

## HOLD 'EM



Adam Roberts, Weston Storm, Justin Morgan, Whitney Noel and Alex Abernathy survived to the last table of Texas Hold 'Em Sept. 13. Storm was the overall winner for the tournament. The Aggie Club enjoys many activities like Poker Night throughout the year. To schedule pictures at your club or organization's next event, contact the Statesman at statesman@eosc.edu. Statesman photo by Andrew Hagelberger

## Eastern offering one-day deer processing course

Eastern Oklahoma State College is offering a day-long "Basic Deer Processing" course on Saturday, Oct. 6 at 9 a.m. The continuing education course will be offered in Eastern's meat lab on the Wilburton campus.

Carrie Lockhart, Meat Science and Food Safety instructor, and Gaylon Brannon, Meat Plant Manager, will teach participants about field-dressing and the proper handling and sanitation of a harvested animal.

The course will include a demonstration of the breakdown of a carcass, basic processing techniques and the production of specialty products such as jerky and sausage.

Pre-registration is required and the course is limited to the first 25 registrants. Pre-registration will close on Friday, Sept. 28th. The cost for the course is \$25 and includes lunch, refreshments and educational materials.

To pre-register or for additional information about the course, contact Rhonda Quinn in Eastern's Agriculture Division at 918-465-1724.

## Iron Jawed Angels screening recognizes Constitution Day

**CARTER D. HASKINS**  
STAFF WRITER

Constitution Day is the recognition of the adoption of the United States Constitution.

It is observed on September 17, the day 1787 that it was signed at the U.S. Constitutional Convention. The holiday did not find its way onto the calendar until 2004, making it one of the newest holidays observed by the government.

Before becoming known as Constitution Day it was recognized as the "Citizenship Day".

Senator Robert Byrd from West Virginia was the man responsible for making the mid-

September day a memorable calendar mark.

Byrd authored an amendment passed by Congress to have all publicly-funded educational programs celebrate the constitution.

The amendment also mandates all public educational facilities to inform their students on the constitution on the holiday.

"We are planning to show the movie "Iron Jawed Angels" behind the Student Center Monday night at 10, after the night classes let out," commented Honors Director, Ruth Brelsford on the upcoming plans for Constitution Day.

Three drawings will be held

for students who register to vote during the week.

Eastern also plans to go for another spot in the top echelon of voters registered on campus in the state of Oklahoma. The Voter Registration contest is scheduled to coincide with Constitution week. The community college's Phi Theta Kappa has been in the top three for six out of the past seven years in the statewide contest.

Results are determined by the portion of the number of the students registered to the number of students enrolled.

Winners receive a plaque from the Oklahoma Campus

Compact presented to the institutions contest coordinator and student representatives during an Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education regular meeting.

"Phi Theta Kappa plans on having a voter registration booth set up during dinner hours on Wednesday night," said PTK sponsor Brenda Kennedy. "The booth will be in the cafeteria."

Phi Theta Kappa and Honors students are combining their efforts in an attempt to have more college students registered before the polls open in November.



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Alumni pg.7



Sports, pg. 8

**"The U. S. Constitution doesn't guarantee happiness, only the pursuit of it. You have to catch up with it yourself."**

**— BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

## AGGIE CLUB OFFICERS



Eastern's Aggie Club elected its officers for the 2012-2013 school year on Sept. 30. Pictured are, front row from left, Whitney Noel – Reporter (sophomore from Rattan); Allison Burns – Vice President (sophomore from Broken Bow); Liana Wagner – President (sophomore from Poteau); Brittan Raines – ESGA Representative (sophomore from Red Oak); and Casey City – ESGA Representative (freshman from Haworth). Back row, Penny Jones – Adviser; Larriann Chambers – Treasurer (sophomore from Tushka); Eddie Woods – Adviser; Logan Rea – ESGA Representative (freshman from Sallisaw); Emily Pike – Secretary (sophomore from Acworth, Ga.); and Dakota Janes – ESGA Representative (sophomore from Colcord).

## Schedule your club's yearbook photo today

The Eastern Mountaineer staff is working to get everything sorted out and ready for this year's yearbook.

Individual portraits will be taken in the Student Center cafeteria from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Sept. 18 and 19. These pictures are free and are a way to guarantee a spot within the pages of the book. This year there will be a drawing for three separate prizes for students who choose to participate and have their photos made.

According to yearbook adviser Kristen Turner, it is also time for club and organization sponsors or presidents to schedule group and officer photos.

Please contact Turner at extension 720 to do so. You may also contact Mountaineer staff members Michali Thompson at [mthompson@eosoc.edu](mailto:mthompson@eosoc.edu) or Andrew Hagelberger at [ahagelberger@eosoc.edu](mailto:ahagelberger@eosoc.edu).

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Music fall performance schedule

**Sept. 27** – Choir Performance, Mitchell Manor, Noon  
**Oct. 1** – Band /Choir Performance (Panola Elementary School) 1 p.m.  
**Oct. 5** – Choir Performance (Latimer Nursing Home) 2 p.m.  
**Oct. 9** – Band / Choir Performance (EOSC McAlester 6 p.m.  
**Oct. 11** – Fall Concert (EOSC Wilburton) 7 p.m. (please bring 2 canned goods to help the music department donate to the local food bank.)  
**Dec. 2** – Candlelight Concert (EOSC Wilburton) 5 p.m.

## United Ministry invites all to weekly events

The United Ministry would like to invite everyone to join us for its weekly programming beginning Aug. 28.

On Tuesdays at 5 p.m. the United Ministry will have an evening meal and worship service. Bible study will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursdays. They will study "Confronting the Controversies," a biblical look at controversial issues. All are invited to attend.

The United Ministry building is located just off of the east side of campus. For more information call Rev. April Coates at 918-465-3322 or by email at [revaprilcoates@gmail.com](mailto:revaprilcoates@gmail.com) or on Facebook at EOSC United Ministry.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. Wednesdays at the United Ministry building. College students are invited to join if they are struggling with substance addiction and are seeking a way out.

## Public awareness and damage prevention

## SUBMITTED REPORTS

Eastern Oklahoma State College recognizes that Safety, Health and Environmental Stewardship are every employee's responsibility. Protection of human safety and health and the environment will come first, no matter how urgent the job, project, or commercial interest. Our goal and commitment is to use superior standards and policies for the benefit of everyone who is a part of our operations or lives in the communities in which we operate. These principles are the foundation of our safety and environmental policies at EOSC.

## WHAT TO DO IF A LEAK OCCURS

## What NOT to do...

Do NOT touch, breathe, or make contact with the leak.

DO NOT light a match, turn on or off light switches, use a home phone or cell phone or do anything that may create a spark.

DO NOT attempt to extinguish any natural gas fire.

DO NOT attempt to operate any valves.

## What to do...

DO leave the home, building or area of any suspected leak.

DO call Eastern at 918-448-2365 and 911 once safely out of the area.

DO Warn others to stay out of the area.

## PUBLIC AWARENESS &amp; DAMAGE PREVENTION

America's pipeline industry maintains an enviable record of safety and reliability. Pipelines are by far the safest means of transportation today. The purpose of our pipeline is to provide safe, dependable, natural gas to Eastern Oklahoma State College gas burning appliances 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. However, despite strict federal oversight and the conscientious efforts of companies like Eastern, hazards do exist and emergencies, though infrequent, can occur. Statistics show that the majority of pipeline damage is caused by third parties (construction contractors, property owners, excavators, etc.) digging near buried pipelines. Damage to a pipeline, such as scratches, gouges, creas-

es, dents, and the cutting of tracer wire or tracer tape installed along with polyethylene plastic should be reported to Eastern Oklahoma State College. Third-party damage can be prevented by using a local excavation notification system known as OKIE One-Call and it's FREE!

In Oklahoma, the law requires anyone planning to dig or excavate near an underground pipeline to notify OKIE One-Call Center two working days (48 hours) prior to beginning excavation activities. The OKIE One-Call center will notify member utilities that operate buried facilities in the area. A utility representative will determine if the project is near underground facilities and dispatch someone to the work site to clearly mark the route and location of buried cables and/or pipelines. Call 811 or 1-800-522-6543 and remember it's FREE!

## NATURAL GAS LEAKS: RECOGNITION AND RESPONSE

Natural gas pipeline leaks or failures are rare, but an informed

public can help prevent emergencies and minimize potential damage or injury in the unlikely event of an accident by knowing how to recognize and report pipeline problems.

## HOW TO IDENTIFY A LEAK

The following signs may indicate a natural gas pipeline leak or failure:

**SIGHT**—A dense fog, mist, or white cloud. Bubbling in water and creeks or blowing dust and discolored or dying vegetation.

**SMELL**—Natural Gas is naturally odorless, so a rotten egg odor is added to aid in leak detection.

**SOUND**—Whistling, hissing, or roaring noise.

Eastern Oklahoma State College  
 24 hour Emergency Number (918) 448-2365

For additional information regarding pipeline safety or questions call Eastern Oklahoma State College at (918) 916-9106 or write to us:

1301 W. Main Street  
 Wilburton, Ok. 74578

## Tuskahoma Choctaw Labor Day Festival



Top: Martina McBride performs at the Tuskahoma Labor Day Festival. Photo by London Runyon  
Bottom: Slick Willie of Slick Willie and the Right Cats at Dusk til Dawn Blues Festival. Photo by Guy Folger

## September Music Festivals

## From Dusk til Dawn Blues Festival



Top: Selby Minner, co-founder of the Dusk til Dawn Blues Festival. Photo by Guy Folger  
Bottom: Poochie of Slick Willie and the Right Cats at Dusk til Dawn Blues Festival. Photo by Guy Folger



Cecil Gray at Dusk til Dawn Blues Festival Photo by Guy Folger



## Eastern's Book Club: Next meeting during the Banned Book Week

### LONDON RUNYON

MANAGING EDITOR

The Eastern book club is set to meet on September 25 at 4:30pm, in the library, to discuss banned books. Banned books were any books considered socially unacceptable in the early years of our country. The Ladies in the library decided to do this semester's first book club over banned books because the day falls in the Banned book week and they thought it was a good idea to bring awareness to books that would have been banned just a hundred or two hundred years ago. Some of the books

that will be discussed are:

Catcher in the Rye,  
by J.D. Salinger  
Crank,  
by Ellen Hopkins  
Gossip Girl (series),  
by Cecily Von Ziegesar  
Hunger Games,  
by Suzanne Collins  
My Sister's Keeper,  
by Jodi Picoult  
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,  
by Mark Twain  
The Golden Compass,  
by Philip Pullman  
The Perks of Being a Wallflower,

by Stephen Chbosky

Twilight,  
by Stephenie Myers  
What My Mother Doesn't Know,  
by Sonya Sone

There are some other books that can be discussed if so chosen, to see a list go to [ala.org](http://ala.org). Everyone is welcome and there are displays in the library where some of these books can be checked out, better hurry before they're burned up! For more information contact Mrs. Maria Martinez, by phone 918-465-1711 or by email [mmartinez@eosc.edu](mailto:mmartinez@eosc.edu), or you can contact any of the other staff.



Banned Books Display in the library. Statesman Staff Photo by Thomas Trouche

## MOVIE REVIEW

## Talihina Sky: The story behind this local band

"Talihina Sky" is a documentary film, presenting the childhood, upbringing, and rise to fame of Talihina, Oklahoma rock group the Kings of Leon (KOL), which received a 2011 Grammy Award nomination for "Best Long Form Music Video."

The chronicle first debuted in April 2011 at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York followed by a "hometown" premiere at the June 2011 deadCENTER Film Festival in Oklahoma City. The remainder of the year had European showings including Ireland, Finland, Greece, and Belgium.

The 87 minute video, available on Blu-ray disc and DVD, is distributed by Sony Music Entertainment and Showtime Networks. It was directed by first-time director Stephen C. Mitchell. The film stars the Kings of Leon which consists of brothers Caleb, Jared and Nathan Followill and cousin Matthew Followill.

Viewers watching the film with hopes of hearing KOL songs will be disappointed as "Talihina Sky" centers mostly



**GUY FOLGER**  
SENIOR STAFF  
WRITER

around the group's return to Talihina for the annual family reunion. The return is combined with home movie footage, concert snippets, and family commentary to present the KOL story.

The brothers Followill spent most of their childhood traveling across the South, in a bus, on their father's Pentecostal Holiness

evangelical tours. That strict Pentecostal upbringing seems for naught in the film, as it is laced with a large amount of dope smoking and unnecessary cursing.

Home movie footage of Pentecostal "receiving the Holy Ghost" and "speaking in tongues" interspersed with concert footage of the group's similar onstage gyrations seemed to be in poor taste in my opinion. It may not have been meant to be a mockery, but it came across as one to me.

As my DVD collection is made up of films and movies that I never tire of watching, this is one that I will pass on to someone else.



Eastern has several clubs and organizations in which students can participate. For a complete list of clubs and organizations and for contact information, go to [eosc.edu/current\\_student/clubs.html](http://eosc.edu/current_student/clubs.html). *Statesman photo by Thomas Trouche*

## COLUMN

## Why I choose not to vote — the election process is just a glorified popularity contest

Don't vote. It's a waste of time. I have more respect for every single person I meet on a day-to-day basis than I do for the political system that drives this country's leaders. Now, if you believe that one certain politician is a legitimate option based on criteria that you've researched yourself, then cast your ballot proudly. My discrepancy is not that too many educated people vote for a public official; it's quite the opposite.

In my opinion, the election process is nothing more than a glorified popularity contest where pandering, egomaniacal, wealthy-beyond-reason, deranged people are motivated by the concept of being considered powerful. You can find my opinion on the inner monologues of politicians by going to Youtube and searching for "Clint Webb." Webb is a fictional character running for Senate who describes himself as a "sociopathic narcissist" willing to "piggy-back some of our state's legitimate needs onto my unquenchable lust for self-glorification." I find this description very accurate to my opinion of politicians in general.

The problem that I have is that politicians are constantly making their way into the paths, hearts and minds of people hungry for a true leader. They don't present their entire policies in easily deciphered language and leave would-be voters aware of which policies they share likeminded views, they simply seek to impress you, either with sound bites exploiting the decisions of the other candidate or with other charades of concern and outrage. It's obvious in their decisions to leave vague, generalized slogans such as "Children are our future," that repeatedly

creep into the subconscious of parents everywhere. Well of course children are our future, Senator Simpleton; ages only go up.

While the men running for office are a curious

and strange sort of their own, they are further manipulated into shape by the television markets that back one or the other candidate. Networks become even more repulsive when they allow the candidates and their cronies a platform to take shots at their competition freely, all while criticizing remarks made by the competition in similar positions.

I grew up in the South so maybe I learned it wrong. When it comes to commenting on others, I wasn't taught that if you didn't have anything nice to say, just spew whatever hateful bile you and your campaign's staff can imagine. Then again, from a politician's viewpoint, I guess you have to fight fire with fire.

Just once, I'd like to see a man or woman fight bile with a smile. I'd like to see someone in a presidential race that comes from a working class family, has had to worry about bills and money for diapers

I'd like to see someone who isn't just some mega-wealthy conglomerate who knows how to milk America in a new direction.

During the week of the Republican National Convention, I heard Romney say that this country needs a leader that is more worried about the issues than getting re-elected. I heard thousands of cheers from his supporters while none of them



**JAYSON KNIGHT**  
STAFF WRITER

realized that Romney himself was more concerned with getting elected than any issues. To me, if someone was honestly intent on helping others, they could join a slew of missionaries or even the American Red Cross. To believe that a politician cares more about the issues than the applause he gets for pandering, I believe, is naïve.

Don't take me for a Democrat though. There's too much treachery within the political system to call me liberal or conservative. While I seem to agree with many Libertarian views on taxes and regulation, I think the whole scene is devoid of humanity.

Obama said in his election against John McCain in 2008 that "I will promise you this. If we have not gotten our troops out by the time I am president, it is the first thing I will do. I will get our troops home; we will bring an end to this war. You can take that to the bank." I think Obama is just as dishonest and eager to mislead as any other disingenuous leader that stands to make some money and gain more attention by exploiting the lives of Americans.

What is happening? The popular thing is just to vote against the guy you believe in the least. It has actually gotten to the point where people are voting for someone for the purpose of voting against others. Would you vote for Darth Vader to keep General Palpatine (Star Wars reference) from becoming president? I guess you'd have to see the debates.

If you would like to hear a local opinion on the obvious media bias at play during these elections, don't forget to grab a copy of the next Eastern Statesman. And if you've made it this far, thank you for reading, I respect your opinions and you can e-mail me at [winloseortieraiderstilidie@yahoo.com](mailto:winloseortieraiderstilidie@yahoo.com).

Do you have an opinion? Send a Letter to the Editor to [statesman@eosc.edu](mailto:statesman@eosc.edu)

## Poli-Graph: Uncovering the truth about presidential political ads

### CARTER HASKINS

STAFF WRITER

*Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of columns in which the Statesman staff will try to uncover the truth behind different political ads. The Statesman staff has chosen to focus on ads that are seen on Facebook, as it is one of the primary sources of information for college students.*

*In each column, we will make every effort to give as many sources (and to inform the readers on who is behind these sources). We will choose one advertisement from the Obama campaign and one from the Romney campaign. We will make every effort to present fair and nonpartisan responses to the chosen ads.*

*The staff feels that its work will be a valuable asset in making a truly informed decision in November. If you have any ads that you would like for us to put under the "poli-graph" or any suggestions for primary sources, please email them to statesman@eos.edu.*

With both the Republican and Democratic national conventions finally coming to an end the campaign ads will likely take

a turn toward the more ludicrous. The Republicans will attack Obama for spending while the Democrats will accuse the Grand Old Party of destroying the middle class.

In an attempt to add more ink to their already crowded resumes both young and old politicians alike will say just about anything to win in November.

The difference in information is the truth behind it.

An ad on current President Barack Obama's Facebook page states that Republicans would turn Medicare into a voucher program under Mitt Romney.

According to Politifact.com, starting in 2023, the Republicans' plan would provide premium support payments for new beneficiaries to purchase private insurance or a plan that acts like traditional Medicare. The term "voucher" generally describes this approach.

FactCheck.org states that under Romney's plan, nothing will change for anyone who is now 55 or older. These people will benefit from the current Medicare system for the rest of their lives.

FactCheck also points out that some young workers could

choose a traditional Medicare plan from a list of "competing private insurance plans subsidized by federal dollars."

Democrats are not the only mudslingers during this election season. Republicans posted on Mitt Romney's page that unemployment has hovered above eight percent for 43 consecutive months under Obama.

According to the Bureau of Labor (bureauoflabor.gov), this is a true statement about the rate of unemployment under our current president.

FactCheck.org takes the Bureau of Labor statistics further by breaking down the different "categories" of unemployment that are quite frankly just confusing.

One trend that FactCheck does point out is that while there was an upward trend in unemployment in Obama's first years, the numbers of slowly been "drifting back down since late 2009."

It just goes to show that the election season can be a time for slander but if you do some research you will be surprised by the amount of truth that filters its way into your Facebook eye candy.

## Reflection: the joys of journalism

### GUY FOLGER

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

I thoroughly enjoy writing for the *Eastern Statesman*. I suppose my still doing it after five semesters serves as some sort of testament to that fact. I imagine that my tenure is why I was asked to do the lead article in our series on political campaign advertisements.

In my movie, the setting would be the smoke-filled editorial office of the daily newspaper with actors like Jack Klugman, Walter Matthau, Edmond O'Brien, Nick Nolte and maybe

Faye Dunaway (younger students and teachers may have to "google" these actors). Out of the smoke, someone says, "Let's give it to the old guy."

My task was to prove or disprove the two political advertisements that I was assigned. The first, and easiest of the two, was from the Obama camp stating that Paul Ryan's budget plan "would cut Pell Grant scholarships for nearly 10 million students ..." Disproving this ad was just a matter of researching the sites that deal in fact or fiction analysis.

My second, and more difficult, ad was from the Romney camp stating, "zero years with trillion-dollar deficit 220 years before Obama, four trillion-dollar deficits since Obama." By this time, my frustration was beginning to build as it is often very difficult to find an exact answer to an exact question.

Sometimes, even when using more than one reliable source, the answer doesn't tell the whole story. When that happens, you have to remember that you are only researching one ad and not the whole story.

**ROMNEY-RYAN**  
THE VOUCHERCARE TEAM

WOULD TURN MEDICARE INTO A VOUCHER PROGRAM

MITT ROMNEY PAUL RYAN

SHARE THIS SO YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY KNOW

43  
STRAIGHT MONTHS  
OF 8%+  
UNEMPLOYMENT

MITTROMNEY.COM

Paid for by Romney for President, Inc.

These are the second political ads that were chosen in our "poli-graph" series. The top image was found on Barack Obama's official Facebook page. The bottom image was found on Mitt Romney's.



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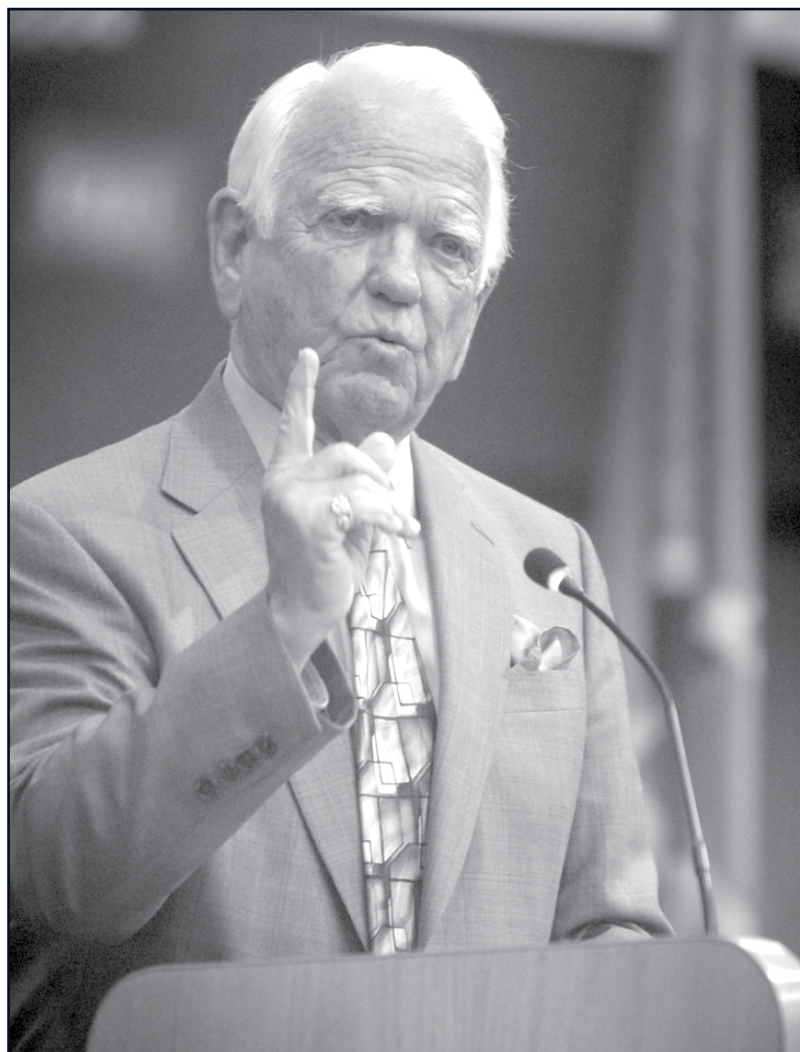
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Letters to the editor are not only welcomed, but encouraged. All letters must be able to be verified with the author's phone number, address, and e-mail address. The editor reserves the right to edit to fit space limitations and to comply with libel laws and good taste.

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## Former Governor George Nigh earns OACC honor



Former Oklahoma Gov. and Eastern graduate, George Nigh will be inducted into the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Oct. 5 in Midwest City. Nigh is pictured here delivering the commencement address at EOSC.

Former Oklahoma Gov. George Nigh will be inducted into the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges (OACC) Hall of Fame this fall. He will receive the award at the OACC annual conference in Midwest City on Oct. 5.

A McAlester native, Nigh graduated from Eastern Oklahoma State College in 1948. He is the only community college graduate to serve as governor of Oklahoma.

"This award recognizes Gov. Nigh's tireless commitment to improving higher education opportunities for all citizens in Oklahoma, regardless of their wealth, heritage or previous academic experience," said OACC Executive Director Gary Davidson. "This is an opportunity to thank Gov. Nigh for his long-time commitment to the betterment of Oklahoma."

Nigh was the first governor in Oklahoma history to be elected to more than one term, serving from 1979 to 1987. He was also the first gubernatorial candidate to carry all of the state's 77 counties in the 1982 election. He served eight years in the Oklahoma House of Representatives and 16 years as lieutenant governor. He was elected to his first term in the House in 1950 while

a senior in college at East Central University in Ada.

Nigh also served as president of the University of Central Oklahoma from 1992 to 1997. He was inducted into the Eastern Oklahoma State College Alumni Hall of Fame in 1988.

Eastern President Dr. Stephen Smith said Nigh was unanimously selected for the Hall of Fame by the Oklahoma Council of Two-Year College Presidents, a council within the OACC. Smith currently serves as the chair of the council.

"Gov. Nigh is very respected and well beloved in Oklahoma," Smith said. "The Eastern community is very proud of his accomplishments, as well as his service and commitment to our state. Gov. Nigh recognizes the value of higher education and is a wonderful representative for the community college system."

The OACC is made up of 14 community colleges that serve the needs of more than 100,000 Oklahoma students each year. The OACC supports Oklahoma's community colleges by providing professional development opportunities, advocacy and connections with key stakeholders to improve higher education in the state

## SSS offers campus support

**KIMBERLY CLIFT**  
STAFF WRITER

Student Support Services, also known as TRiO is a support program offered at Eastern. Trio is limited to 250 participants. In order to qualify the student must be a U.S. citizen, have an academic need, must be low income, have a physical or learning disability, or be a first generation college student (neither parent has a bachelor's degree).

Student Support Services has a Learning Resource Center with a computer lab for participants, open from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday.

In addition to a computer lab, Student Support Services offers a multitude of enhancement activities including tutors, cultural

trips, workshops, group activities, financial aid, assistance with study skills and careers, academics, and personal advice.

An application must be completed to see if a student qualifies. The student will also be required to participate in some of the activities that Student Support Services offers. An application can be picked up at Johnston Hall from any of the Student Support Staff. The office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

National statistics have proven that 20% of college students in Student Support Services have a greater chance of college success. "We can help, if not we know who can," stated Sue Lovett, Director of Student Support Services.

## Theater Eastern's First Show

**LONDON RUNYON**  
MANAGING EDITOR

Theater Eastern is at it again! With new cast, crew, and a new director, the Theater department is getting ready for their first show *Almost, Maine!* The play was written by *John Cariani*. *Almost, Maine* is a four person show and is a romantic comedy about finding, losing, and searching for love. This play is set to be performed October 5, 6, 12 and 13th at 8 p.m. and there is also a Matinée performance at 2 p.m. on Sunday the 14.

Students, staff, and faculty get in free and the general price is \$5 dollars. According to the Theater Director Ms. Klocke, this show is going to be entered into the American College Theater Festival, which is a nationwide theater

festival that colleges submit their plays to and people come out to watch their plays and three actors automatically get nominated for a scholarship program and if chosen go to a regional competition in Shreveport, Louisiana, then maybe, nationals. Ms. Klocke, when asked how she likes working with the students in the cast she replied, "They are full of good energy and are really willing to put in the hard work." The theater is also trying to start a tool drive, if you have any tools you don't use they will gladly use them. The theater is also looking for anyone interesting in helping, whether you want to act or do stage work. Auditions for their next play "The Jungle Book" are being held in Mitchell on Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW...**

Eastern Alumni making an impact on the world

**By MIKE CATHEY**

EOSC 1983 OF INDIANOLA

Tommy Cummings (EOSC 1978 of Hanna) knows something about news and newspapers including this one. Cummings is the Assistant Managing Editor/News for the Dallas Morning News and directs a team of 17 editors in the production of the 11 community editions. Cummings began his career in journalism as the co-editor of the EOSC Statesman.

The former Statesman co-editor recalled, "At Eastern we were encouraged to approach local newspapers about journalism opportunities. My freshman year, I was a weekend sports writer for the McAlester Democrat. On my first day, I opened the door as the hot-type typesetter was wheeled out. It dawned on me right away that journalism was about to change and undergo a major evolution. I decided at that point that I should follow the path of journalism but to keep an eye out on how the industry was evolving. I've always tried to imagine what my profession would be like in five to ten years and to choose the track to keep my career aimed at that objective instead of an immediate goal. The more you look ahead and diversify your talents, the less likely you are to immerse yourself in an outdated profession. That's particularly true in journalism."

From 1978-1992, Cummings worked at newspapers in McAlester, Henryetta, Muskogee, Little Rock and Tulsa before settling in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. He worked at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram from 1993-2000 and rose to assistant sports editor. From 2000-2002, he worked as a night sports editor and tech columnist at the San Francisco Chronicle- California's second-

**"What made it so fun were the relationships, not only with the student body, but also with the faculty. They always welcomed newcomers and made a hayseed like me feel at home."**

### TOMMY CUMMINGS EOSC CLASS OF 1978



Tommy Cummings

largest daily newspaper. However, he and his wife, herself in the same profession, (Bridget is the morning drive news editor for KRLD radio, the dominant AM news station in the Dallas area, and also worked at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, San Francisco Chronicle and Muskogee Phoenix) missed Texas, and the Star-Telegram brought them back to Texas.

From 2002-2007, Tommy was senior news copy editor, night city editor, executive editor of the community editions, and an online producer. In 2007, he joined The Dallas Morning News as synergy editor (hybrid print-digital editor for the community editions.) Since then he has moved up to be the assistant managing editor/news for the 11 community editions that are distributed through The Dallas Morning News to the 340,000 households in the Dallas area.

Tommy was born on the Menominee Indian Reservation in Wisconsin, and was adopted and raised by his great uncle in rural McIntosh County. He attended Hanna Public

Schools but grew up mostly around Eufaula, McAlester, and Tulsa. After earning an EOSC Associate of Arts in Journalism he attended the University of Oklahoma. He was one of the assistant editors at the OU Daily and interned at a cable-access television station in Tulsa. Shortly after completing his journalism education Cummings was the youngest ever (at age 24) sports editor for the Muskogee Phoenix. With this role he was a Heisman Trophy voter and covered six bowl games for the Gannett News Services special projects team. He also won a few APME writing awards, including Top Sports Columns. He was also a loaner editor at USA Today.

Tommy shared the following about his time at EOSC while not in the press room or photography lab, "I wasn't much of a club guy. I spent an inordinate amount of time playing pick-up basketball, tennis and ping pong when I should have been in class, although I did make the honor rolls. I did average 15 points for The Little Rascals intramural basketball team that lost to Kool and the Gang in the finals of my sophomore year.

"I was on the third floor in spacious Room 30 (Former Governor Nigh's old room) in Johnston Hall adjacent to the Student Union. At night, I would

keep my windows open, and classmates would launch sticks and stones through my window on their way to breakfast. I'd wake up surrounded by rocks, twigs, and tree bark!

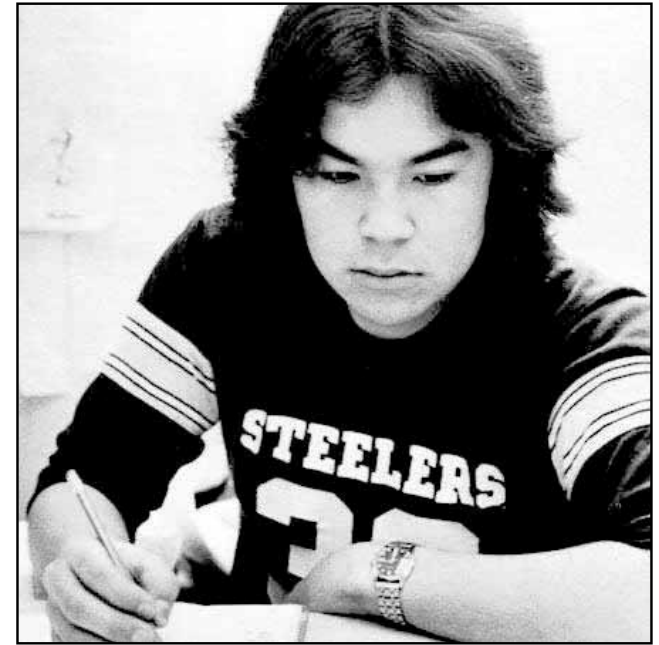
"I also recall a night security guard we called Slim {Slim Southard}. As a part-time job, he would also deliver The Daily Oklahoman. I subscribed and told him that I'd like to wake up each morning with the newspaper on my chest. Of course, being the campus security guard, he had a master key and I often woke up with The Daily Oklahoman lying on my chest!"

"As soon as I got to Eastern Jim Sullivan (Journalism Instructor and Public Information Officer) put me to work immediately writing news releases, and I was able to network with people who would help establish my career. And Ken Rager (photography instructor and Campus Photographer) once set me up on a blind date and gave me \$10 to start it off. The

relationship did not work, and I never paid him back!"

"Eastern was an excellent experience that prepared me for the world. It helped that I knew several fellow students from McIntosh County and McAlester. What made it so fun were the relationships, not only with the student body but also with the faculty. They always welcomed newcomers and made a hayseed like me feel at home. More than 30 years later, I still have relationships with some via social media. If I had to give advice for anyone still attending Eastern, it's to embrace the moment. You'll remember the experience and value the relationships."

*Mike Cathey is a lifetime member of the EOSC alumni association. While at Eastern, Cathey was also a staff writer for The Statesman and the Vice President of the Student Senate. Cathey is also a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and resides in Chicago, IL*



Tommy Cummings was the co-Editor of the Eastern Statesman while a student in 1978.

## Eastern fall softball 5-1 after Durant's pair of Southeastern festivals

**JAYSON KNIGHT**

STAFF WRITER

The Lady Mountaineers of Eastern Oklahoma State College have begun their fall season. The softball team is currently 5-1 after just two days of play. The Eastern ladies competed in the first Southeastern Fall Festival in Durant Saturday, Sept. 1 where they began the season 2-1.

Most recently, the Lady Mountaineers competed in the second Durant Fall Festival where they improved their record to 5-1 after defeating all competition Saturday, Sept. 8. In those three games, the softball ladies outscored their opponents 36 runs to 10 on the day.

Head Coach Andy Mace, of the Lady Mountaineers' softball squad is an experienced Eastern coach. He has coached softball, baseball and women's basketball for Eastern. He did not always coach just one at a time either. After a strong start, Mace

insisted the real season begins in spring, although any game you find yourself wanting to win still counts.

The softball team travels to Russellville, AR to take on Arkansas Tech Saturday, Sept. 15 at 1 p.m.

After a team dinner Thursday, freshman Michali Thompson said, "We had a chance to swap softball stories and I think the whole team is getting along really well."

As Mace and the softball ladies contend with the rest of their September schedule, they will take on the MidSouth Fall Festival Saturday, Sept. 22; Rogers State University in Claremore Tuesday, Sept. 25; and the Oklahoma Baptist Fall Festival in Shawnee Sept. 28.

The Lady Mountaineers have no home games until the spring season, but are loading up the win column until they have a chance to show what they can do for Eastern's home crowd.

## Green makes return to Eastern baseball as coach

**DALTON SHUMATE**

STAFF WRITER

Cameron Green, from McAlester, is in his first year as assistant coach at Eastern Oklahoma State College.

Green played his first two years at Eastern, helping guide the Mountaineers to their first of three straight Region II Championships and a Top 10 national ranking.

After Eastern, Green played at Temple University for a season before transferring to Southeastern Oklahoma State University for his senior season. Green led



**GREEN**

the savage Storm in multiple hitting categories.

Green graduated from Southeastern in the summer of 2012 and is currently working toward his master's degree in sports administration. The Mountaineers were only one win shy of NJCAA World Series last year. The baseball team is currently involved in its fall season in preparation for the upcoming baseball season.

## FALL BALL



A crowd of Eastern students attended the Mountaineer fall baseball game Sept. 5 in Wilburton. The baseball team got to highlight the field's new stadium lights. Statesman staff photos by Mark Stephens

