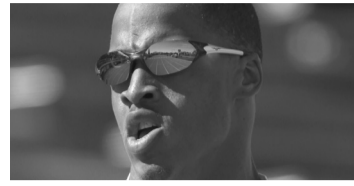




Red Cross stresses preparation for disasters

Page 3



Boey ready to run

Page 8

ANNUITANTS

Meetings to help employees understand health options

By Alex McNamee Editor in Chief

While state employees await a final decision from Governor Pat Quinn on Senate Bill 178, regarding health care, there will be meetings in Charleston to help employees prepare to make decisions by the June 17 deadline.

There will be a Benefits Choice Informational Meeting Wednesday June 8 at the Neal Welcome Center to help state employees understand their choices for health care.

If Gov. Quinn vetoes SB 178, health providers such as Health Alliance will not be available as providers for state employees.

This decision could affect 80 percent of Eastern employees, ac-

ording to a university press release May 26.

Despite a future of uncertainty for the bill, it will be important for Eastern employees to attend the session Wednesday, said Alan Baharlou, legislative chair for the Eastern Illinois University Annuity Association.

There will be two meetings at the Neal Welcome Center Wednesday, one at 3 and another at 5 p.m.

Baharlou said these meetings will be important for people to attend so they can understand their options.

"By the number of questions, emails, phone calls we've gotten, people are apprehensive," Baharlou said. "This way you can ask questions face-to-face, and follow up

questions to help you understand (your options)."

The Neal Welcome Center can hold approximately 100 people, Baharlou said, not including people who stand in the hallways. Baharlou said he hopes it's a full crowd.

Baharlou said going to the meeting can be a learning experience for employees, who are not sure of the details of their options for health care.

"Information online is not the best," Baharlou said. "Being face-to-face will help you understand."

The meeting is meant to review the difference between an HMO and an OAP plan, how to locate providers in each plan, what else changed with Benefits Choice, where to send paperwork, and Medicare Coordination of Benefits.

Leaders of the meeting will also help people complete paperwork, if needed.

Following Wednesday's meetings, there will be another meeting for annuities Tuesday, June 14 at 7th Street Underground from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Baharlou said going to both meetings will be beneficial.

"The first meeting will answer some questions," Baharlou said. "But it also raises more questions. Once you see if you have follow up questions, you can go to the next meeting."

Alex McNamee can be reached at 581-7942 or deneic@gmail.com.

CITY

Council to approve 3-way stop on campus

By Jennifer Brown Administration Editor

The Charleston City Council is expected to vote on an ordinance Tuesday evening that would place a three-way stop at the corner of Roosevelt Avenue and 4th Street.

Mayer John Inyart said this ordinance has come from the request of Eastern officials.

"I understand why they want to do it," Inyart said. "Traffic is supposed to be 20 miles per hour."

Inyart said if the ordinance passes, then there will be time to put the stop up.

"Every northbound and southbound car will have to stop and they don't have to now," Inyart said.

Inyart said the area of the requested stop signs is better than it used to be.

Charleston City Council is interested in reviewing the data recorded of traffic accidents and traffic flow.

"The question that comes to the council is how to improve pedestrian safety without having to stop every car seven days a week," Inyart said.

The Council is also looking to approve mosquito abatement, which would join Charleston and Coles County Health Department in an administrative partnership for the next five years.

"They decided to transfer it over because the laws are changing," Inyart said. "The health department is better trained than city staff and it's more within the health department's expertise."

This year the city has treated standing water with water pellets to prevent mosquitoes.

COUNCIL, page 5

Working for a cause



AUDREY SAWYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Carolyn Adkins, of Tuscola, helps put siding up on Terry Francis' house Saturday morning in Mattoon. Saturday was a Women Build workday put together by Habitat for Humanity of Coles County.

STATE

Righter not pleased with redistricting

By Melissa Sturtevant News Editor

This year, the year after the 2010 Census, has brought about the issue of redistricting the state of Illinois. The new districts have to be presented by June 30 the year after the census.

The majority party is given the responsibility of drawing the lines for the new districts. The Demo-

cratic party is the current majority party.

Sen. Dale Righter, R-Mattoon, said that he is not happy with how the redistricting was done.

"The lines were drawn to preserve the Democratic party's majority," Righter said. "That's not who it's supposed to protect."

Righter said the Illinois Constitution governs the remapping process.

These will be the new districts

for the 2012 elections.

Righter also said the public did not have enough time to respond to the new districts because the boundaries were presented 24 hours in advance.

"What are (the legislators) going to do? Incumbent legislators are going to protect themselves," Righter said. "They are going to protect members of their own party."

Righter said that the new districts will not protect, or even necessarily benefit, Illinois residents.

Righter sponsored an Illinois Constitutional amendment called the Illinois Fair Map Amendment. Righter said the goal of this amendment was to take remapping out of the hands of incumbent legislators.

RIGHTER, page 5

CAMPUS

Energy Center close to being completed

Other renovation work taking place on campus

By Joe Long Sports Editor

The Renewable Energy Center will be up and running this summer.

Gary Reed, director of Facilities Planning and Management, said the project is 97 percent completed.

"During the month of June, plans call for start-up of the first biomass burning boiler. By the end of July, all plant systems will be completed and the Renewable Energy Center is expected to be in full operation," Reed said.

The Renewable Energy Center, located between McKinley and Edgar Avenues along Route 130, will have two biomass boilers as well as two backup natural gas boilers. When it is up and running, the plant will provide the entire campus with power.

ENERGY, page 5