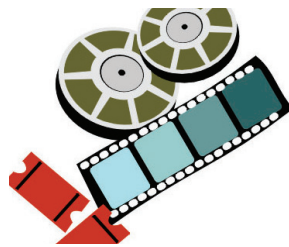


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“Never cut a tree down
in the wintertime.
Never make a nega-
tive decision in the
low time. Never make
your most important
decisions when you are
in your worst moods.
Wait. Be patient. The
storm will pass. The
spring will come.”
- Robert H. Schuller

EDUCATION



Lady Mountaineers' head coach, Amber Taylor, talks with her team during a timeout in the Eastern women's win over rival Carl Albert. For more information on Eastern's rivalry games, see Pg. 8. Staff photo by Taylor Cox

Regent speaks in honor of Black History Month

WYATT STANFORD
Editor

Eastern welcomed Regent Loise Washington Feb. 24 to speak on the importance of education, dedication, and attitude in honor of Black History Month.

Students gathered in the Johnnie Wray Theatre to hear Washington's speech. To begin, she gave a short history

of Black History Month as to where it originated and how it has grown from Negro History Week to what is now.

Washington then discussed the importance of Black History month. She also talked about some of the achievements of Eastern alumni, such as Tom Colbert, the first African

SEE BLACK HISTORY PAGE 2

Two men arrested on campus after alleged assault

DERRICK JAMES
Staff Writer

Two men were arrested after an alleged assault that led to the Wilburton campus of Eastern Oklahoma State College being placed on lockdown in the early hours of Feb. 17.

Police say Jimmy Nguyen and Pathro Black, who are both not students at Eastern, drove onto campus the night of Feb. 17 and violently attacked a student with their fists.

The victim was punched multiple times from the front and from behind by Nguyen and Black.

The victim gave chase until and both suspects fled the scene.

Officers from Eastern's Campus Police and Wilburton PD arrived on scene quickly after the initial 911 call came in.

After securing the scene, the police searched the vehicle the sus-

pects left and recovered a large sword, a cell phone, and a wallet.

A tactical team, comprising of officers from Eastern's Campus Police, Wilburton Police Department and a deputy from the Latimer County Sheriff's Department, were getting ready to enter the wooded area immediately north of the campus to search for the suspects.

Before they entered, Eastern's Chief of Police Brian Denny went over his vehicle's loudspeaker and called for the two suspects to come out of the woods with their hands up.

A couple of minutes later both suspects came out of the woods with their hands up and surrendered peacefully near Salmon Hall.

Black and Nguyen are both charged with misdemeanor charges of assault and battery and

SEE ARREST PAGE 2

Eastern addressing state revenue failure and reduced funding

BUDGET Eastern Oklahoma State College anticipates nearly \$1 million in budget cuts in one-year period

PRESS RELEASE

Eastern Oklahoma State College is implementing immediate budget cuts in response to the state's revenue failure and reduced funding of more than \$347,000 since January. An additional mid-year cut is expected in March.

Due to the state revenue failure that was declared in December 2015, Eastern was required to take a three percent budget cut of \$194,389. This results

in about \$32,000 less in funding each month from January through June.

Another revenue source for the state's higher education system also experienced a shortfall and resulted in additional cuts to Eastern in February. The Higher Education Capital Revolving Fund and the Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Revolving Fund receives revenue solely from oil gross production

SEE BUDGET CUTS PAGE 2



CAMPUS NEWS

Eastern's spring concert set for March 10

Eastern's Music Department will hold its annual Spring Concert at 7 p.m. March 10.

"We've selected a variety of popular songs to help everyone get into the mood and spirit of the spring season," Director of Instrumental & Choral Ensembles, Brandon Hendrix said.

The Concert Band will feature the hits "I Want to Hold Your Hand," "Spinning Wheel," "All the Small Things," and others. The Concert Choir will perform a variety of popular tunes including Paul McCartney's "Maybe I'm Amazed" and Adele's "Skyfall," among others. Eastern's rock band, the Eastern Expressions, will present several hits including "Meant to Live" by Switchfoot, "When I Was Your Man" by Bruno Mars, and "Colder Weather" by the Zac Brown Band.

Admission is free for those who attend this annual concert.

Book club meets in library on March 30

The Eastern library will be hosting its second book club meeting for the spring term from 4 until 5:30 p.m. March 30 on the main floor of the Bill H. Hill Library.

The book up for discussion is "One Second After" by Newt Gingrich.

Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Door prizes will also be given away.

Arrest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

possession of a weapon on school grounds. Both are currently out on bond.

Chief Denny thanked the Wilburton Police Department and the Latimer County Sheriff's Department for their quick response. He added that the inter-agency agreement is awesome and that it helps keep the students and faculty of Eastern safer when the need arrives.

Black History

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

American to serve on the Oklahoma Supreme Court, first as an associate justice and later as Chief Justice.

Focusing on education and dedication, Washington talked about her own story. After graduating Hugo High School, she received a letter from Rep. Carl Albert congratulating her on her achievement.

While a student attending Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Washington received a call from Rep. Albert's office, asking her to be a part of his staff in Washington, D.C., when he began serving as Speaker of the House in 1971.

"Education is the equalizer," Washington said, paying tribute to her education as helping to provide opportunities. While working with Carl Albert, Washington recounted stories of meet-

ing heads of state and even traveling to China. She continued to challenge students to finish their education and always to look for opportunities.

Washington, a McAlester native, is currently a member of Eastern's Board of Regents, beginning in 2007. It was later that year that Gov. Brad Henry approved the recommendation. She was recommended again by Sen. Larry Boggs in 2014 for another term under Gov. Mary Fallin.

Budget Cuts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

proceeds. The \$26.3 million shortfall from these revolving funds only affects higher education. Eastern's appropriations were cut an additional \$152,860 due to the decline in revenue available.

Eastern President Dr. Stephen E. Smith said the college has been working on a plan for months in anticipation of reduced state funding.

"We have been doing research and making plans since we first learned of the potential budget shortfall," Smith said. "Our goal has always been to protect the classroom and minimize the impact on

academic programs and our students. However, as the state faces a \$1.3 billion budget shortfall next year, we'll have to make hard decisions to address these cuts."

Already this fiscal year, Eastern has reduced operating budgets across departments, including decreases in purchasing, travel and class offerings.

"This has been a difficult process for Eastern and unfortunately, it's one that many colleges and universities in the state are facing," Smith said. "In order to best serve our students and be responsible stewards of our budget, we have to strategically identify areas where our resources can be used most effectively."

Smith said at this point, administra-

tors can only speculate about the amount of the third mid-year cut expected in March, as well as reductions to the fiscal year 2017 budget that begins July 1. He said Eastern is anticipating the March cut to be between \$60,000 and \$179,000 depending on how the state calculates the reductions. He said the cuts to the FY17 budget could be between seven to 13 percent.

"Additional budget cuts of this magnitude will require a reduction in personnel, as well as programs and services," Smith said.

Smith noted that between the 3.5 percent cut that resulted in a \$246,000 reduction to Eastern's budget to start this fiscal year, the mid-year cuts and the

anticipated cuts to next year's allocation, the college will be forced to reduce its operating budget more than \$1 million in a one-year period.

In 2008, Eastern's state allocation was \$7,129,152. Smith said by this year, Eastern's state funding has dropped to \$5,969,260.

"Eastern is a financially healthy institution, but we will be required to make significant reductions to stay that way," Smith said. "Despite these cuts, Eastern will continue its 107-year mission to generate student learning while effectively preparing graduates to complete baccalaureate degrees, obtain productive employment and lead enriched lives."

OUR NATURAL GAS SYSTEM IS SAFE

Eastern Oklahoma State College operates its own natural gas pipeline system, independent from our supplier, CenterPoint Energy. This means that we are in complete control of the system and strive to provide a safe and reliable means of energy for gas-burning appliances on campus.

Ongoing safety compliance

In an effort to ensure that our gas system is operated in a safe manner,

EOSC performs various annual safety inspections, such as checking the system for leaks and corrosion.

Notification of digging

To further ensure that our gas pipeline is safe and protected from damage, anyone who plans to do any digging on EOSC property must get approval from the Physical Plant office at (918) 465-1801 and is also required to notify Call OKIE at 811 at least 48 hours in ad-

vance.

Awareness of possible hazards

It is important to know that, although our gas system complies with all government safety regulations, there is always the potential for natural gas to escape from any gas system for various reasons. If that happens, its flammability becomes an immediate concern.

If you smell the odor of natural gas....

Report it to the EOSC Campus Police immediately so that it can be checked out and action taken, if necessary, to prevent a potentially hazardous situation.

Do not call CenterPoint Energy or 911.

Do not ignore your senses -- get out of the building immediately!

Do not use your cell phone or telephone, flip any light switches, turn on or off any electrical devices, or do anything to create static electricity. Once away from the natural gas odor, notify the EOSC Campus Police of the suspected leak.

Do not return to the building until an EOSC official tells you it is safe to do so.

EOSC Campus Police phone number (918) 448-2365. Emergencies are responded to 24 hours a day.

For additional information

This message is posted in buildings to meet a regulatory requirement. If you would like to know more about our gas system, please contact the Physical Plant Director at (918) 465-1802.

Join the *Statesman* staff

Are you a great writer? Photographer? Are you good with web design? If so, you may want to work for the Statesman newspaper this semester. If so, please contact Kristen Turner at 918.465.1720 or kturner@eosc.edu. You do not have to be a Mass Communication major.



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A group of Eastern Oklahoma State College students traveled to the State Capitol Feb. 16 for Higher Ed Day where they visited with both state lawmakers and Eastern alumni.

Students visit Capitol for Higher Ed Day

WYATT STANFORD
Editor

Eastern students traveled to Oklahoma City on Feb. 16 to visit with senators and representatives and to rally support for higher education.

Before going to the Capitol, the students had the privilege of having lunch with several distinguished Eastern alumni, including former governor and McAlester native George Nigh and Senator Larry Boggs.

At the Capitol, students from every major college and university in Oklahoma visited the offices of senators and representatives from all over the state.

Eastern students presented beef jerky made by Eastern's Meat Processing Depart-



Michie Sokolosky, Wyatt Stanford, Destiny Hilliard, Katie Thompson, Andrew Patterson, Shantel Brennan, Kareesa Kennedy and Kayla Ward visited the Capitol Feb. 16 for Higher Ed Day.

ment.

Afterward, students were gathered in

the House Chamber to hear speeches made by Gov. Mary Fallin, Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb, as

well the president of Northern Oklahoma College, Dr. Cheryl Evans and students from Langston University, Northern Oklahoma College, and Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Gov. Fallin stressed the importance of STEM education in Oklahoma as well as the steps the state is taking to promote education in the midst of economic crisis. Fallin also attempted to persuade students to remain in Oklahoma after completing their degrees.

"These are trying times, but I know the best days of Oklahoma are to come," Fallin said.

According to Fallin, college completion has continued to rise, surpassing completion goals last year with over 2700 degrees achieved in the state of Oklahoma.

Sapphire Ball raises thousands for scholarships

CAMPUS EVENTS Annual black-tie event has raised approximately \$70,000 in last five years for Sapphire Scholarship Fund

NEWS RELEASE

Eastern Oklahoma State College's annual Sapphire Ball raised a record-setting \$23,724 this year, bringing the event's five-year total to more than \$70,000 raised for student scholarships.

Treva Kennedy, director of Institutional Advancement, said an all-time high of 256 guests were in attendance for the event that supports the Sapphire Scholarship Fund while honoring alumni,

outstanding employees and community supporters.

"From the increased number of event sponsors and auction donors, to the generous guests who bid on auction items, there are so many factors that made this year's Sapphire Ball such a success," Kennedy said. "I'm so proud of the continued support of this event that helps make a college degree possible for current and future generations of Eastern students."

The annual black-tie fundraiser has become Eastern's signature event. Kennedy said that for the past two years, tickets have been hard to acquire as the Sapphire Ball has sold out one month in advance.

The evening included dinner, a silent and live auction, student entertainment, the awards presentation and a dance featuring live music from the Kountry Kowboys.

In addition to the record-setting fundraising, Eastern President Dr. Stephen E. Smith honored four individuals and one organization during the evening.

The annual awards presentation recognizes those who have made a significant impact on the college or in their community.

Gary Wansick of McAlester (Class of 1980) and Teresa Jackson of Hartshorne (Class of 1985) received the Distinguished Alumnus Award, presented annually to alumni who have distinguished themselves professionally and through service to the college.

Wansick, the McAlester Chief of Police, has committed his professional

SEE SAPPHIRE BALL PAGE 6



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COLUMN

Millennial voting power — exercise your right

DERRICK JAMES
Staff Writer

Recently, I went to Senator Bernie Sanders' campaign rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Among the crowd of an estimated 7,000 attendees, were people from all walks of life. From newborn infants to the elderly. Not to anyone's surprise, the majority in the sea of people inside the Cox Business Center was the young voter aka millennials.

According to RockTheVote.com, the millennial generation is the largest in the United States with 93 million strong and even outnumbering the baby boomers. Despite making up more than one-third of the population and holding the power to become the most influential voters in the country, millennials just do not come

out to the polls.

Millennials are generalized by the media as spoiled, lazy and entitled even though we inherited a lot of problems from prior generations and are currently in a political system that wants rather to bicker and argue and cause gridlock than actually come up with bipartisan solutions. Which is disheartening to some first time voters who question their ability to have an impact through voting and the evidence supports it. Only 23% of eligible voters age 18-29 voted in 2014 according to RockTheVote.com, compared to 87% who made a difference through donating and volunteering.

Why should us millennials turn out and care?

We are the first generation in modern history to have higher levels of poverty

and unemployment and lower levels of wealth and personal income than the two immediate preceding generations had at the same stage of their lives while at the same time being the most educated group of young adults in American history.

With these difficult circumstances, it is sometimes hard for young people to see how elections positively influence and change their lives. But make no mistake, they do.

Our elected state and federal officials pulled our country out of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. They have also implemented policies that advance equality and embraced diversity, which is an important subject to a majority of millennials.

This progress is making a real differ-



ence in people's lives and in our country. But is overshadowed by the constant bickering and worrying about reelection than the real issues that millennials care about.

It is estimated that 12,000 Americans turn 18 every day. It's becoming more and more important for young people

to feel empowered to set the course by making their voices heard at the ballot box.

Get educated and exercise your right to vote, as the blood of many men and women has been shed for you to have this voice.

TAYLOR'S TASTE TESTS



TAYLOR COX
Staff Writer

In this month's Taste Test, I decided to cheat a little a use a box. No Bake Cheese Cake Cupcakes. All you will need is the box of JELL-O No-Bake Strawberry Cheesecake, butter, sugar, and milk. I made cupcakes so you will also need a muffin pan and cupcake liners.

You first make the crust mix. To make the mix, melt 5 Tbsp. of butter, 2 Tbsp. 0 sugar and the Crust Mix into a bowl and blend until there are no more crumbles, and spoon into the muffin pan.

Next, mix the milk and the filling mix together until blended. Then spoon evenly onto of the crust. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour and then put the strawberry topping on top.



COLUMN

Primaries: Who's still standing?
And where do they stand?

JOANNA EASTERDAY
Staff Writer

We started out this February with the highly anticipated Iowa Caucus and the results were unexpected. This event has been known to predict our future president, so it was a bit of a surprise to most when Republican candidate Ted Cruz pulled out the victory over Republican front-runner Donald Trump, followed closely by Marco Rubio and Ben Carson.

While the Republican race was quick to finish, the Democrats came down to the wire. Candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders were a dead tie for the majority of the poll, but Hillary was able to pull out the win by a mere two delegates. This race to the finish resulted in Democratic candidate Martin O'Malley to suspend his campaign after receiving 0.6 percent of the votes.

On Feb. 9 we had the New Hampshire Primary, which is the first state primary of the election. The results for both Republicans and Democrats in

this primary were quite different from those in Iowa. It's no surprise to most that Donald Trump took home the dub in New Hampshire, while Iowa winner Ted Cruz took home third place. College students everywhere were happy to hear that Bernie Sanders came out victorious in New Hampshire with a substantial fifteen delegates compared to the nine that Hillary obtained.

The third stop on the February Primary road trip was Nevada. Front-runner Donald Trump left Nevada with another win, earning almost half of the votes, making that two for him thus far.

Trailing not far behind Trump was Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, and surgeon Ben Carson. Hillary Clinton was able to sneak past Bernie Sanders in Nevada with five more delegates than her competitor.

Our last primary for the month was in South Carolina where, once again, Donald Trump came out with an astounding victory winning all fifty delegates for South Carolina. Rubio and Cruz followed closely behind with

decent vote percentages.

As for the Democrats, Hillary Clinton won big over Bernie Sanders with her winning 15 more delegates than him. This final primary left a lot of us surprised as to where many of the candidates stood in the race. One of those was Republican candidate Jeb Bush, who decided to drop out of the race after placing poorly in Iowa and the remaining February primaries.

So where does this leave us? February was a very interesting month for our candidates. We had some underdogs pull out the victory, along with some not so surprising wins. We lost two big names in the race, but we are one month closer to our new President.

It's hard to say if any one candidate has their party in the bag. Donald Trump is obviously in the lead for the Republicans, but as for the Democrats, it's anyone's game.

If February is any indication to how the rest of the race is going to be, then I think we are all in for a political treat.

Deadpool stays true to its source material

BRANDON GREEN
Staff Writer

R 108 min. Action, Adventure, Comedy

The fans wanted Deadpool's mouth not to be sewn shut like in "X-Men Origins: Wolverine." They got it. The fans wanted Ryan Reynolds back as the "Merc with a Mouth." They got that too. The fans wanted the movie to be rated R. Oh boy, they got that as well.

The film is about a mercenary named Wade Wilson (Ryan Reynolds) who is diagnosed with terminal cancer. He is presented with an opportunity to beat it and even become invincible, but it comes at a cost. In the process, Wilson is tortured by Ajax (Ed Skrein) and left terribly disfigured. Wilson takes on the name "Deadpool," gets in spandex, and tries to save his fiancé Vanessa (Morena Baccarin) from Ajax while attempting to have the man fix his disfigured body.

This movie has humor from beginning to end. From the fourth-wall breaks that Deadpool is famous for, to the adult-contented jokes, you'll be laughing from beginning to end. The action sequences were amazing but the gore was plentiful, so some scenes might be too much for certain people. Add in the fact that there is sexual content and graphic nudity, this movie is NOT for children.

Ryan Reynolds is perfectly cast as Deadpool, that's really all there is to it.

The only critique I have on this movie is that at times "Deadpool" relies too much on sexual content in its humor. However, it's still all pretty dang funny! My advice: sit back, relax, and watch a great action movie!

I give this film an 8 out of 10 star rating due to the fact that it stays true to the source material more than any superhero movie we've seen to date and it entertained me throughout. Trust me, you'll feel the same if you're into movies such as the one I described.



GAME REVIEWS

"The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt" scores an 8 of 10

AUSTIN WHEAT
Staff Writer

"The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt" is a game made by Project Red. Released in May 2015, the game was a huge hit even winning "Game of the Year". The game is also thirty-times larger than previous "Witcher" games making it an extremely fun and entertaining open world RPG (roll playing game). The game had many high points and deserved much of the praise it received.

Like all game sequels, the game had improved on a lot of things, but one of the biggest things had to be the large open world. Said to be bigger than even Skyrim, the game was huge with locations you had to ride a horse or sail just to get to them. The game also had better graphics, and the combat style had improved making it easier to fight enemies. Although there were a few things the game could have improved on like the story. Although it



is a sequel you almost don't need to play the previous game because although it mentions the last game it continues many years after the last game leaving everything that happened in it in the past.

You play as a Witcher, a hunter, or monsters and beasts that goes by the name of Geralt of Rivia. Although most of the game is searching for people, you often wonder if you'll ever get the opportunity

to find you eventually find everyone you need. But the people you're looking for at times are the same people the Wild Hunt is after. The Wild Hunt are what you would call a walking calamity everywhere they go they destroy and kill the people around. As they tear through the land searching for the same person, Geralt is after. The Wild Hunt are dark elves from a different land they walk around in dark armor decorated with skulls and things of that nature. As you play you relies that the choices you make throughout the game have an effect on the outcome. The game teaches that even in the moment a simple decision can have dire consequences.

The game is fun and has great story and lots of things to do though it takes time to play just the story because of the size of the game. Even so, the game was enjoyable and makes people wonder what Project Red will do next. I give the game a 8/10 and recommend the game to anyone interested in large open world RPGs.

"Zoolander 2" tries too hard at comedy

BRANDON GREEN
Staff Writer

PG-13 102 min. Comedy

Well, Derek and Hansel are back.

The film begins by explaining that multiple celebrities have died recently with their last facial expression being a look made famous by Derek Zoolander (Ben Stiller). Fashion Interpol tries to investigate, but needs Derek to decipher the look. This journey leads Zoolander back with Hansel (Owen Wilson) and the two begin modeling again in Rome while looking for who's been behind the murders.

"Zoolander" (2001) was a hit among audiences. The movie had something that I like to call "dumb comedy." This means that something



or someone in a movie would not make sense at all, but that's why it was funny. This movie has "dumb comedy," but it's not the same as Zoolander. The comedy

SEE REVIEW PAGE 8

"Star Wars: Battlefront" is entertaining but needs improvement

AUSTIN WHEAT
Staff Writer

"Star Wars: Battlefront" is the newest game in the "Battlefront" series with the first that came out in 2004 and a sequel in 2005. There were also handheld "Battlefront" games that did almost if not just as well with players for hand held gaming devices. Although it's been some years since we have gotten a dose of the "Battlefront" series, this game seemed to quench our thirst a little bit.

The game's characters are limited to the original troopers, villains, heroes and

rebels we all know and love from episodes four five and six. Although the game gives you some freedom with your trooper character and rebel character. The game offers a wide variety of faces to choose along with blasters and a new feature star cards. In the game you get star cards by playing online or the game matches and builds up imperial credits. Three cards make a hand and your hand can give you a huge advantage over your opponents. The selection of cards are pretty vast with three different slots to put a card. One slot being usual things like grenades, flash bombs, or smoke grenades. Another is

for power ups like ion shot, which gives you more damage, or a cool down card that instantly cools your weapon. There are more to choose from of course. The last slot would be the secondary weapons card giving you a variety of new blasters to choose from like the small but dangerous scout pistol.

With the game offering new stuff when it comes to customizing your player you might ask if there is more or am I just playing a battlefield game with a "Star Wars" skin. The answer to that is yes, although the payoff is a little lower than you would expect considering the option

was in the other games so it's not exactly new. You can play as heroes and villains and the satisfaction you get from beating Han Solo as Boba Fett is very good.

The game has good graphics and the maps that you play online are very large and well-laid out which is an upside and improvement to the game. Even the dog fights that take place in the sky have been improved. What hasn't been improved, in fact what is missing, is the story line. The previous "Battlefront" game all had story lines that held up and made the game iconic. This game however had no storyline whatsoever, which took

away from the game. Players have been waiting for the console battlefield game since 2005, and to find out that it has no storyline really was a slap in the face to fans of the franchise and the game itself.

All in all the game was pretty good and though, it, like all games, had its flaws the, experience and entertainment it provides really was upside and enjoyable. That is what games are about. If they make you say "hey that was pretty good," then it's worth it to play. All in all the game receives a rating of 6/10 and we hope to see further improvements from the franchise in the future.

Eastern fondly remembers former Eastern coach and FCA founder

Members of the Eastern Oklahoma State College community are fondly remembering former basketball coach and athletic director Don McClanen who passed at the age of 91 on Feb. 16. McClanen was best known as the founder of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, an international organization that began as a movement at Eastern in 1954.

"Don was a great man and a shining example of how one person can make a difference in the lives of many," said Eastern President Dr. Stephen E. Smith. "While we all mourn the passing of such an inspirational and respected man, the Eastern family is proud of the legacy Don created and all that he achieved through the FCA and his ministry for athletes around the world. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Gloria, and their family."

McClanen was born on February 3, 1925, in Trenton, New Jersey. He served in the Navy during World War II, then attended Oklahoma State University. After graduation, McClanen coached high school basketball before becoming the athletic director and men's basketball coach at Eastern.

While McClanen was coaching at Eastern, he created a movement that would change the lives of countless athletes and coaches. McClanen felt that God had placed a dream in his

heart. His goal was to start an organization that would feature professional athletes professing their Christian faith in order to change the youth culture in America. That dream eventually turned into reality and the FCA was born.

While coaching at Eastern, McClanen began to wonder why athletes endorsed products, but not a Christian lifestyle.

"If athletes can endorse shaving cream, razor blades and cigarettes, surely they can endorse the Lord," McClanen once said.

In 1954, McClanen sent 19 letters to prominent sports figures across the nation, including football stars Doak Walker and Otto Graham; baseball players Carl Erskine, Robin Roberts and Alvin Dark; Olympians Bob Mathias and Bob Richards; coaching and front office legends Amos Alonzo Stagg, Bud Wilkinson and Clarence "Biggie" Munn; and even broadcasters Tom Harmon (the 1940 Heisman Trophy winner) and Red Barber. He received 14 replies from those that were interested.

That summer, McClanen mortgaged his car in Wilburton and set out on a cross-country trip to meet with those individuals and solicit funding to establish the FCA. He was able to schedule a five-minute meeting with Branch Rickey, then the Pittsburgh Pirates general manager notorious for invent-

ing baseball's affiliated minor league system and knocking down the game's color barrier while with the Brooklyn Dodgers by signing Jackie Robinson. His meeting lasted five hours and less than three months later on Nov. 10, 1954, the FCA was chartered in Oklahoma.

While still at Eastern, McClanen brought Walker, Richards, Bob Feni-more, Pepper Martin, Warren Spahn, and Carl Allison to Eastern's campus in 1955. The group spoke to students about Christianity during the Sports Jamboree event.

During the past six decades, the FCA has grown to more than 1,000 staff members and has launched an international ministry outreach through coaches and athletes in other countries such as Mexico, Ukraine, Japan and many more. The organization continues to have a presence at middle school, high school and college stadiums, gyms and ballparks around the world.

"Don's unwavering commitment and vision truly enabled FCA to grow to where it is today, encouraging millions of coaches and athletes to lead lives that are dedicated to Christ," said Les Steckel, FCA president and CEO, in a statement. "Sixty-two years later, that vision is alive and well through FCA, influencing lives for Christ across the globe—an amazing legacy."



Don McClanen

Smith said the college has recognized both McClanen and the organization's roots in Wilburton in multiple ways. During a ceremony in 2008, Eastern invited former players and dignitaries to a ceremony to commemorate McClanen's role in founding the FCA. The college also commissioned a larger-than-life bronze bust of McClanen for display in the Student Center in

Wilburton.

"It was probably the best event I have been a part of since I have been at Eastern," Smith said.

Eastern also recognized McClanen and the FCA with its Heritage Award during the 2014 Homecoming events. The Heritage Award honors individuals and organizations that have had a significant impact on Eastern's history.

Sapphire Ball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

career to law enforcement for the past 35 years. He studied psychology and sociology and played tennis for the Eastern Mountaineers before transferring to the University of Oklahoma. Before he completed his degree, he began working as a police officer for the Moore Police Department and returned to the McAlester Police Department as an officer in 1981. He worked his way through the ranks as a lieutenant in the Criminal Investigation Division and a Captain before being named Chief of Police in 2013. During that time, he also returned to Eastern to complete his criminal justice degree in 2000. An active community volunteer, Wansick is a McAlester Lions Club and Masonic member. He has previously served as a board member for the American Red Cross, Pittsburg County Child Abuse Prevention Committee, Fraternal Order of Police (McAlester Lodge), and the First United Methodist Church.

A Choctaw Tribal Member, Jackson has worked for the Choctaw Nation for nearly 17 years. She graduated from Eastern in 1985 with a degree in business administration and continued her education at Southeastern Oklahoma State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. After starting her career as an auditor with the IRS, Jackson joined the Choctaw Nation as a comptroller for the health system in 1999. She quickly progressed in her career as the Chief Financial Officer, Hospital Administrator and now Senior Executive Officer. In addition, she is active on numerous boards and committees in the area. She currently serves as the Chair of the Eastern Board of Regents, Vice Chair of the Inter-Tribal Health Council Committee and Treasurer of the Oklahoma City Inter Tribal Health Board.

Texas Instruments Incorporated (TI) received the Community Spirit Award for outstanding support and service to Eastern. TI been a valued partner

for the Eastern GEAR UP grant program for several years. Through the partnership, TI has provided support for local high school math and science teachers through professional development, STEM workshops and technical expertise and support. In addition, 85 math and science teachers in 27 local schools now have TI-Nspire CX Navigators for use in the classroom. TI specialists installed the equipment and provided coaching in classroom to support those efforts. TI has also provided registration and accommodations for 20 local teachers to attend the T3 International Conference where math and science educators from around the world convene for three days of networking, sharing and exploration while learning the latest ideas, insights and strategies for using TI technology effectively in their classrooms.

The President's Excellence in Teaching Award was presented to Nursing Professor Gina Fields Bullock. Since joining Eastern as an adjunct clinical instructor

in 2005, Bullock has balanced teaching with her work as a registered nurse in the Cleveland Area Hospital and St. John Medical Center in Tulsa. She began her education in nursing at the Meridian Technology Center by completing the certified nursing assistant and licensed practical nursing programs. She earned her bachelor's degree from Langston University and her master's degree from the University of Phoenix. Beyond the classroom, Bullock has served as a dedicated community volunteer. She helped treat the wounded in the aftermath of the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City and worked with teens in pregnancy prevention programs in Oklahoma County. In 2014, Bullock was recognized as one of the top 100 nurses in the state by the Great 100 Nurses Foundation of Oklahoma. She was selected for her contribution to humanity through the nursing program as well as being an outstanding mentor to others.

Julie Lawrence received the J.C.

Hunt Award for staff excellence. She has served as the administrative assistant for the Science and Mathematics Division since 2008. Lawrence provides day-to-day support for 10 full-time and seven adjunct faculty members, as well as numerous students in the Math and Science Club and the Multicultural Club. She also helps coordinate multiple activities for faculty and students including club fundraisers, Homecoming festivities, Mountaineer Mania, Wellness Week, Math Counts and the Regional Science Fair each year. Originally from Jakarta, Indonesia, Lawrence majored in marketing management at the Universitas Persada Indonesia before moving to the United States. She is active in the Wilburton community, volunteering her cooking and other creative skills for the Wilburton Chapter Masonic Lodge, Latimer County Shriner Club, Latimer Christian Clinic, Bowers Baptist Church, Tidwell Nursing Home, Latimer County Nursing Home and Latimer County 4H.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW...

Eastern Alumni making an impact on the world

Teresa Jackson and Gary Wansick

Editor's note: The following are alumni features showcasing two of this year's Sapphire Ball honorees. These stories have previously been published in the "Eastern Statesman."

By MIKE CATHEY

EOSC 1983 OF INDIANOLA

Teresa Jackson, (EOSC 1985 of Hartshorne), Senior Executive Officer for the Division of Health for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma earlier this fall assumed the Chairmanship of the Eastern Oklahoma State College Board of Regents. She was most recently Vice-Chair of the Board of Regents and is currently serving a seven year Oklahoma Governor appointed term.

Teresa has worked for the Choctaw Nation since 1999 beginning as Comptroller of the Talihina Hospital, she later worked as business officer director in 2001 and" then promoted to Hospital Administrator in 2006.

She has been honored by the Indian Health Service with a Merit Award in 2005. This was for implementing new software to enhance third-party billing to increase revenue for the tribe. She serves on the Kiamichi Vo-Tech Talihina Campus

Advisory Committee and the Texoma Medical Women's Advisory Committee. She sits on the Oklahoma City Area Inter-Tribal Health Board and is the Vice Chair of the Inter-Tribal Council Health Board.

After completing an EOSC Associates in Business Administration, Teresa completed a Bachelors in Accounting at Southeastern Oklahoma State University and has completed several hours toward a Master's Degree in Health Care Administration from the University of Oklahoma.

While at Eastern, Teresa was the Vice President of the Student Senate, a member of the Reflections Club and a member of the Aggie Club. She was on both the President's and the Dean's Honor Roll, and was selected as a member of the Who's Who among American Junior College Students.

"I remember that each of my professor's took time out of their busy schedules to assist any of the students. I

think that this is one of the most important things that I observed while there. No matter how busy someone is that they should always take time out of their schedules to help someone. I absolutely loved my time at Eastern. I enjoyed the dances in the old Student Union and all of the lasting friendships I made there. I still keep in contact with these friends and we always talk about our times at Eastern"

"My husband Gary and I have been married for 28 years. We started dating while attending Eastern. We have two children Blake, age 24, graduated from Oklahoma State University and is in his final year of law school at the University of Oklahoma. Emily is currently attending Eastern.

Regent Jackson wrapped up by sharing the following:

"Your time at Eastern is a major stepping stone to a career path for the rest of your life. Make sure that the area that you are choosing for your career is something that you enjoy and give it your



Eastern Regent member, Teresa Jackson (second from left), is surrounded by daughter Emily, husband Gary, and son Blake during this year's Sapphire Ball.

best"

"Treat others the way you expect to be treated and to live each day to its full potential."

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 and Indianola.

Gary Wansick (EOSC 1978-80 & 2000 of McAlester), after 32 years serving as a Patrol Officer, Corporal, Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, Lieutenant Criminal Investigation Division, and Captain, this fall was named Chief of Police for the City of McAlester. Gary attended EOSC as on campus student from 1978-80 where the majority of his hours were earned but it was in 2000 that he completed an EOSC Associates of Science in Criminal Justice. He also has completed college hours at the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City Community College, and East Central University. Obviously, Chief Wansick, since 1981, has also received extensive CLEET (Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training) training in excess of 1780 hours from the State of Oklahoma. He is also a CLEET certified instructor for law enforcement course in the State of Oklahoma.

While at EOSC Gary was on the EOSC Tennis Team and threw the shot put on the EOSC Track and Field Team. He was involved in numerous intramural sports and was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He was also in the EOSC Letterman's Club and

was Athlete of the Year for Tennis in 1980.

"I came to Eastern having always lived with ad been taken care of by my parents, Eastern was my first time to be on my own. I had to learn to take care of myself and see to the responsibilities of life, time management, budget, studies, work, and try to fit in social activities for fun. I qualified for work study jobs and the first year worked for Russ, the "dorm dad" at Johnston Hall. My second year I was a dorm assistant at Salmon Hall."

"College life is a great place to get started and Junior College (Community College for the young readers) is a much friendlier atmosphere. As I mentioned above I learned many life skills during my two years on campus but I wasn't all alone. There were many caring people to lean on at Eastern, all of the staff and faculty were very caring and responsive to our needs. Instructors generally had years of service and the classes were small enough that you could develop a personal relationship with each of them. The staff was experienced and helpful as well. The individual with whom I developed the clos-

est relationship was the Salmon Hall "dorm mom" Elma Cowand. As I was one of her dorm assistants she was my boss but she was much more than that. She was a friend, confidant, counselor and mom all rolled into one."

"My time at Eastern was filled with classes, work, athletics and friends. I have heard it said that your closest life-long friends will come from your college years and that has proven true for me. I became acquainted with Mark and Marty Faulkenberry, rooming with Marty and playing on the tennis team with both of them. I also met my best friend (BFF young people) Kelly Parrish at school. He lived right next to me in Salmon Hall and my children call him "Uncle Kelley." They have all gone on to successful careers, Kelley as a lab technician with the City of McAlester, Mark as a manager of marketing and communications for Western Farmers Electric Co-op, and Marty as an Oklahoma Hall of Fame softball coach at Hartshorne. Each of them would tell you how important the years spent at Eastern were to them."

Outside of law enforcement Gary is also very involved in the communi-

ty. He has been a long-time volunteer and Standard First-Aid/CRP Instructor for the American Red Cross, a member of the Lions Club, he has been active and served on the Board and committees at First United Methodist Church of McAlester, he has served on the Board of the Pittsburg County Child Abuse Prevention, he is a member of the Masons and has served as President of the Fraternal Order of Police.

"The two years I spent at Eastern were some of the best years of my life. I learned valuable life lessons, received a quality education and had an enormous amount of fun. I am disappointed to see on campus student numbers diminish. We had four dorms filled with bustling students during my time there; college life is best lived on campus."

"Having attended Eastern, being acquainted with the college for years since then and aware of its current status, I believe Eastern is one of the best institutions in its educational niche. After Eastern I went to the University of Oklahoma with my roommates from Eastern. While OU is an incredible



Dr. Janet Wansick and Gary Wansick

place, it will never really be college in my eyes. To me college will always be the small, intimate institution nestled in the hills around Wilburton, Oklahoma."

Gary is married to Dr. Janet Wansick, EOSC Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Eastern's seasons come to a close

TAYLOR COX
Staff Writer

The Lady Mountaineers won their first two games against Mountain View and Saint Gregory's University. After that they had an up and down season, falling short against Carl Albert State College at home, in overtime, with the final score of 84-81 but coming back and taking victory at Carl Albert's home gym, taking the victory 74-61. A key series for EOSC came against their conference foes from Connors State.

The Lady Mountaineers notched a season sweep of the Cowgirls with a 77-64 win in Warner and a 62-49 win at home. The Lady Mountaineers averaged 69.1 points per game while gathering in 43.3 rebounds and dishing out 10.9 assists.

As for the men's basketball team, the Mountaineers started off strong. They started out hot, going undefeated for the first seven games before falling short against Northern Oklahoma College-Tonkawa 105-67. EOSC would rebound, winning three more games before a scuffle with Seminole State forced the Mountaineers to forfeit two games. After that the season was a roller coaster, going up and down with the wins and losses.

Some of the highlights of the regular season were RJ Diggs and Jalen Cunningham tying an EOSC record with 8 threes in a single game and Jerry Hurt scoring 51 points against Western Oklahoma State.

Toward the end of the season there were injuries, and a family matter that caused Coach Scott Edgar to step away from his coaching duties for a few games and having Coach Amber Taylor and Coach Brandon Taylor coach both teams. The Mountaineers averaged 85.1 point per game while raking in over 29 boards and 13 dimes per game.



Above, Eastern Oklahoma State College Lady Mountaineer, Storm Bureau makes a move in the paint as teammate Shauna Coleman breaks to the goal. Left, Mountaineer, Jerry Hurt drives to the goal after a Davion Turner pass. Staff photos by Taylor Cox

Review

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

was pretty bland and it felt like the cast was trying too hard to be funny at times. Most of the funny moments in the movie can be found in the trailers. I even believe that the promotional videos for the film were more memorable than the movie itself.

Don't get me wrong, the movie had its moments and by no means was terrible. I laughed at multiple scenes and there was even one moment where my stomach hurt from laughing

so hard.

Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson, and Will Ferrell did a great job of bringing their characters back. However, the supporting cast's performance was pretty weak and didn't have any memorable moments. Although, the film still has amazing cameos.

All in all I give the movie a 5.5 out of 10 star rating. It's a typical comedy movie that wouldn't have gotten the same hype if the name "Zoolander" wasn't in the title. It's good to watch once, but it probably won't be at the top of your list to buy when it comes out on DVD.

PLAY BALL



Eastern freshman, Grady Coleman, fires one from the mound during a recent Eastern Oklahoma State College baseball game. Eastern's baseball and softball seasons are in full swing in March.

For complete baseball and softball schedules, visit
www.eosc.edu/athletics