[I] very happily took on this part-time job in the office this year,” he said.

Huggins was also an intern, as well as the assistant coordinator, before becoming the director of the program.

Students interested in interning can contact Huggins directly through the email listed on the Get Lit! website.

All but three Get Lit! events are free to students. However, students will be able to get into ticketed events with no cost by bringing their student ID with them.

GET LIT! FESTIVAL

April 13
WEDNESDAY

10:00 am

• My Worst Job: A Writing Workshop with Carolyn Wright

4:00pm

• Becoming a Writer: A Panel for Teens Presented by INKlings

7:00pm

• Raising Lily Leadbetter: Women Poets Occupy the Workspace

• A None’s Story: Searching for Meaning Inside Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, and Islam

9:30pm

• Pie & Whiskey Reading

7:00pm

• In Conversation with Paul Harding & Nancy Van Winckel

April 14
THURSDAY

April 15
FRIDAY

9:30am

• Poets of the Northwest: Montana, Oregon, and Washington

10:30am

• Creative Nonfiction: Panel Discussion

12:00pm

• Humor in Fiction

1:30pm

• The Poem, The Novel, and the Wilderness

7:00pm

• An Evening of Poetry and Music feat. Cornelius Eady and Rough Magic

8:00pm

• I CAN CHANGE: Heavy Edit Reading and show

April 14
SATURDAY

9:30am

• Images & Objects: Writing Workshop with Serena Crawford

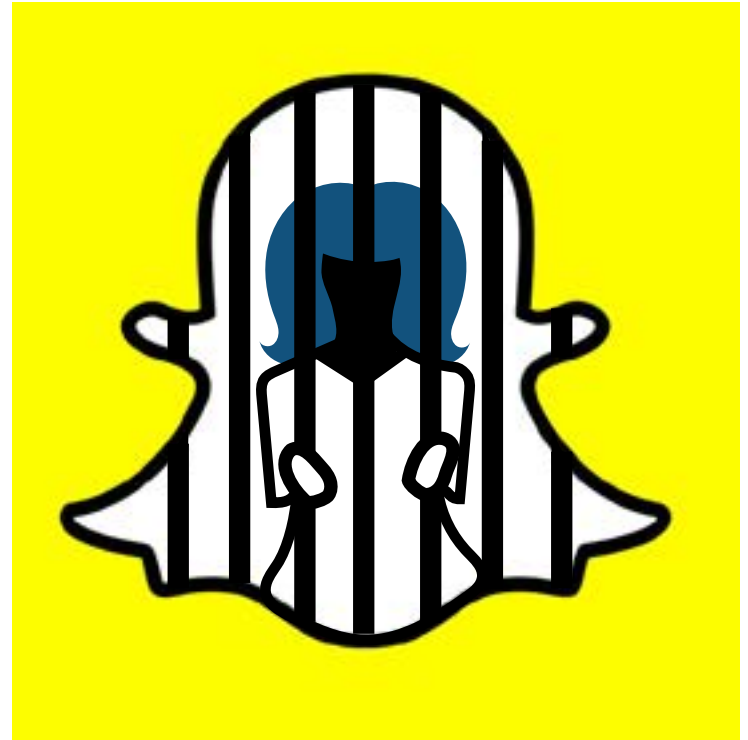
• Surprising Yourself: Writing Workshop with Diane Cook

• Word Pyromania: Poetry Workshop with Rob Carney

Graphic by Heidi Watchel

Student faces charges after posting on Snapchat

By Brad Brown | contributing writer



Graphic by Alyssa Scheller

Shyair S. Moore, 19, an EWU student and resident of snyamncut was arrested and is facing charges of Felony Malicious Harassment (Threats To Kill) and Making False or Misleading Statements after students reported seeing a Snapchat video of her posing with a Glock semiautomatic pistol stating, "In the dorms, with guns, shooting everyone up, Glock 12."

Moore was arrested by EWU police and transported to the Spokane County Jail. Moore had no previous criminal history and was released after her court appearance on April 6.

According to court documents, Moore stated this was not the first time she had posted videos of herself with guns to Snapchat.

Moore's arraignment will be on April 19 at 1:30 p.m. at the Spokane County Superior Court.

YAaL movie night

By Devante Gaillard | contributing writer

Young Americans for Liberty will be hosting a free movie event on Wednesday, April 13. The film "Can We Take a Joke" will show in Kingston Hall, Room 137 at 5 p.m. as part of a simultaneous nationwide debut.

The film is a documentary-comedy that discusses censorship and controversial issues. Stars of the film include Penn Jillette, Lisa Lampanelli and Adam Carolla, among many others. The event is open to the public. Following the film will be an open-forum discussion.

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You Beta believe Greek Life helps students achieve

By Colette-Janae Buck | contributing writer

Being a part of a sorority or fraternity requires dedication, leadership, interpersonal skills and, for Greeks at EWU, good grades.

Out of the 19 Greek organizations that exist at EWU, a total 17 chapters posted 251 members to EWU's quarterly Dean's List for winter quarter 2016. Students are listed on the Dean's List only after finishing a quarter with at least a 3.5 GPA.

Elizabeth Shimamoto, Gamma Phi Beta sister, has been on the Dean's List since coming to EWU her freshman year. "With a cumulative GPA of 3.9 I definitely strive to get good grades," Shimamoto said. She is also the public relations coordinator for her sorority, as well as ASEWU's student activities director.

Shimamoto said with her busy schedule staying organized with her phone's calendar app is what allows her to manage her life and still make grades. "I use the app religiously. I check it three times a day and always put everything in there," Shimamoto said.

Carrying her laptop around and getting her homework done early is another way Shimamoto tackles the coordination of getting good grades. "With my schedule I could be doing any number of things at one time, so I always keep my laptop on me so I can do homework or study wherever I am, when I have time," Shimamoto said.

Within the Gamma Phi Beta sorority, sisters are encouraged to manage their time and get good grades by being rewarded with something called "smarty panties." Smarty panties are gift cards with small monetary values given to purchase items at stores, mainly Victoria's Secret.

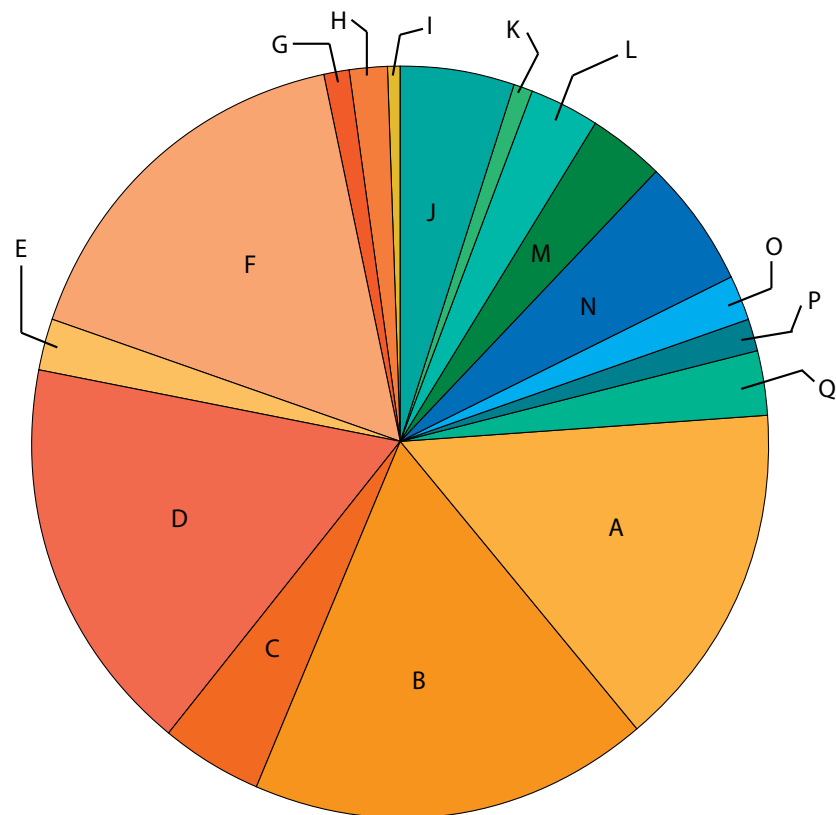
"If you achieve a cumulative GPA of 4.0 for the quarter, something that is really tough to do, you can get a \$5 gift card to Victoria's Secret or elsewhere as incentive to do well again," Shimamoto said.

According to Shimamoto, the most common way she and other members are encouraged to set high academic goals for themselves and make grades is not with rewards. Instead, it is with the responsibility of holding other sisters accountable for their actions.

"It's not all, 'Hey — get good grades,' it's more, 'Hey — shouldn't you be in class right now?'" said Shimamoto. "They hold me accountable for my actions and I've had to hold sisters accountable for theirs, because you never know. You could skip class and miss a quiz or attendance could be taken that day and you could lose points."

Nathan Peters, Dean's List member and current Sigma Phi Epsilon (SigEp) brother, said he attributes both his making of the Dean's List and his grades in general to his past role as SigEp's chapter president. Peters has been on the Dean's List for a majority of his two years at Eastern. He has missed only one quarter.

To Peters, his education is one of the most important aspects of his life, right beside his fraternity.



Greek members on Dean's List broken down by chapter

Sororities
(represented in orange/red)

A - Alpha Omicron Pi
B - Alpha Phi
C - Alpha Pi Sigma
D - Alpha Xi Delta
E - Gamma Alpha Omega
F - Gamma Phi Beta
G - Kappa Delta Chi
H - Lambda Theta Alpha
I - Sigma Phi Gamma

Fraternities
(represented in blue/green)

J - Beta Theta Pi
K - Delta Chi
L - Kappa Sigma
M - Omega Delta Phi
N - Phi Delta Theta
O - Pi Lambda Phi
P - Sigma Lambda Beta
Q - Sigma Phi Epsilon

Graphic by Abbi Vance

"Academics is a large part of what we do and what we preach as greek members," said Peters. "As former chapter president I have to meet and exceed the expectations, because what happens when the former president doesn't meet grades? You become a hypocrite."

Specifically within SigEp, Peters said academics is one of the main focuses of their fraternity.

"Sigma Phi Epsilon has had the highest GPA within the Interfraternity Council since last spring with a consistency of currently three quarters," Peters said.

New and returning members must achieve a 2.8 or higher GPA per quarter. For executive members, the GPA requirement is a 3.0. Students and executive members who do not meet grades are penalized with proctored "study hours" that must be completed on a weekly basis.

Aside from being motivated by "living up to his fraternity," Peters said prioritizing his activities is another way that allows him to achieve his grades.

"It's about carving out time. It's homework and you have to get it done," Peters said. Planners and reminders through digital calendars are also ways that Peters said help keep him on track.

Like both Shimamoto and Peters, Beta Theta Pi member Brendan Hargrave said one part of what keeps him and his academics on track the support of his fraternity.

"Just being in an organization that has a very structured work environment sets you up for success," said Hargrave. "I

attribute a large portion of my success to being in Beta, because they hold you accountable; by having bad grades it becomes a bad reflection of your organization."

Beta Theta Pi's academic policies are very structured, and perhaps some of the most rigorous within EWU's Greek Community. "Anything below a 3.2 requires study hours in Beta, just to ensure you're putting time and effort into your studies," Hargrave said.

Penalty proctored study hours for Beta Theta Pi brothers are structured similarly to the ones within Sigma Phi Epsilon. Members who do not meet grades are required to do so many study hours, depending on their GPA achieved.

"If you receive below a 3.2 your study hours are four hours. If you receive a 2.8 your study hours are six, and so on and so forth," Hargrave said.

Besides his fraternity, Hargrave said having a busy schedule, knowing how to prioritize his activities and hard work is another part of what helps him meet grades.

"What I've learned is that the busier I am the more work I can tackle," Hargrave said. He has been on the Dean's List approximately three times and is the executive vice president of ASEWU.

"Every quarter is different for me. If I have a harder class I downsize on something else, and whenever I have a spare 15 minutes I'm on my computer doing homework," said Hargrave. "I also just spend a lot of late nights in my office if that's what I gotta do. I stay there until 3 a.m. and get it done; really I just don't want to let my fraternity down."

EWU teams up with ParaSport Spokane and SOTA for relay

By Kristi Lucchetta | staff writer

ParaSport Spokane urges EWU students to participate in the Wheelchair Relay Challenge Fundraiser on April 15 at 12 p.m.

“I wanted to get involved with ParaSports Spokane because I loved sports growing up,” said EWU graduate student Danika Jones. “I strongly believe that the opportunities I had should be available for all, no matter the physical or cognitive limitations.”

The event is sponsored by EWU Spokane Occupational Therapy Association. The race will consist of 27 co-ed teams composed of five individuals who will represent the team.

“I have been profoundly impacted by my involvement with ParaSport Spokane,” said EWU graduate student Zoe White. “These experiences have taught me valuable practical skills I will take with me in my professional career. It is my hope that this fundraiser will generate awareness of ParaSport Spokane, both on campus and in the community.”

White said she is hoping students not only get involved but gain a greater understanding of those with physical disabilities and become aware of the ParaSport Spokane organization.

The event will have a shuttled relay across the basketball court with three teams at a time. The cost is \$250 per team which goes to supporting ParaSport Spokane Programs.

“This is the first time [ParaSport Spokane] has put on an event in conjunction with Eastern Washington University and the Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA),” said White. “ParaSport Spokane is looking forward to this partnership, as it helps the non-profit create community awareness and involvement.”

The deadline to register for this event was April 8, but students can still get involved.

“[Students] can make a monetary donation on site or they can buy lunch at the Bistro Box food

truck,” said White. “The Bistro Box will be kindly donating 15 percent of the profit and all tips back to ParaSport Spokane. Bringing clothes and textiles for donation will also contribute to the clothing drive that ParaSport Spokane is currently involved with.”

White also encourages students to come participate in the numerous activities that will be provided.

ParaSport Spokane uses adaptive sport as a catalyst for life by providing training and competitive opportunities for youth and adults with physical disabilities. The organization provides an environment where individuals can thrive, learn, compete and build lifelong friendships by promoting the importance of success, integrity, independence and self-worth.

“ParaSport Spokane is a completely volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization,” said White. “All of the funds that are raised at this event and other fundraisers go directly towards athlete programming. This includes offsetting gym cost, competition fees, equipment repairs, uniforms, et cetera.”

The Wheelchair Relay will help raise money needed to support ParaSport Spokane’s year-round programming in the hope people will have an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how skilled many of these athletes are and to change misconceptions.

This event also helps promote an alternative way for students to get involved outside of the traditional rehab setting, according to White.

“Other students should definitely consider getting involved,” said Jones. “It is not only fun, but you get to build relationships with the athletes and experience life from a completely different lens.”

The event will be held at the Riverpoint Campus Lawn and South Campus Facility in Spokane. All checks are to be made out to EWU SOTA with a memo stating, “ParaSpokane Spokane Relay Challenge.”

Students can enjoy Club Vegas during EWU spring family weekend

By Kristi Lucchetta | staff writer

Let the chips, dice and cards fall where they may at Club Vegas night on April 16. Students and families are welcome to join at 6:30 p.m. in the PUB MPR, where there will be many Vegas-inspired games to enjoy.

Club Vegas is a part of FestEagle week that is from April 15 to April 17. FestEagle is a family affair that welcomes students and their families of all ages to join in on a weekend of events.

“Club Vegas has been an annual event for many years,” said EWU senior and Eagle Entertainment events coordinator Kylee Welch. “The event is set up like an actual casino where there will be many casino table games such as black jack, roulette, craps and much more.”

The event will allow students to participate in winning prizes, playing casino games and enjoying the free food and refreshments with their family and friends.

“I think it’s cool that EWU hosts events that are different and fun,” said EWU senior Krysta Beach. “[These events] get students involved with their school.”

Those who attend will receive raffle tickets they can use to win prizes such as gift cards and specialty gift baskets. The gift cards will be to local Cheney and Spokane restaurants and businesses, and the baskets will include movie nights, yoga and much more, according to Welch.

Following the event will be a magic show by magician Nash Fung in the Showalter Auditorium from 9-10 p.m. This will be Nash Fung’s second year performing at EWU. He is from Seattle with over 18 years experience.

“I think it’s great that EWU offers these types of events for students and families because it’s important for not only students to be involved in college events, but it’s important for families to be involved as well,” Beach said.

Welch said she encourages students and families to come enjoy free food, a free photo booth, free casino games and prizes.

“The event is geared toward families because it usually falls in conjunction with EWU’s Spring Family Weekend,” said Welch. “We had a lot of people turn out last year; I’m not quite sure on the exact number but we are hoping for 500 people this year.”



Diverse interactions every week at International Students Association's Coffee Talk

By Montse Franco | contributing writer

Students who enjoy drinking coffee or tea, eating sweet desserts or meeting new people from unique countries around the world should know Coffee Talk is the place to be. Every Wednesday at 3 p.m., students can find a diverse group of international students waiting to meet and interact with new people. On a chilly day one can find them inside the PUB sitting at the Fireside Lounge. If the sun is out they can be spotted at the campus mall area.

Coffee Talk is a weekly event that is hosted by the International Students Association (ISA). The main goal of the event is to get international students involved with the community on campus, according to Taylor Baldwin, a leader on the ISA board. Coffee Talk has participating students from all around the globe. Some of the countries include Japan, China, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Brazil. Baldwin said the event gets around 30-50

participating students, both international and domestic, every Wednesday.

According to the EWU Global website, international students are invited to practice conversational English in a fun, casual and friendly environment with fellow students and native English speakers. EWU faculty, staff and Cheney community members are invited to join in.

Students have the option of having a conversation with the international students one on one or in a group, so that everyone is comfortable.


It is more than just an event to practice conversational English, it is a great opportunity to have fun, meet new people and build friendships. Arman Tigranyan, also known as Tiger by his ISA peers, is always ready with a game for everyone to play. Although Coffee Talk is a two-hour long event, everyone is welcome to stay longer and hang out.

Mohammed Alsharidah, a freshman EWU, said he likes

coming to Coffee Talk because he gets to talk and meet new people. Alsharidah has attended Coffee Talk for several quarters now and encourages new people to come.

Sarah Ichikawa is an EWU junior who is interested in pursuing a career in engineering. She likes coming to Coffee Talk because it is a great chance for her to make friends. "It is sometimes hard to have a conversation with new people when you are in class or in the dorms doing homework, because you are focused on trying to do homework," she said. It can be hard for many students to interact with new people, especially when there is a language barrier.

The International Students Association works together with the Office of Global Initiatives in order to provide different activity opportunities for international students to participate in. Future events the ISA students will be participating in are Diversity Week and Bloomsday, both in May.





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Answers for Issue 22 Crossword

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Across: | Down: |
| 4. Pelluer Invite | 1. The Bearing Sculpture Project |
| 5. Hedgehog | 2. Elise Engler |
| 6. Frogger | 3. LinkedIn |
| 10. Partlow | 7. Tawanka |
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OP-ED

Isolated incidents bring bad rep to gun owners everywhere

By Joe Matthews | opinion editor

Not being a heavy gun activist myself, I have always found it a little threatening and somewhat unnecessary to carry a gun wherever you go. The concept is easy enough to understand; guns have the ability to keep us safe in the case of an emergency. But when people are making idiotic decisions with their weapons — like the incident on campus last week as detailed in the online exclusive “Shyair S. Moore arrested for Snapchat threats on campus” by Brad Brown for The Easterner — the sense of safety a gun brings is then lost and the anti-gun movement grows even stronger.

As of right now, guns are not allowed on campus. Though students are allowed to have them, they have to be registered with the police, locked up in the red barn and are not allowed in campus buildings, including the dorms. With several mass shootings occurring over the years, this seems to be a good move by the university. Unfortunately, one student was not too keen

on the rules and sent out a video of her with a friend’s handgun saying she was going to shoot up the building. This is where the activism for guns has me lost.

I know it’s impossible to know the exact intentions of every gun buyer, but lax regulation, ease of purchase and a lack of common sense are what truly caused this event to unfold as it did. Accessibility is incredible; most pawnshops sell guns to anyone over 18, while pretty much anyone can buy a gun online. The student in question got the gun from her friend, an even easier resource, and then had a momentary lapse in reason in which she used it to threaten her peers via social media.

Now, the students involved may be perfectly sane, the weapon could have been legally registered and the whole thing could have been a big hoax, but the stupidity of the act should highlight the fact that one gun in the hands of the wrong person could be, and has been on

numerous occasions, devastating.

Many will combat this by saying that by allowing people to have guns around campus we would be able to halt any kind of mass shooting in its tracks. Someone with a gun could potentially take out the shooter and a massacre could be avoided. But what if this student was one of the people who thought this way — figuring they could defend themselves if need be because they were wielding a firearm? When someone who talks about killing their peers has a weapon, even if it could potentially save my life, it isn’t comforting.

What I’m really trying to get across is that if gun activists don’t want to see more restrictions, gun safety needs to be better communicated and the amount of senseless threats has to go down. I know most gun owners are very safe and responsible when it comes to their weapons, but as we’ve seen over the years, it only takes one moron to blow the reputation of an entire group.

Easterner Asks:

What’s your favorite place to eat in Spokane and Cheney and why?

freshman Natalie Schreiner:



“In Spokane, Clinkerdagger because they have the best seafood and in Cheney, Rokkos because they have really good teriyaki.”

freshman Azucena Rodriguez:



“In Spokane I like Sushi.Com because their sushi is really, really good and fresh. In Cheney I like the Mason Jar because they have really good coffee and it’s a cool place to just hangout, chill and do homework.”

sophomore Will Harrison:



“I like to eat at Taco Bell because it’s cheap, affordable and right where I always come into Cheney so it works out for me every time.”

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Letters to the Editor

Opinion Editor

Joe Matthews

easterner.opinion@gmail.com

Requirements:

-Letters should be 300 words or less and typed, or legibly handwritten.

-Include your full name, signature, telephone number and email address for verification.

-We reserve the right not to publish letters; furthermore, all letters are subject to editing for adherence to Associated Press style.

-Letters must be received no later than Monday at 10 a.m. in order to be considered for publication the following Wednesday.

-If your letter is in response to a specific article, please list the title and date of the article.

Editorial Policy

We encourage the EWU community to submit letters and opinion pieces that conform to the requirements listed above.

Opinion articles and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Easterner, its staff members or Eastern Washington University.



EWU star trusts the process

By RayJaun Stelly | contributing writer

Kendrick Bourne has never looked back since stepping foot on EWU's campus, despite his good friend and teammate Vernon Adams transferring schools last season.

A stand-out in high school, Bourne earned himself an invitation to play in the Polynesian All-American Bowl in California his senior year. The Oregon native was selected onto the state's 5A second-team, first team All-Northwest as a receiver and second team All-Northwest as a safety in Oregon as well.

"I chose EWU because when I took my official visit it was one of the best I've experienced," said Bourne. "The coaches were great, food was good as well, there was a positive vibe from the team and from there I knew I was sold."

Playing as a true freshman in 2013, Bourne was buried on the depth chart, although he managed to finish the season with seven receptions for 117 yards and a touchdown.

The 2014 season came around and Bourne's time had come to put everybody on notice to who he was.

He earned an honorable mention All-Big Sky nod after starting in nine games and finishing the season with 52 receptions for 814 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Losing Adams was a tough loss for the team but Bourne did not lose focus. "I have stuck with this program because the support system our school gives me through football is beyond helpful," Bourne said. This translated to the field during the Eagles' 2015 season, where he finished with 73 receptions for 998 yards and eight touchdowns.

"There's no way I can't succeed, especially with the help from my teammates, coaches, tutors, friends and teachers. Everybody helps me get through my classes while I major in communications," Bourne said.

Whether he is lined up on the right or left side of the field, Bourne continues to be a match-up nightmare for the other team. Throughout the Eagles' three spring games Bourne already has eight receptions for 104 yards and one touchdown.



Bourne finished the 2015 season with 73 receptions | Photo by Melanie Flint

Reese Court in need of a face lift

By Riley Baker | staff writer

Basketball season has come to an end and Reese Court will not have fans in its 40-year-old orange seats until volleyball rolls around in the fall.

Reese Court was built in 1975 after replacing the Eastern Washington Fieldhouse. Now, in 2016, it is a bit outdated. The old seats, although still functional, are no longer in style, nor do they match the school's colors.

In the Athletic Department's 2012-2017 Strategic Plan, the idea of renovating the facilities, specifically Reese Court, is brought up. Among the plans of this renovation would be replacing the old orange seats with new red or black seats and improving the offices and clubhouse.

"The one thing I'll say about Reese Court is that it was born in the mid-70's," said EWU Athletic Director Bill Chaves. "I think the only thing we really need to do is continually look at ways to hit a refresh button, and that's kind of what we're looking at. The seats have aged well, it's just unfortunately in the day and age of branding and where you are today 40 years later when the actual building was built, obviously you would rather have them at this point in time either black or red."

When it comes to projects of this size, the ideas will be there, but the funding always needs to be found for it to come

to life. Being a state-funded college, only so much money can go toward athletics, and when faced with these kinds of renovations, external sources are a must.

"When it comes to facilities, we always have sort of a vision of what we'd like to see occur moving forward, and then it's always the funding mechanism," said Chaves. "The most logical way right now, given where we are as a state-funding model, is that it needs to come from external sources or donors."

Another element of these renovations would be to paint the surface of the court red. Chaves believes that, much like Roos Field, a red court would be a great opportunity as far as branding and recruiting goes. The question then would be whether or not a red court is practical.

"I see a number of courts now that aren't your traditional basketball court," said Chaves. "So I think there are enough courts out there that it probably would not be that shocking for folks. For us particularly, I think it fits with what our brand is, and I think it would be consistent."

Chaves said he believes that Reese Court's technology could be improved as well in the potential renovation, but all that remains is the proper funding. The Athletic Department is continually looking for different funders and donors that could

possibly contribute to the program, and as of now they are still having talks with potential sources.

"We've identified folks that have a connection to the institution," said Chaves. "Those things just don't happen overnight. They're conversations that continually are occurring and then you hope that a vision connects with somebody that has the capacity to want to help fund it. When that marriage happens, then maybe you go forward with it. Very rarely does someone come in with 100 percent of what the project cost is and drop it on your table and say 'Awesome, we want to go forward.' Normally it's a percentage of it, and then you have to figure out how you're going to do the rest."

For now, these renovations are still in the conceptual stage with donors and funding in mind. All that is left is to seal a deal and EWU could see new seats and a bright red floor in Reese Court.

"Besides myself, we've got a number of folks on our staff that can continually work with folks that want to enhance Eastern Athletics, and certainly Reese Court is one of those conversations," said Chaves. "So we're continually having conversations but nothing right now to announce."



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Reiter and Coleman have record-setting day

By Grace Pohl | staff writer

The women’s track team went up against the University of Montana and won by a team score of 76-72 at the 44th Annual Pelluer Invite on April 8.

Both junior Sarah Reiter and senior Kaytlyn Coleman had a record-setting day. Reiter won with the second fastest 1,500-meter time in school history and broke the 33-year-old meet record that was previously held by Sherrie Crang of Idaho in 1983 with a 4:29.1 time. Reiter ran it in a time of 4:28.91, and it was a qualifying time for the Big Sky Championships.

The only person in front of her for the best time in school history is redshirt senior Katie Mahoney, who ran it in a time of 4:24.05 in 2014. Mahoney finished right behind Reiter with a 4:35.60 time to place second.

“I didn’t really know what to expect because I do not typically run the 1,500 but I just wanted to try and hang on and get a personal best, so I was happy,” said Reiter. “I think the meet went well and that as a team we are continuing to improve and progress through the season.”

Coleman broke the school record along with the Pelluer Invitational record in the hammer throw, while also winning the shot put competition.

The previous Pelluer Invitational record was 195-10, set in 2014 by Olivia Midles — a former EWU athlete. Nicole Luckenbach set the previous school record in 2010 with a 199-8 throw. Coleman beat both the records with a 200-1 throw. Coleman also went on to win the shot put with a Big Sky-qualifying throw of 47-7 1/4.

“What a great series of throws by Kaytlyn Coleman. Going over 200 in the hammer puts her at a different level and it was great to get that hammer school record,” head coach Marcia Mecklenburg said.

Junior Erin Clark and freshman Elizabeth Prouty tied for the Pelluer title in the pole vault with a clearance of 12-1 1/2. Junior Anandae Clark placed third after clearing 12-1 1/2, but lost in the tiebreakers. Sophomore Macey Weitz placed fourth. They all qualified for the Big Sky Conference Championships with their jumps.

The 4x100 relay team won the Pelluer title with a season-best time of 47.09. The team consisted of junior Paige Hammock, senior Erika Lombardo, freshman Sofia Pizzillo and sophomore Rebecca Tarbert.



Freshman Elizabeth Prouty vaulting over the bar | Photo contributed by goeags.com

Junior Samantha Baker threw the javelin with a mark of 141-6, qualifying for the Big Sky championships. Sophomore Bridgette Underwood was barely behind Baker, throwing for 139-2. Underwood already qualified for the league championships with her previous best of 143-8.

Some of the track team will go on to the Mt. SAC Relays at Walnut, California, on April 13-16. The others will go on to the Long Beach Invitational in Cerritos, California, on April 15-16.

The invitational started as the twilight meet in 1971 and was renamed the Pelluer Invitational in 1972 after the death of head coach Arnie Pelluer.

Women’s Qualifiers/Records

1,500-meter	4:28.93	junior Sarah Reiter
3,000 Steeplechase	10:36.65	junior Paula Gil-Echevarria
3,000 Steeplechase	10:10.33	redshirt junior Katie Mahoney
10,000-meter	33:46.71	junior Sarah Reiter
Hammer Throw	200-1	senior Kaytlyn Coleman
Shot Put	47-7 1/4	senior Kaytlyn Coleman
Triple Jump	38-0 3/4	sophomore Dominique Butler
Pole Vault	12-1 1/2	junior Erin Clark
Pole Vault	12-1 1/2	freshman Elizabeth Prouty
Pole Vault	12-1 1/2	junior Anandae Clark
Pole Vault	12-1 1/2	sophomore Macey Weitz
Javelin	143-8	sophomore Bridgette Underwood
Javelin	141-6	junior Samantha Baker
Heptathlon	4,545 points	junior Kendra Hamm

Men's track beats Grizzlies

By Grace Pohl | staff writer

EWU's men's track and field took down the University of Montana with a team score of 53-50 at the 44th Annual Pelluer Invite in Cheney on April 8. Four men qualified for the Big Sky Conference, with a total of eight qualifiers as a team.

"The coaching staff asks a lot [of] the team for our only home meet. This year was no different in expecting individuals to compete in more than one event and/or compete in an event that is not their marquee event," head coach Stan Kerr said regarding the Pelluer.

"I am always happy when I am able to run well with my family in the crowd.

Aaron Brenton | EWU Senior

Senior Joey Payne threw a personal best for the javelin with a distance of 219-3. His previous best was 206-4. He won the event and now ranks fifth in school history.

Redshirt junior Aaron Cunningham previously qualified for the Big Sky Championships in the shot put but was able to add the discus. His winning mark was 161-7.

Senior Aaron Brenton competed in the 1,500-meter and



Senior Aaron Brenton winning the 1,500-meter | Photo contributed by goeags.com

won the event, even though he usually competes in longer races.

"Eastern had good performances all around," said Brenton. "It is always cool for the Eagles to perform in front of a home crowd. I am always happy when I am able to run well with my family in the crowd."

Sophomore Jeremy VanAssche ran a 10.52 in the 100-meter.

Junior Austin Oser participated in the WAR IX at Spokane Falls in the 5,000-meter. "I had a rough day. I have been dealing with a tight calf that really hindered my performance," said Oser. "I went out with the leaders for the first six laps and then my calf started tightening up and I did not want to risk injuring myself anymore so I pushed as much as I could without feeling any more pain. I am looking forward to bouncing back next weekend in California where I will get another shot to race the 5K."

The teams will travel to California. Some will participate in the Mt. SAC Relays in Walnut, California, on April 13-16. Others will participate in the Long Beach Invitational in Cerritos, California, on April 15-16.

Men's Qualifiers/Records

100-meter	10.52	sophomore Jeremy VanAssche
200-meter	21.65	sophomore Jeremy VanAssche
Javelin	219-3	senior Joey Payne
Javelin	190-3	junior Joey Day
Shot Put	53-2 3/4	redshirt junior Aaron Cunningham
Discus	161-7	redshirt junior Aaron Cunningham

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