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SEARCH COMMITTEE | LAST CUTS

Presidential finalists revealed

Eastern Provost Lord among three candidates remaining in search

By **Ashley Rueff**
Senior University Reporter

Eastern’s next president will come from the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay, Texas A & M University or from right here at Eastern.

The names of the three final candidates in the presidential search were released through a university-wide e-mail Thursday that introduced the candidates and explained their on-campus visits for the week of March 18.

William Perry, the current vice provost at Texas A & M University; Blair Lord, Eastern’s provost and vice

president for academic affairs; and Sue Kiefer Hammersmith, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at University of Wisconsin at Green Bay will be visiting campus.

The campus visits will allow students, faculty, staff, administrators and the community to meet and interview the three candidates during open sessions throughout the week.

The campus community will be able to fill out evaluation forms with their opinions of the candidates for consideration by the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and the Board of Trustees.

“The committee will be getting the feedback, summarizing that and then making a presentation to the Board about how they went about selecting these finalists and the results of their visits on

THE FINAL THREE



Sue Kiefer Hammersmith
Wisconsin-Green Bay’s provost will be at Eastern March 22 and 23



Blair Lord
Eastern’s provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will have his interview March 20 and 21



William Perry
Texas A & M’s vice provost will be at Eastern on March 18 and 19

campus,” said Robert Webb, chair of the search committee and vice chair of the Board of Trustees. “Everyone will see them somewhat differently, I suppose, but we are confident that they will all make a good impression on the university campus and in the public.”

Perry will be the first candidate to visit campus. Texas A & M has a

total student enrollment of 42,374. He will be at Eastern on March 18 and 19.

Perry earned his doctorate and master’s degrees in mathematics from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He began working at Texas A & M as an assistant professor of mathematics in 1977 and has remained there ever since. He is still a professor in the mathematics department.

“I’m looking forward to coming up for the campus visit and meeting faculty, students, staff and members of the community,” Perry said. “And I’m looking forward to finding out even more what the community is looking for in terms of its next president.”

» SEE **FINALISTS**, PAGE 2



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Johnna Morecraft, Community and Professional Programs Coordinator of Lake Land College, walks past the Bridge Lounge in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union on Thursday afternoon. The windows in the bridge that connects the west and east side of the union will be replaced with windows that have quotes of great beginnings to literature and historical speeches, among others. The deadline to submit suggestions is March 15.

Campus apathetic to ‘Beginnings’

Of 148 submissions, only two have come from students

By **Graham Milldrum**
University Reporter

“We the people...” might soon share space with “Start me up” in one of the most visible parts of campus.

The deadline for quotes for the Great Beginnings window in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union is March 15.

The project dates back to a speech Aug. 30 by Eastern President Lou

Hencken.

The plan is simple: collect quotes and use them to decorate the window in the Bridge Lounge of the union that overlooks the library quad. The quotes are supposed to be about beginnings.

Although Hencken mentioned a few quotes, he asked the campus and community to submit more.

The Great Beginnings Window Project Committee has 148 submissions, said Ann Brownson, committee chair.

However, she is disappointed that only two quotes come from students.

This might be because students have not heard of the program.

Brownson said she hasn’t made posters or distributed fliers for several reasons.

In her opinion, they don’t do much good. She also hasn’t had a budget for the project, although she said she probably could have gotten one if she had asked.

Faculty and staff have tuned in most of the quotes.

Lindsay Partlow, a receptionist for the Office of Housing and Dining, was one of the few people in the union to have heard about the project. Her directors had talked about it at office meetings and she had read it in the paper.

» SEE **BEGINNINGS**, PAGE 2

LAW | INDICTMENT UPDATE

Arraignment set for alleged counterfeiters

Four Eastern students to face federal charges at hearing April 18

By **Marco Santana**
Campus Editor

Four Eastern students indicted by a federal grand jury Wednesday for counterfeiting will be arraigned April 18 in a federal court in Urbana.

The accused will be read the charges against them and will be asked to enter a plea at the arraignment.

The defendants will be issued a summons informing them of the arraignment date.

Gavin J. Groves, 19, of Olney; Benjamin T. Inman, 19, of Paris; Kyle E. Pittman, 19, of Newton; and David M. Skubic, 19, of Wilmington were named in the indictment.

They were charged with conspiracy to make and pass more than \$1,500 in counterfeit money, U.S. Attorney Rodger A. Heaton’s office announced.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eugene L. Miller presented the case to the grand jury.

The indictment said the students bought paper at Wal-Mart, made copies of a \$20 bill and rubbed lotion on the copies to make them appear more genuine.

They then used more than \$1,000 in counterfeit money, mostly at fast-food restaurants, and split the change received, the indictment alleged.

The Charleston Police Department worked with investigators in Paris, Marshall, Mattoon and Terre Haute, Ind.

Charleston police Chief Paul Welch said some think counterfeiting is just a prank and no real harm is done.

But that doesn’t mean it’s not a crime.

“If everybody counterfeited one \$20 bill, we’d bankrupt the country,” he said. “It’s not just a high school kid counterfeiting a \$1 bill.”

Kevin Paddock, Charleston’s chief of detectives, worked with the other departments and the U.S. Secret Service on the investigation.

He was out of town training and will not be available for comment until Monday.

The defendants could go to prison for five years on the charge of conspiracy to use counterfeit money and 20 years on the charge of using counterfeit money.

LEGAL LINGO:

»The students who face counterfeit charges have been indicted. This doesn’t assume guilt and is merely an accusation.

» **Indictment:** A formal accusation initiating a criminal case, usually required for felonies.

» **Arraignment:** A hearing that allows the accused to answer the charge made against him by an indictment.

Secretary elected for RHA executive board

By **Katey Mitchell**
RHA Reporter

The Residence Hall Association elected Hannah Plevka as executive board secretary at Thursday night’s meeting.

Plevka, a sophomore journalism major, was elected based on involvement in RHA.

“It’s exciting to be elected,” Plevka said. “I thought both of us (Plevka and candidate Corryn Moorman) had a good chance to win. I wasn’t really sure of the outcome.”

Plevka plans to promote RHA more to residents of residence halls and students all over campus.

She hopes she and the new executive board can get more people involved.

The meeting also had a lot of people talking about raising money for scholarships. The financial advisory board for RHA got its budget approved to hold a murder mystery dinner at the end of March.

They are charging \$5 a person and all money raised will be contributed to the RHA scholarships.

Also, the executive board for the past few weeks has been raising money for RHA scholarships as well by having members contribute donations into a plastic tub in front of each executive board member’s seat.

The executive board member with the most donations was scheduled to have a bucket of ice water dumped on him or her at the end of Thursday’s meeting.

The bucket donations ended up raising \$112.76.

Eric Dusanek, programming and diversity coordinator, raised the most money with \$44.76.

Jody Stone, associate director of housing, also came to speak to the general assembly about the different RHA scholarships that will be given out formally at year-end banquet in April.

RHA gives away two scholarships a year, the Richard G. Enochs Scholarship and the Sean R. McKinney Scholarship.

The Enochs scholarship was established on June 5, 1978, after Richard Enochs, the director of married student housing for Eastern until his death on March 5, 1978.

Some past winners include Mark Hudson, director of Housing and Dining, and Thomas Hall resident director. Doug Howell.

The scholarship had raised between \$3,300 and \$3,400 last year to give to recipient Lindsay DiPietro, current NRHH president, Stone said.

The other scholarship given out is the McKinney scholarship, which was formed after Sean McKinney, a hall director, died of leukemia in 1991, Stone said.

He loved working with first and second-year students so much that his family and friends directed his scholarship to students with only one or two semesters of college experience.

Housing and Dining is taking nominations for each of the scholarships. Students are to contact Doug Howell, Thomas Hall resident director, for assistance. Applications for both scholarships are due April 3 at 4 p.m.

» Finalists

FROM PAGE 1

He said he made a trip to Eastern to see the campus when he was in the area for the off-campus interviews conducted by the search committee in Champaign.

“I sensed a lot of energy here, and collegiality,” he said. “It seems to me like it’s a place where people care about each other, and that’s important to me.”

Perry said he sees the potential for Eastern to grow and to become the best learning-centered university in the region.

Lord will be the second candidate to interview on campus. He will follow the same schedule as the other two candidates on March 20 and 21.

Lord earned his doctorate degree in economics from the University of California at Davis. Before obtaining his current position in 2001, he served as the vice provost for academic affairs at the University of Rhode Island for 10 years, and had held other positions at the university since 1981.

“I’m pleased to be a candidate and I’m happy to have stayed an active candidate this far,” Lord said.

He anticipates that the questions he will be asked by the campus will be a little different than those asked of the other candidates since he’s a familiar face at Eastern.

“The level of specificity might be more precise than other candidates,” Lord said. He doesn’t expect anyone to refrain from asking tough questions because of his current position at Eastern.

“I don’t think people are usually too bashful about asking me questions,” he said.

Hammersmith is the final candidate to visit. The University of Wisconsin has a total student

WHERE THEY COME FROM

»THE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REDUCED THE FIELD TO THREE. HERE ARE THE FINALISTS' RESUMES.

» Sue Kiefer Hammersmith

2002-present: Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (Wisconsin-Green Bay)

1987-2002: Dean of College of Arts and Sciences (Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Mich.)

1985-1987: Dean of the University College (Ball State University, Muncie, Ind.)

1982-1985: Assistant Dean, School of Liberal Arts (Indiana University)

1976-1981: Assistant Professor of Sociology (Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis)

» Blair Lord

2001-present: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (Eastern Illinois

University)

1991-2001: Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (University of Rhode Island)

1990-1991: Senior assistant to the president for Resource Allocation (URI)

1989-1990: American Council on Education Fellowship (University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, Conn.)

1981-1987: Chairperson, Department of Finance and Insurance (URI)

» William Perry

2003-present: Vice Provost (Texas A & M University)

1998-2002: Executive Associate Provost (Texas A & M)

1990-1998: Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost (Texas A & M)

1988-1990: Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Science (Texas A & M)

enrollment of 5,312. She will be on campus March 22 and 23.

Hammersmith earned a doctorate and master’s degree in sociology from Indiana University. She has held her current position since 2002, and was previously the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Mich., the Dean of the University College at Ball State University, Muncie, Ind., and an assistant Dean, assistant professor and research associate at Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.

“Eastern is a very fine institution,” Hammersmith said. “It’s a wonderful size and it’s in a very solid position to blossom into its next level of excellence.”

Her plan for Eastern is “to work with the excellent faculty and programs that have made Eastern strong, and to build the base of support in opportunities to allow them to go to the next level of excellence.”

» Beginnings

FROM PAGE B8

“I think it’s a neat idea,” she said. “I just don’t know much about it.”

There have been submissions from the community as well.

All of the quotes will be examined and ranked by the members of the committee.

Brownson expects only about

20 of the quotes will be used. She is unsure since the design of the window is not yet formalized.

The currently submitted quotes consist primarily of lines from books and poetry. Brownson was surprised that not very many songs were submitted.

“I think everyone should submit quotes,” said Laurel Fuqua, the Student Activates Committee office manager. “I will submit, if I can find a wonderful quote.”

'GREAT BEGINNINGS'

»To submit a quote for the 'Great Beginnings' window, e-mail Ann Brownson at aebrownson@eiu.edu or through campus mail at Booth Library.

Submissions should be great first lines in history, such as books, plays, speeches, lyrics or other historical documents.

» **Deadline to submit quotes:**
March 15

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..... Eugenia Jefferson
..... Kevin Murphy
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Comments | Tips

Contact any of the above staff members you believe your information is relevant to at their provided e-mail address.

You may also call 581-7942 or visit the student publications newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

Corrections

The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds, or is made aware of by its readers, will be corrected on this page as promptly as possible.

To aid The Daily Eastern News in its quest for accuracy, please report any factual error you find in any edition of The Daily Eastern News by e-mail, phone, campus mail or in person.

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LOCAL

FRIDAY
3.9.07

campusbriefs

Remember to change clocks

early Sunday morning

» Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday.

Don't forget to "spring forward" and turn clocks ahead an hour. Time will change again Nov. 4.

The time change was April 2 last year, and ended Oct. 29.

President George W. Bush amended the "Uniform Time Act of 1966" when he signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

This is an effort to conserve more energy. The results will be reported to Congress and are supposed to show the difference in energy consumption in the United States.

Congress reserves the right to change the Daylight Saving Time dates again.

— Cathy Bayer, News Editor

BOT to decide residence hall renovations at meeting today

» The Board of Trustees will meet to act on two purchase items today. The first item is a new sprinkler system for Andrews and Lawson Halls.

The other is a contract to design renovations for the restroom areas and to install kitchenettes in Douglas Hall. Eastern President Lou Hencken expects the meeting to last about 10 minutes before the board meets in executive session.

The meeting will begin at 2:30 p.m. in the 1895 Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

— Ashley Rueff, Senior University Reporter

Union food court to close Saturday for Spring Break

» The Union food court will be open today from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. before closing for Spring Break.

It will be closed from Saturday to March 17. The food court will re-open Sunday, March 18, at 4 p.m. and will close at 11 p.m.

Regular business hours will resume on Monday, March 19.

— Marco Santana, Campus Editor

ourmistakes

» In the editorial on Page 4 of Wednesday's edition of the Daily Eastern News, each student pays more than \$100 in student fees, but not all of that money goes to the Apportionment Board.

The DEN regrets the errors.

COMMENTS | CORRECTIONS | EVENTS

To report any errors, local events or general suggestions for future editions please contact our news editor, **Cathy Bayer**, via:
Phone | **581-7942**,
E-mail | **DENnewsdesk@gmail.com**
Office visit | **1811 Buzzard Hall**.

CAMPUS | APPORTIONMENT BOARD



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Ken Baker, director of the student recreation center, updates the apportionment board on the new recreation equipment ordered for students of Eastern Illinois University, Thursday night in the Arcola-Tuscola room in the Martin Luther King Jr. Student Union.

Organizations careful with costs

Student Government and Rec Center ask for just the necessities

By Zach Nugent
AB Reporter

The Student Recreation Center and the Student Government presented its bare-minimum budgets to Apportionment Board Thursday night.

"I'm asking for what we need, not what we'd like to have," said Ken Baker, director of Student Recreation.

Baker proposed a budget of nearly \$210,000.

Baker asked for an \$6,000 increase from last year. The majority of the increase is because of the new minimum wage beginning July 1. Baker budgeted an additional \$10,000 to student payroll.

"That amount will not totally cover the increase in minimum wage," Baker said. "We will make up the difference with money we have in our own account."

To accommodate the rising minimum wage, Baker said the Rec Center cut its budget for new equipment and miscellaneous supplies, including office supplies.

"I'm truly shocked they're only coming for a \$6,000 increase," said AB member Eric Wilbur. "I applaud Baker."

A \$10,000 appropriated grant approved by President Hencken helped alleviate the need for a larger budget, Baker said.

"I sympathize with the pressures AB is under, so I only ask for what I need," Baker said.

The Student Government also said it was only asking for money it absolutely needs.

With a proposed budget of more than \$45,000, this year's budget increased by

SEAN ANDERSON | STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

"There are lots of things we just don't use in the budget and we've worked very hard to cut them down."

BREAKING DOWN THE BUDGETS

» Student Recreation Center

Ken Baker, director of student recreation proposed a nearly \$210,000 budget.

Asked for an increase of \$6,000 from last year.

Received a \$10,000 appropriated grant approved by President Hencken, which helped alleviate the need for a larger budget increase.

» Student Government

Student Body President Sean Anderson proposed a budget for more than \$45,000.

Asked for an increase of \$4,000 from last year.

\$4,000 from last year.

Through his presentation, Student Body President Sean Anderson explained that the Student Government has poorly proportioned their budgets in the past.

"There are a lot of things we just don't use in the budget and we've worked very hard to cut them down," Anderson said.

The largest increase came from the Conference on Student Government Associations.

Every year the Student Government sends

delegates to the conference, however it never budgets it.

In the past, members have gone to AB asking for an additional allocation to attend the conference.

Upon AB's suggestions, the Student Government figured the conference expenses into its budget.

The conference budget is more than \$4,000, which is the amount they paid to attend last year's convention.

When asked if members had taken into account an increase in travel expenses, Anderson said they had not.

To justify these increases, the Student Government also made cuts to several parts of its budget.

The largest cut came from the events of Unity Week.

"It really wasn't a priority of mine planning these events, so it's a good place to cut money," said Cole Rogers, student vice president for student affairs. Levi Bulgar, AB chair, was pleased with the Student Government asking for only an additional \$4,000.

"I appreciate them taking our comments to budget for CASGO," he said.

After spring break, Bulgar will meet with Dan Nadler, the vice president for student affairs.

Nadler and Bulgar are meeting to discuss the budgets and the money they have to work with.

AB will begin discussing all the budgets at its next meeting on Thursday, March 22.

COLUMNIST | MICHAEL PETERSON

Hit-Mix should mix more music

Back in 2005, Eastern's student radio station went through a major format change. It changed from WEIU-FM 88.9 to Hit-Mix 88.9. Their new format was self described on their Web site as, "We're not too slow. We don't rock too hard. A touch of country. Just the biggest hits you've loved and love. A perfect mix of great songs."

Not too slow and it doesn't rock too hard? That's an interesting choice for a station that is run by students and for students. Maybe I'm crazy, but shouldn't college radio stations be pushing the envelope and taking risks? Instead, the DJs who work for Hit-Mix have to adhere to a strict play list and are not allowed to create their own shows. On the upside, the DJs are allowed to take requests from listeners.

Another problem with Hit-Mix is their lack of taking risks. The station will not play rap, hip-hop or hard rock. Is it just me, or is it a little odd when our student-run radio station is less edgy than a station that our parents would listen to? For example, Hit-Mix does not play *any* Metallica songs. They don't just exclude their songs that contain swearing; they don't play any of their songs.

However, Hit-Mix has a variety of "hits" ranging from the 50s to today. With Hit-Mix's pursuit of trying to appeal to everyone, it has ended up appealing to no one. Why would someone listen to a radio station that plays a song that they like once every two hours when they could just pop out their iPod and get instant gratification? It just doesn't make sense.

It is no secret that not many students listen to Hit-Mix. I'm sure it has a devoted fan base, but the average Eastern student doesn't listen to it regularly. Granted, even before WEIU-FM turned into Hit-Mix, the number of listeners was still relatively small. Perhaps the problem of why students aren't listening is rooted much deeper. But either way, turning Eastern student's station into a glorified version of MUSAQ is not going to help matters.

But don't get me wrong; Hit-Mix has many positive aspects as well. It allows for students who are interesting in getting into the radio business to be able to get their feet wet and learn the tricks of the trade. I just personally wish that Eastern's radio station would allow for their students to have more creative control over what they are doing.

However, students who do want more creative control over the music they play do have the option of becoming a DJ for The Odyssey, Eastern's Internet-only radio station. Unfortunately, The Odyssey pulls in even less listeners than Hit-Mix.

All in all, Hit-Mix is not bad, but it could use some tweaking. Maybe allowing the student DJs unique personalities to blossom in more customized shows would be a step in the right direction. Also, allowing the DJs to play rap and hard rock would also help since that is the majority of what college students listen to. Besides, there is nothing wrong with taking risks and mixin' it up once in a while.

Michael Peterson



Michael Peterson is a junior journalism major. He can be reached at mtpeterson@eiu.edu

Alternatives to booze

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to Mexico.

One trip has students work near the border with immigrants, while the other trip has students work with homeless children on the other side of Mexico.

Students have also traveled to the Big Oaks Girls' Ranch in Alabama. The ranch takes in children, usually ranging from 6 to 18 years old, who have been abused, neglected or orphaned. There are 12 houses there, with anywhere from eight to 12 girls in each home. They also have a "transition home" for college girls.

At The Windsor House, students spend the week doing small construction projects and mentoring some of the girls.

In short, they were helping those who needed it.

The students that have signed up for these trips should be commended.

They are proof that not all Eastern students are apathetic to the world around them.

They prove that some Eastern students

care about more than partying, binge drinking and just hanging out.

While it is too late for Eastern students to sign up for Alternative Spring Break, it is not too late to do more than spend your time on the couch watching talk shows or basketball over spring break.

Students can volunteer through other organizations as well.

Local libraries and YMCAs always need volunteers. An hour out of a day can make all the difference to a child who has no positive role models in their life.

Local animal shelters welcome college students who want to volunteer.

At the Coles County Animal Rescue and Education, college students who volunteer walk and play with dogs that are available for adoption.

Food pantries, homeless shelters and nursing homes are usually understaffed and looking for people who are willing to give their time.

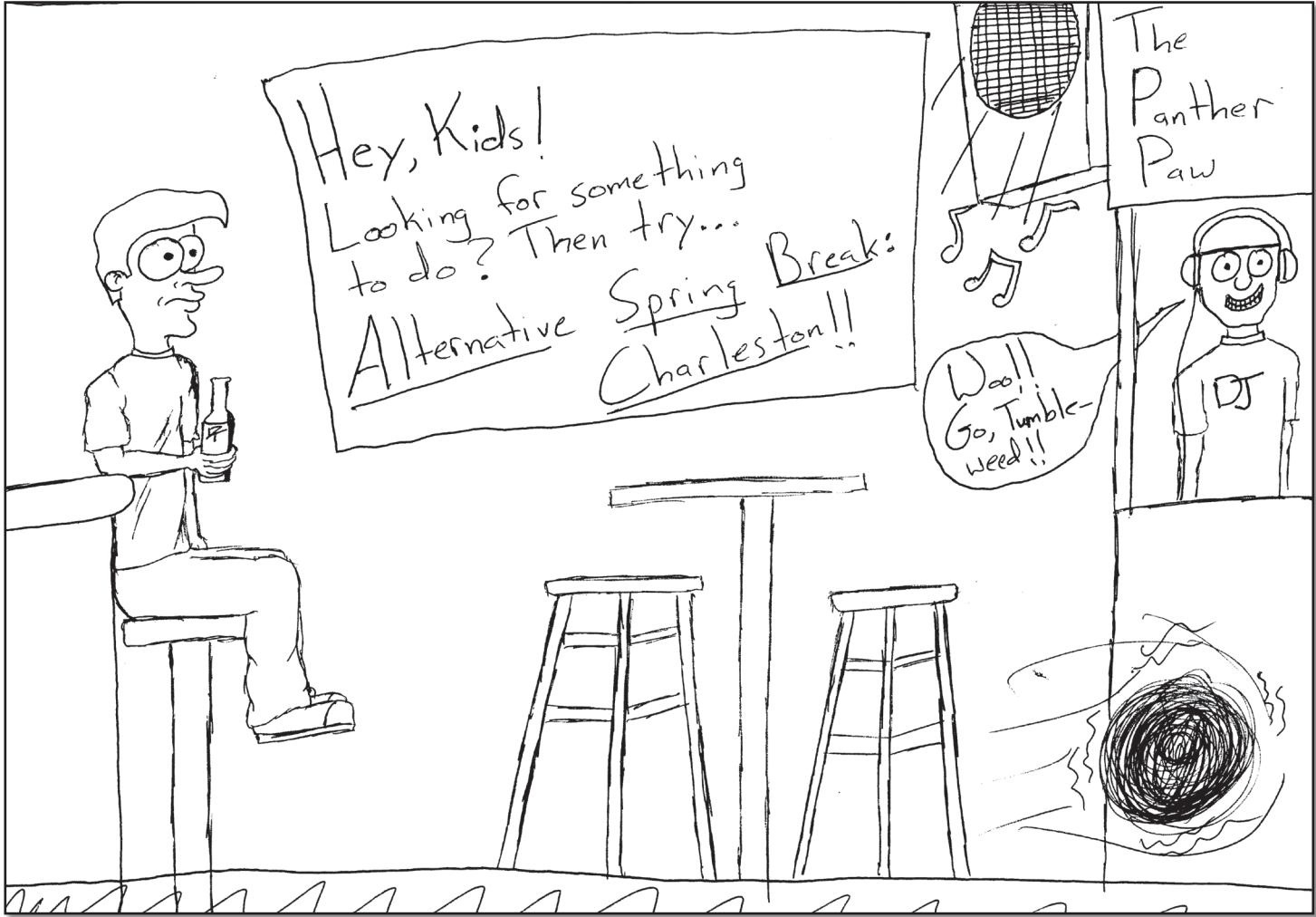
Volunteering over spring break could be as simple as mowing an elderly neighbors lawn or baby-sitting for free.

Volunteering helps the community as well as allows students to get a better understanding of their world and those who are less fortunate.

The Daily Eastern News urges all Eastern students to do some sort of volunteerism over break and prove to everyone that our generation is about more than technological gadgets, laziness and partying.

The editorial is the majority opinion of The Daily Eastern News editorial board.
Reach the Opinions editor at DENopinions@gmail.com.

DRAWN FROM THE NEWS | TERRENCE NOWICKI



WHAT OTHERS THINK | ILLINOIS STATE

A Boston woman is suing Planned Parenthood and two doctors in a malpractice suit for a failed abortion procedure. The woman claims she could not afford to have the child, which is why she went in for the abortion in the first place. Jennifer Raper, 45, went to Planned Parenthood in April 2004, a month after she found out she was pregnant, to have the procedure. Allegedly, the abortion was done incorrectly, and the woman remained pregnant. This woman is setting a huge precedent for what people are going to be able to sue for in medical malpractice cases. While its too late for her to reverse what happened to her, she can still love and care for this child just as if she had planned for it.

FEATURED BLOGGER | CHRIS ESSIG

"Ever since Britney chopped her hair, the music industry has been at a stand still.

Kenny Loggins got inducted to Hollywood's RockWalk, Bono is editing an issue of Vanity Fair, and Daughtry now has the number 1 selling album in the nation.

Wow. Someone pass me the cyanide."



TO COMMENT.....

The Daily Eastern News welcomes responses to our original content.

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All letters to the editor may be edited for accuracy, clarity and length. Letters 250 words or fewer have the best chance of being published. Only letters that include a name, address and phone number that are verified by *The DEN* will be considered for print publication.

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the daily eastern news

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—3/9

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—3/9

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—00

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—3/9

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—3/9

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—3/9

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—3/12

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—3/23

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—3/23

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—00

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—3/30

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—00

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—00

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—00

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—00

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—00

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—00

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‘Sexism has got to go’

Campus gathers to celebrate International Women’s Day

By Ashley Mefford
Activities Reporter

Carly Riley led a group to Lumpkin Hall shouting words through a megaphone.

Riley, a senior English major with a minor in professional writing and women’s studies, is the president of the Women’s Studies Student Club.

Thursday was International Women’s Day.

A group of approximately 15 people met outside Old Main and proceeded to march to Lumpkin Hall.

Penka Skachkova, the coordinator of the women’s studies minor, put the event together. The Women’s Studies Student Club organized and coordinated the march.

“The Women’s Studies Student Organization is hosting this march because of International Women’s Day,” Riley said. “IWD is always on the eighth of March, and it’s a major day of global celebration for the economic, political and social achievements of women.”

The group assembled outside Old Main at 6 p.m. and listened to Skachkova read a speech about women’s rights.

“On March 8, 1857 International Women’s Day was started. It was started to fix the inhumane working conditions that women worked in.

On March 8, 1908, women march in New York City for International Women’s Day,” she read.

Cars in traffic honked as the group walked to Lumpkin Hall, which excited the group and made them cheer

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

»Has been in existence since the early 1900s.

» Thousands of events are held throughout the world to celebrate the achievements of women.

and chant even louder.

The group chanted many different chants including: “Hey, hey, ho, ho, sexism has got to go,” and “What do we want? Equality. When do we want it? Now.”

Another chant was “Celebrate women, celebrate diversity.”

Being an immigrant made the march have a purpose for Sham’ah Md-Yunus, an elementary education professor.

“I’m going to support this because of immigrant faculty and the struggle and success of women,” Md-Yunus said.

A small group came to the march, but the group that did come was very passionate about women’s rights and equality.

Riley encouraged the group to go and tell their friends about what views they were trying to get across.

“We don’t recognize it as much as other countries,” Riley said. “I’m so glad to see so many faces because they will talk to their friend about what we are trying to get across.”

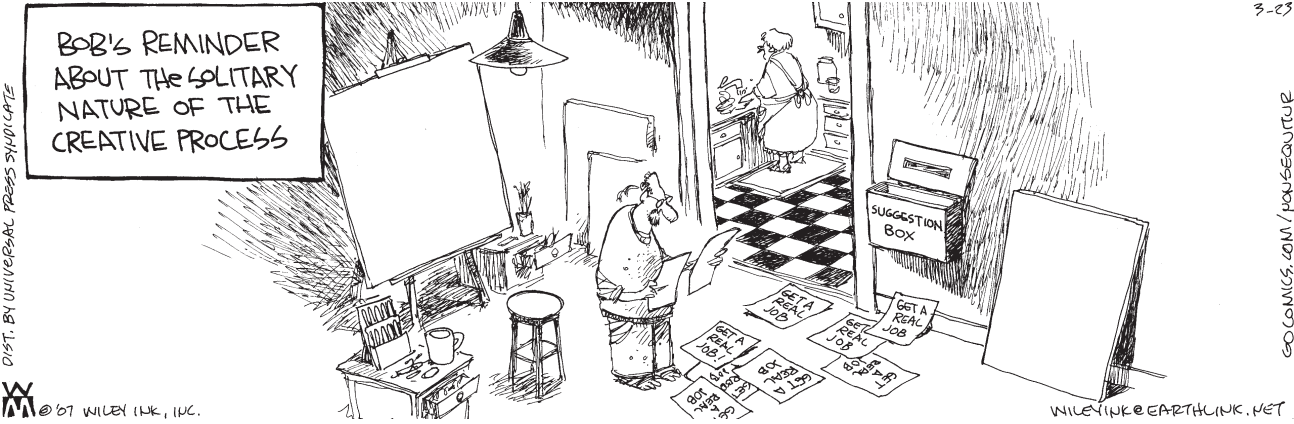
This march was to celebrate how far women have come regarding equality, but also acknowledged what still needs to be done to be an equal. Sace Elder, assistant professor of history, thought that the march was a good way to celebrate women and all the work that has been done for equality.

“I came tonight to celebrate accomplishments and things still that need to be done,” she said.

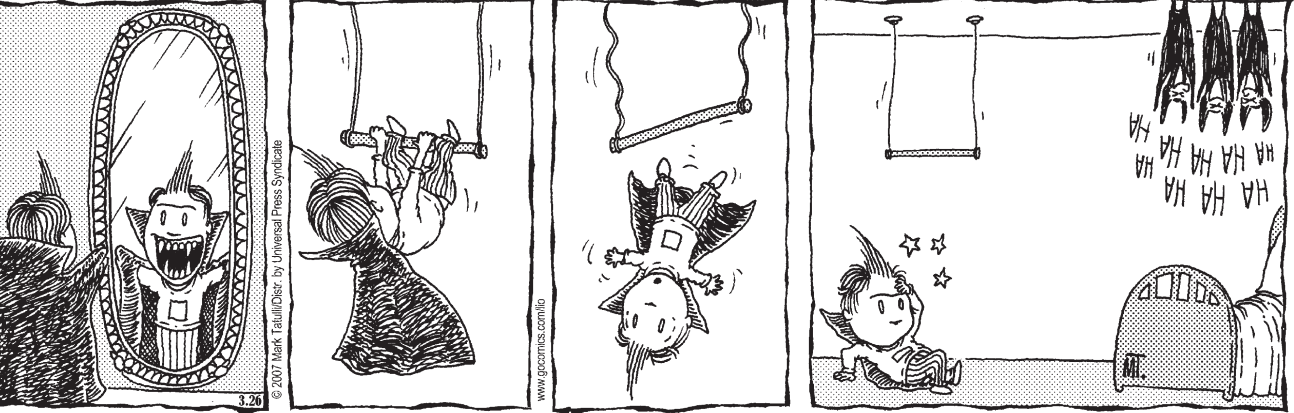


JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Penka Skachkova, coordinator of the women’s studies program, reads a poem before the start of the women’s march to Lumpkin Hall Thursday night in front of Old Main. The march was to bring awareness to International Women’s Day and Women’s history and awareness month. International Women’s Day was first celebrated in the early 1900s and is used to bring awareness to the achievements of women worldwide.

NON SEQUITUR | WILEY MILLER



LIO | MARK TATULLI

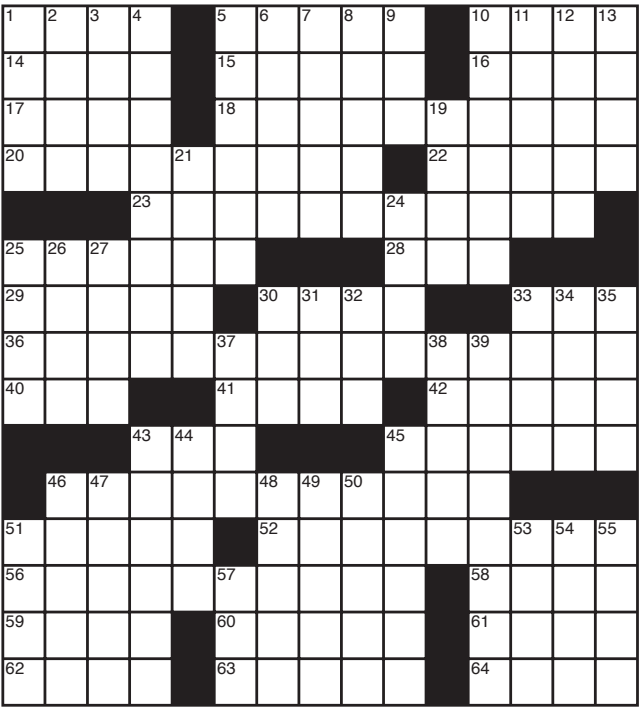


The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0208

- ACROSS**
1 Designer for Jackie
5 When one might have a late lunch
10 Damage assessment grp.
14 One-sixth of an inch
15 Indian palace
16 Long periods
17 Yield
18 Web listings for an old western?
20 Remedy provider
22 Ingredient in a lyonnaise dish
23 Hockey gear for rams and ewes?
25 Hot Wheels company
28 Some are personal
29 More remote
30 Side in an annual all-star game
33 ____ Building, onetime part of Rockefeller Center
36 Cobblers’ cause?
40 Suffix with ballad
41 Upbeat
42 Beaut
43 Exudation, maybe
45 Bush White House dog
46 Part ownership in a bar?
51 Like some chemical bonds
52 Expunged
56 Comment on a woman from Copenhagen?
58 “____ living”
- DOWN**
1 Kind of column
2 Teller of stories
3 Unbleached: Fr.
4 Soprano, for one
5 Dutch beer
6 A lake or a Chevy
7 “Movin’ Out” Tony winner
8 Ebbs
9 Good cheer
10 Deceptions
11 “Sesame Street” regular
12 Speedy sharks
13 Part of 57-Down: Abbr.
19 Ton of bricks, e.g.
21 Sci-fi writer ____ S. Tepper
24 The Green Hornet’s valet
25 Tiny critter
26 Pain
27 Stratum
30 “____, me?”
31 The invaders in “The Invaders”
32 Farm enclosure
59 Strip between stripes
60 Loud rumble?
61 Pilgrimage
62 Added conditions
63 Syrian leader
64 Days of ____



Puzzle by Dan Reichert

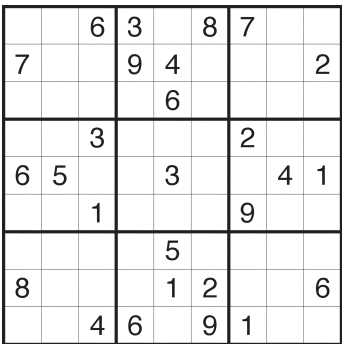
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

E P E E C A R O L P A T S
S A R A A C E L A R O A N
Q W E R T Y U I O P O L I O
U N C L E S D R O O P
E S T E R A S D F G H J K L
S I L L H E E L S
D I N S A I D A A T S E A
R N A Z X C V B N M T I T
A N G L E E D E N S S N S
N I G E R T E S H
K E Y B O A R D S P E A R L
A S S H E S U R R E Y
J O A N T Y P E W R I T E R
A R N O A M O R E F I L E
W R E N R E T I E F E S S

- 33** Equine color
34 R & B’s Winans
35 Pallid
37 Rum drink
38 Deal gently with
39 Biology topic
43 Looks
44 Like most music in record stores nowadays
45 Washed
46 Actress Lindsay
47 Seemingly forever
48 Sea eagles
49 Muddies
50 Book after Daniel
51 Spanish vacation site
53 Not esto or eso
54 PC operator
55 Opinion
57 Physicians’ grp.

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Sudoku By Michael Mephram



Level: 1 2 3 4
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.
Solution to Thursday’s puzzle
8 9 6 4 3 5 7 1 2
1 5 3 8 2 7 9 6 4
4 2 7 9 1 6 8 3 5
7 3 1 6 5 9 2 4 8
9 6 4 1 8 2 5 7 3
5 8 2 7 4 3 6 9 1
6 4 8 2 9 1 3 5 7
2 7 5 3 6 4 1 8 9
3 1 9 5 7 8 4 2 6

OUT OF BOUNDS

Schuette sets softball standard

What Kim Schuette did last year for the Eastern softball program is nothing short of remarkable.

She turned a team accustomed to losing instantly into a team accustomed to winning.

She turned around a program that had experienced six straight losing seasons into its first winning season since 1998.

She had her team one win away from making the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament final and possibly, two wins away from the NCAA Tournament last year. And now, she's set the standard for the future of Eastern softball. The Panthers (6-5) get back on the field today after nearly a two-week layoff out in sunny, San Jose, Calif., and the National Invitational Tournament, with temperatures expected in the 70s all weekend.

And how Eastern will play after nearly two weeks away from actual competition, and limited work on an outside facility is up in the air.

The Panthers have been practicing outside, getting the majority of their work done outside at O'Brien Stadium, the football field. The teams Eastern faces this weekend aren't guaranteed wins either.

Softball in California is played year-round, and with the Panthers facing six California teams during their six-day stay in the state, it will prove an early test to see how good this team can actually be.

And good they should be.

Eastern was picked sixth in the OVC, which senior shortstop Chelsea Adams said "kind of pissed us off just because we did have a good year last year so it was kind of like all that we did last year, they weren't giving us any credit."

Coming off a 36-26 season, with eight starters and their two top pitchers returning, a sixth-place predicted finish should irk Schuette's squad.

But her team is basically the equivalent of their head coach. Laid-back, with a calm demeanor off the field, but intense and competitive as can be on the field. Schuette is the perfect coach to blend with all the talent and experience she has on this year's team. Three seniors (catcher Sandyn Shortt, Adams and first baseman Katy Steele) are the main contributors this season, and have been in their first three seasons in Charleston. This trio should and will carry this team. Combine that with the speed (14 stolen bases through 11 games, compared with 5 stolen bases from their opponents) and sound defense (10 Panther errors compared to 21 opponent errors) Eastern has the special intangibles needed to make this season a memorable one.

"I just think it's fun because for once I think, softball in general, is going to be a big topic (at Eastern)," Short said last week. "I think that the OVC teams that put us sixth are in for a very rude awakening. But that's OK because we hope they take us a little bit for granted and show up and show them what we can do."

What Schuette and her team can do is right there for them. The standard has been set, and anything less than a deep run into the OVC Tournament, along with a possible NCAA Tournament berth, would be a disappointment for Eastern softball. The two-week layoff gave the players a time to relax, think and prepare for the rest of the season. Because the rest of the season, and the true measure of what this Panther softball squad can do, begins today.

Matt Daniels is a junior journalism major. He can be reached at mwdaniels@eiu.edu.



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SUNDAY: ~~\$1.00~~ Coors Light Pints
~~\$4.00~~ Coors Light Pitchers
~~\$1.50~~ Rail Mixers
Live Music w/ Caleb Cook

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS | EASTERN VS MOREHEAD STATE

Panthers play on cracked courts

Eastern opens home season against Ohio Valley Conference foe

By Brandy Provaznik
Staff Reporter

The cracking surface at Darling Courts has made some of the tennis courts unplayable.

But that won't stop this weekend's match against Morehead State from being held there this weekend, said head coach John Blackburn.

Water got underneath the surface of the court and caused cracking during the winter, Blackburn said.

The courts are 10 years old and Blackburn said as they age it is easier for this kind of thing to happen.

"It is unfortunate that some courts got cracked throughout the winter, but there is nothing we can do except work around it," said freshman Hayley Homburg.

Three courts are still playable but Blackburn said the matches would take longer because not all courts are going to be used.

With only three courts, Blackburn said he is expecting both the men's and women's match to each take around four hours.

"The time it will take is a little inconvenient but there is no reason we can't get things done," Blackburn said.

Senior Madina Mambetova said they have played at places with only two courts before and although it takes longer, it is not that big of a deal.

Senior Chuck Levaque said the match taking longer isn't bad because there will be more time for teammates to watch each other's matches.

Levaque said the three doubles' matches would still go first, followed by No. 1, 2 and 3 singles.

No. 4 singles will then wait for the first available court and the

HAYLEY HOMBURG |

FRESHMAN TENNIS PLAYER

"It is unfortunate that some courts got cracked throughout the winter, but there is nothing we can do except work around it."

same goes for No. 5 and 6.

"When I am done, then I can go and cheer on everybody else," Levaque said. "Yeah, it will take longer but it is kind of worth it."

In the past, Eastern used all six courts at Darling Courts, with the men and women playing at the same time.

Blackburn said he is unsure as to how long the courts will remain cracked because repair is being negotiated for the time being.

There was some talk of moving this weekend's match to the Champaign Park and Recreation District Indoor Facility.

Eastern talked with Morehead State and Morehead decided it would rather take the extra time out on the court than travel for another hour and play indoors, Blackburn said.

The match this weekend will mark the start of Ohio Valley Conference play for Eastern and the Panthers are glad they get to play at home.

"Before we weren't sure if we were going to play at home or not and we were all hoping for home," Mambetova said. "It is really great to not have to travel, even if it is just an hour."

TENNIS SPRING BREAK

» The softball team heads to California to play in a tournament and the baseball team heads south. The men's and women's tennis teams also travel for their own spring break trips. They will travel to Alabama to play Ohio Valley Conference members, Samford and Jacksonville State.

» **Samford:** men's and women's in Birmingham, Ala., 3/14, 1:30 p.m.

» **Jacksonville State:** men's and women's in Jacksonville, Ala., 3/15, 1:30 p.m.

Junior Stephanie Harmazy said coming off the win at Bradley also adds to that confidence level and makes them more excited going into this weekend.

"Both teams are coming off really strong wins with the women at Bradley and the men at Illinois State and Indianapolis last weekend," Blackburn said. "Because of those wins we are going into this weekend with more confidence and toughness."

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GHOST RIDER (PG 13) 4:20 7:15
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FRIDAY

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sportschedule

SOFTBALL

TODAY vs. Cal-Poly |
2:30 p.m. San Jose, Calif.

BASEBALL

TODAY at Belmont |
3 p.m. Nashville

SOFTBALL

TODAY vs. San Jose State |
8 p.m. San Jose, Calif.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

SATURDAY vs. Morehead State |
Noon Champaign

MEN'S TENNIS

SATURDAY vs. Morehead State |
3 p.m. Champaign

SOFTBALL

SATURDAY vs. California |
Noon San Jose, Calif.

BASEBALL

SATURDAY at Belmont |
1 p.m. Nashville

SOFTBALL

SATURDAY vs. UC Riverside |
5:30 p.m. San Jose, Calif.

triplethreat



Eastern's softball team will hit the beaches to soak up the sun's rays when it visits the state of California this weekend.

Today, they begin play in the National Invitational Tournament with two games. On Saturday, the Panthers face one of the most elite programs in the nation, No. 22 California.

Eastern head coach Kim Schuette (above) and her team will try to win against teams from the West Coast this weekend, where softball is a year-round endeavor.

Softball reigns supreme in the West. Here are the top three West Coast teams in the nation that should challenge for the NCAA title.

1. Arizona — The No. 1 Wildcats look to defend their national crown behind the hitting of World Championship batter Caitlin Lowe. Arizona is seeking its eighth national championship in softball and is 21-2 this season. The Wildcats this season are without pitcher Alicia Hollowell, a member of the USA national team, who graduated last year. In her junior and senior years, Hollowell had a combined 954 strikeouts.

2. Arizona State — The No. 6 team in the nation is looking toward Oklahoma City and the Pacific-10 Conference Championship. The Sun Devils look to make their 13th WCWS series appearance. They hope to do that through the pitching of Katie Burkhart and the hitting of Kaitlin Cochran, a member of the USA Softball University Team.

3. UCLA — Although the Bruins are ranked 16th in the country, they could make a run to the national championship. The Bruins will be led behind the pitching of Angelica Selden. She worked through the innings as a freshman to finish second to Michigan in the 2005 WCWS. As a freshman, senior Kristen Dedmon had the game-winning RBI in the 2004 NCAA Championship game against California.

-Kevin Murphy

SOFTBALL | NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Clash in California

Kim Schuette is returning to coach in a tournament she used to help organize.

The second-year Eastern softball head coach and her team begin play today in the National Invitational Tournament in San Jose, Calif. The tournament is hosted by San Jose State, where Schuette was an assistant coach from 2002-04.

"This past summer, I talked to the former coach there and we decided that we would make a trip out there," Schuette said.

Schuette almost changed her mind, saying she wasn't sure her team could handle the competition in California. But after a strong fall, Schuette said she changed her mind and decided to send the team out there.

The competition at the tournament will be tough, especially when the Panthers take on national power California at noon on Saturday.

"I think the core of our team is young and I think it's a pat on the back for our three seniors to face a team like that," Schuette said

KIM SCHUETTE | HEAD SOFTBALL COACH

"I think the core of our team is young and I think it's a pat on the back for our three seniors to face a team like that."

about playing California, who is ranked 22nd in the nation.

Eastern (6-5) opens up the tournament today against Cal Poly (13-6) and San Jose State (3-9).

Eastern then will play California (13-9) and UC Riverside (10-11) on Saturday. The Panthers face UC Davis (8-7) Sunday morning before playing Iowa State (7-15) in the team's final game of the tournament Sunday.

-Sports Editor Matt Daniels



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior Ashley Robison delivers a pitch during softball practice on Monday afternoon at O'Brien Stadium. The Panthers will travel to the National Invitational Tournament to play various California teams. Eastern plays Cal-Poly in the first game in San Jose, Calif.

BASEBALL | SPRING BREAK TRIP



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior pitcher Drew Gierich practices his delivery as junior pitcher Tyler Brandon watches at baseball practice on Wednesday afternoon.

Eastern packs bags, headed to Charleston

The Panthers will be traveling to Charleston for spring break.

No, they won't be staying at Eastern.

The baseball team is headed to Charleston, S.C., to play three different schools in the second largest city in South Carolina.

Before heading to the East Coast, the team starts off its annual spring break trip with a three-game

set against Belmont in Nashville, Tenn.

The Bruins are 8-2 this season and will face the Panthers on three consecutive days, starting on Friday at 3 p.m. The last time Eastern played Belmont was in 2001, when the Panthers swept a doubleheader, 13-7 and 9-1.

The Panthers will travel more than 550 miles to Charleston,

S.C., to play one game against both Charleston Southern and College of Charleston. Eastern closes out the spring break trip with a three game series against The Citadel from March 16-18.

The road trip will get the Panthers some additional field experience after poor weather at Eastern has kept the team's practices indoor or on the artificial

surface of the football field.

Senior third baseman Ryan Campbell has chance to hit more doubles than any other player in school history during the weeklong road trip.

Campbell needs only five more to tie current Eastern hitting coach Sean Lyons with 56 career doubles.

-Sports Reporter Joe Waltasti

A different type of spring break

Newman Catholic Center offers students different possibilities for break

By **Beth Hackett**
Activities Reporter

It's affordable.
It's a good way to make connections.
It's an opportunity to take one week to help the less fortunate.
Laura Keating, a senior education major, will be participating in her third consecutive Alternative Spring Break trip this week.
Keating has traveled to Florida and Tennessee, and she will be going to Louisiana this week.
"The first time I went, I did not know a single person or a thing about the event, I just went," she said. "But I ended up making friends and meeting some great people."
Last year, Keating recruited six of her friends to go along, and this year she will be "flying solo" again.

Alternative Spring Break is an opportunity for students to volunteer and experience different social issues.
Among those who students interact with and help are people with AIDS, mental disabilities and foster children.
There are several different kinds of opportunities for the students to choose from.

"One of the most popular on the list this year is Habitat for Humanity, which entails outdoor work and interacting with families," said Doris Nordin, coordinator of the Student Volunteer Center.
This semester, Natural Conservancy in Georgia filled up quickly as well.
Students go to clean rivers, woods and basically work for the environment.
Another big hit this year is the Big Oaks Ranch, which 15 students have signed up for, Nordin said.

Loren Poetz, a sophomore education major, was inspired to sign up because she knew a couple people who had gone last semester and thought about the opportunity.
"I will be going to the Big Oaks Ranch site in Alabama, which is for (male) foster children," Poetz said.
"What we will be doing is manual labor, fix-ups and yard work in the morning, then break for lunch and the rest of the day we will spend time with individual foster



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY NEWMAN CATHOLIC CENTER

Amy Tisser, an Eastern graduate student, sits with children at the St. Francis center in Bessemer, Ala. during Alternative Spring Break in 2006. Students participating in Alternative Spring Break spend the week helping individuals in need across the country.

LOREN POETZ | SOPHOMORE EDUCATION MAJOR

"It's motivating for the kids to have outside influences and support."

families."
There are seven students going and seven foster families, so each of the students will get to know the individual families.
The foster children will prepare dinner for the students and participate in group activities.
"It's motivating for the kids to have outside influences and support," Poetz said.
She said this option made the most sense for her as an education major, since it involves working with kids and having fun with them.
Poetz will be attending with her boyfriend, as they were both interested in

the same sites and opportunities.
The application provides a section where applicants can rank the locations and organizations by most desired.
Poetz said the coordinators are more than accommodating when it comes to choosing locations.
"They'll work with you and let you prioritize which is more important, location or going with someone that you know," she said.
The Newman Center provides pamphlets, which list all the site options and give brief explanations of what happens at each.
Some sites focus on religious aspects,

some involve working with children and others work with refugees.
"It's cool because it's like whatever interests you is there; that's what I liked so much about it," Poetz said.
She said she is happy to be going to the Big Oaks Ranch for spring break because otherwise she would be sitting at home not doing much.
Although she would be with her family, she said this allows her to do something productive with her time.
"It really just sparked my interest," she said.
"Alternative Spring Break was certainly an eye-opening experience and spending time with these kids for a week was truly uplifting," said Monica Genta, a sophomore biological sciences major. "It is simply amazing how expressing positive attitudes and a caring heart can make a distressed child smile."

All-inclusive trips make travel affordable

By **Stacy Smith**
Activities Reporter

Bikinis. Bronze tans. Clear water.
Florida, Mexico, Arizona and Texas are packed during spring break with college students looking to escape the cold.
Traveling south for spring break is popular among many college students.
"We just had winter, and students are ready for warm weather," said Jennifer Carber, employee at Arrow Travel. "This is a way they can get a taste of that."
Since January, a person is required to have a passport when entering a new country, including Canada and Mexico. This new constraint is causing students to stay within states for spring break.
"It's getting difficult for certain places to find space because people don't want to spend \$100 to get a passport," said Seirra Laughhunn, assistant manager at Cross County Travel in Mattoon.
Although the United States does not offer inclusive packages for travelers, many other

CHERI COOPER | OWNER OF ALL AROUND TRAVEL AND TOURS INC.

"All inclusive is a good value for most people, but those who like to party are limited."

locations, like the Caribbean and Mexico, do offer these incentives.
Inclusive packages include airfare, hotel cost, meals, beverages and activities.
"All inclusive packages are great because you know the total cost of your vacation before leaving," Laughhunn said.
However, the packages are usually offered in places that do not have a large variety of restaurants, bars or activities.
"In Hawaii, there are so many places to eat and drink, people want to try different things," Laughhunn said. "But in Jamaica there are a limited number of places to go that are safe."
While the advantages seem beneficial, some of these packages can be costly.

Sometimes food and activities offered only pertain to the hotel, so students wanting to do other things will have to pay separately.
"All inclusive is a good value for most people, but those who like to party are limited," said Cheri Cooper, owner of All Around Travel & Tours Inc. "Once they leave the property, they have to start digging out of their pockets."
Some travel agencies recommend all inclusive packages if travelers are staying for a couple days, but those who stay longer may want to venture out more.
"The majority of college students want to get there as cheap as possible," Carber said. "The agency is extremely picky about which places to recommend, especially when

it comes to students wanting a one or two rating for a hotel."
A four-night stay in Cancun with an all-inclusive package costs approximately \$800, and a seven-night stay is approximately \$1,200, Carber said.
Supply and demand causes many popular areas to increase expenses up to 40 percent during peak vacation times like spring break, Carber said.
When shopping at flea markets, suppliers often bargain prices and it is recommended to take money in small denominations.
"If you go to a flea market and bargain two shirts for \$12 and give the guy a \$20, and he leaves to go get your change, you're probably never going to see him again," Laughhunn said. "Take \$1 or \$5 so you can pay exactly what you bargained for."
Tips to avoid a high-cost spring break include bringing only the amount of money intended to spend, sharing food, leaving credit cards and other types of payments behind to prevent impulse shopping and keeping money aside for emergencies.

A teacher for all ages

Charleston resident started program with Recreation Department to teach guitar lessons

By Dylan Divit
Verge Reporter

Brad Darr wanted to help people learn how to play the guitar.

Three years ago, he introduced his guitar lesson program to the Charleston Parks and Recreation Department and has since taught people of all ages to play.

His students have ranged in age from early teens to late 70s.

“It is better to start playing late than never,” said Darr, whose guitar program is popular with teens as well as middle-age adults, who have always wanted to play.

Beginner guitar lessons sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department begin March 19, and individual sessions can be scheduled with Darr.

In addition to teaching music, Darr also performs at retirement homes several times per week. He plays these shows because he enjoys making people happy by playing music for them.

He studied percussion and minored in music at Eastern, but Darr has taught music since he was a teen. He played drums in many jazz bands before learning the guitar in college.

His beginner lessons focus on the basic mechanics of guitar, such as reading music and playing chords and scales.

The lessons teach the fundamentals of music to help students understand not just the guitar, but also general music theory.

This method allows students to learn forever, Darr said.

He compared learning to play the guitar to learning to read.

Letters are like music notes;



JAY GRABIEC | ON THE VERGE

Brad Darr has been teaching guitar lessons since he was young. For the past three years, Darr has taught guitar lessons for the Charleston Parks and Recreation Department. Darr compares playing music to learning to read.

BRAD DARR | GUITAR INSTRUCTOR

“Many young people come in having a lot of enthusiasm, but (they) find it harder to practice from one session to the next.”

GUITAR LESSONS INFO

»**Who:** Brad Darr and the Charleston Parks and Recreation Department

»**What:** Individual and group guitar lessons

»**Where:** Charleston City Hall

»**When:** Individual lessons available for schedule; group lessons begin March 19

»**Contact:** 217-345-6897

they are learned first and then put into words, he said.

“Within four to six lessons, the basic fundamentals of music can be taught,” Darr said. “It’s then up to the individual to dedicate time to practicing and getting better.”

The program has a minimum age of 10 years old for participants. People younger than 10 typically have trouble getting their hands around the neck of the instrument, Darr said.

“Many young people come in having a lot of enthusiasm, but (they) find it is harder to practice from one session to the next,” Darr said. “The older people tend to take themselves more seriously when learning the instrument.”

The group sessions, which begin March 19, consist of six half-hour sessions. Lessons are taught in groups of two.

Individual half hour sessions can be arranged by contacting the Parks and Recreation Department at 217-345-6897. Lessons are taught at city hall.

playlist



Spring Break
Specialty Top Five
Playlist

The Verge: Spring break is an important time of the year for students. For that reason, we have chosen this opportunity to make our “Top 5 Songs of Spring Break” playlist.

Enjoy these songs and more while on spring break.

“Kokomo”
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“School’s Out”
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“Miami”
Will Smith
“Mas Tequila”
Sammy Hagar
“Margaritaville”
Jimmy Buffet

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Whether you’re stuck in Charleston or heading to Tahiti for spring break, be sure to remember that listening to Justin Timberlake will always help any situation.

Environment inspires local folk musician

By Jason Duarte
Interactive Verge Reporter

A little pressure from a friend pushed Jenny Keefe into the singing profession.

"I have been singing since I was a little girl and I never had the courage to play out," Keefe said. "And a friend of mine in the band Elsinore got me to play during the middle of the show at Jackson Avenue Coffee. That was my first ever public appearance."



Keefe, a Charleston resident and acoustic singer/songwriter, has been performing at coffeehouses, bars and clubs for years now. Continuing to make public appearances, Keefe will be performing at 8 p.m. Saturday at Common Grounds in Mattoon.

Since her first performance, Keefe has been writing all of her own songs, taking inspiration from literally everything around her.

"I am influenced and inspired by every person, place, thing, thought, dream and experience that I come across," she said. "The patterns of birds, the shifting of the cosmos, the scent of the seasons changing."

In the songs themselves, Keefe's lyrics scream as much color and diversity as there are factors that influence her.

"My songs deal with everything from matters of the heart to the conscious state of society to characters and stories about characters," Keefe said.

Keefe has released two albums already and has one in the works. Her first album, "Pot Belly Prizm," contains 17 tracks, and her second album, "Wellspring," contains 13 tracks. All songs on both albums are original material.

"It takes a long time to make an album, and the problem is that by the time you're actually recording your new material, it's old material to you and you're ready to work on another one," Keefe said.

When Keefe sits down to write new material, it takes a lot more than just listening to her favorite bands to get her creative juices flowing.

"I'm influenced by stories that I hear about other things that are happening, whether it be in the world or in someone's life. And then sometimes, every once in a while, I'll just start thinking about something that I have no idea where it came from," she said. "Even if I can relate to what is said and done, it can be totally fictional."

As far as other musical artists go, she takes everything she hears to heart and mind.

"I think I'm influenced probably by every piece of music I've ever heard," Keefe said. "And you know, like I said on my MySpace, I'm influenced from everything by the weather and the patterns of birds to the things I read and people I talk with and people I maybe don't talk with. Like, everything in the world, in my life, influences me."

But going back in time to when Keefe was just a little girl with a passion to sing, it all started when she sang the songs of the famous voices at the time.

"Whenever I was a little girl, I definitely grew up singing Olivia Newton John and Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston. Nowadays, I am more of a fan of singer/songwriters," she said. "I really love it whenever people are telling their own stories, and I think Ani DiFranco is my



BRANDON CAMPBELL | ON THE VERGE

Jenny Keefe, a folk performer from Charleston, performs with Ryan Lee at Je Leniz martini bar in Mattoon on March 3. Keefe draws her influences from everything in the environment around her.

very favorite storytellin', songwritin', singin' musician in the entire world."

But aside from the famous, big-time musicians, Keefe loves her fellow local musicians just as much, if not more.

"Honestly, some of my favorite music is from my friends. Some of my friends are just phenomenal songwriters, singers and musicians," she said. "Stephen Swords, who's actually a professor at Eastern, is one of my favorite, favorite, favorite musicians. And of course, Elsinore; I really love their music."

Keefe plays mostly smaller clubs and coffeehouses, where the atmosphere is generally geared toward booking singer/songwriters.

She performs at coffeehouses, bars and colleges. Once a month, she is the guest at Common Grounds in Mattoon. She has also performed at Mac's Uptowner and places as far away as Terre Haute, Ind.

"I'm very excited about playing new places. No matter how many times people come out and see you and support you, it's really exciting to be able to play to someone who's never heard your songs before because it makes the music new to you as well," Keefe said. "When you feel like someone else is hearing it for the first time, it kind of re-inspires you."

In addition to performing, Keefe also runs a photography business specializing in pregnancy photographs. She will also begin taking classes at Lake Land College in Mattoon.



BRANDON CAMPBELL | ON THE VERGE

Jenny Keefe has been involved with music since she was a child. Among her influences are Ani DiFranco and local band Elsinore.

International students adapt spring break plans

By Stacy Smith
Verge Reporter

ABDOULAYE DIKEN TRAORE | SOPHOMORE EDUCATION MAJOR

Simon Russell came to America to get a better idea for what life is like here.

Russell, a junior sports psychology major, is an exchange student from the United Kingdom, and he came to Eastern in August. He decided to travel to as many states as possible with the help of a USA Rail Pass offered by Amtrak.

The pass has allowed Russell to travel to places like New Orleans, Washington D.C., Chicago, New York, Memphis, San Francisco, and he plans on continuing his journey to other states during spring break.

He will be visiting Chicago and Washington D.C. again and will also go to places like Tampa, Fla. and Savannah, Ga.

In the UK, universities are

"The first semester, it was tough because there was nobody here, but you become immune it."

typically divided into three semesters with breaks in between.

When Russell attended a university in the UK, he went to school from October to mid-December, then from early January to early April and then from the end of April to early June.

The transition from the UK's university system to the American university system, which is divided into two semesters, has been difficult, Russell said. But he is adjusting.

After traveling to multiple states, Russell does not have a favorite. He enjoys both

the country and the city life of America, but he said the countryside can be a little "bland."

The Amtrak travels to Chicago because it allows students to get on another train and go to their desired destination.

"It's the cheapest way to see the countryside, and being by Chicago is a bonus of being here. It's a main, central point," Russell said. "This is the only way I would survive here."

While some international students plan to visit friends or family, others plan to spend their spring break in town.

"The first semester, it was tough because there was nobody here, but you become immune to it," said Abdoulaye Diken Traore, a senior fiance major from Ouaga, Burkina Faso, in Africa.

Diken Traore said he likes to spend his breaks cooking African food, getting acquainted with people who stayed, spending time with friends, cleaning and catching up on schoolwork. Also, the Student Recreation Center is open over spring break.

"Time goes by really fast and before you know it, everyone is back," Diken Traore said.

USA RAIL PASS INFORMATION

»**Passes:** There are three passes: 5-day, 15-day, 30-day

»**Peak Periods:** May 25 through September 3 and December 14 through January 2

»**Off-Peak Periods:** January 3 through May 24, September 4 through December 1 and Jan. 3, 2008 through March 31, 2008

»**Prices for 15-day:** Off-peak - \$215 for adults, Peak - \$335 for adults

»**Prices for 15-day National:** Off-Peak - \$305 for adults, Peak - \$455 for adults

»**Web site:** More information can be found at www.amtrak.com

trailertalk



Director: Zack Snyder
Starring: Gerard Butler, David Wenham
MPAA Rating: R

“300” is the movie that men have been waiting years to see. The movie appears to be the ultimate man-fest, a two-hour extravaganza of blood, death and sex. How could any man turn away from this movie? Based on the graphic novel by Frank Miller of “Sin City” fame, the film appears to have superior acting (though one almost wonders where Russell Crowe is hiding) and tremendous direction. This is the must see film of the weekend for all college-aged males. Prepare for glory at this weekend’s box office.



Director: Michael Sajbel
Starring: Drew Fuller, James Garner
MPAA Rating: PG

In a new release this week, a young man discovers “The Ultimate Gift” after his grandfather’s death. The acting in the film seems of quality, though Academy Award nominee Abigail Breslin is one of the most known actors. The story is an adaptation of a book written by Jim Stovall and seems to be enjoyable and heart warming. This movie would be recommended for all those looking for a simple, well intentioned movie.



Director: Edgar Wright
Starring: Simon Pegg, Nick Frost
MPAA Rating: R

The team that brought us “Shaun of the Dead” is back on the scene with “Hot Fuzz.” The movie tells the story of a police officer who gets reassigned to a town where nothing happens. He soon begins to investigate a series of “accidents” that have been plaguing the town. The acting quality and humor seems on level with that of “Shaun.” Before going to see this movie, remember it is a British comedy, and an open sense of humor is a requirement.

-By Verge Editor Adam Testa

A pleasant welcome to folk rock

By Ben Balanoff
Verge Reporter

Anais Mitchell’s songwriting techniques bring a new twist to the folk music genre. Initially, I was a little skeptical listening to Mitchell’s third release, “The Brightness,” as light folk has never been my forte.

However, as the album progressed, it was impressing to find Mitchell is an artist of considerable depth and dexterity.

Espousing a style that seems to lie somewhere in the realm between Neko Case and Ani DeFranco, Mitchell cultivates a striking sound of delicate beauty and establishes herself as a more

ALBUM DETAILS

»Artist: Anais Mitchell

»Album: “The Brightness”

»Label: Righteous Babe Record

»Release Date: Available Now

»Current Single: “Shenandoah”

than competent songwriter. “The Brightness” is quick, to the point folk-pop, but therein lies its splendor - the minimalist purity of the songwriting. Soothing guitar work provides a vehicle for her exceptional lyrical prowess, a talent that compliments her vocal melodies, which are at times quite complex. The absence of percussion on all but two tracks also serves as a strength more so than a

weakness because it helps to perpetuate the album’s stripped down prettiness. The opening track, “Your Fonder Heart,” is both uplifting and clean, setting the album’s pace before giving way to the downtrodden, anti-jazz number “Of a Friday Night.” The bluegrass-infused “Shenandoah” is a pleasant dose of Americana, and “Old-Fashioned Hat” is an elegantly innocent love song.

The album’s finest moment, though, is the down-and-out beauty and strength of the powerfully sad “Santa Fe Dream,” which recalls both the delicate instrumentation of Leonard Cohen and the country tinged sensibility of Lucinda Williams. Full of world-weary laments and lullabies for a starlit night, “The Brightness” is an album rich with influence. From dust-bowl era folk to light country to Virginian bluegrass music, Mitchell plays the field, and the music is splashed with childlike melancholy and a cool purity. While some may find her vocal range a bit too whimsical, the bottom line is that in a hit or miss world, “The Brightness” is a hit.

Local Community Events Calendar

TODAY

Full Circle Concert
Time | 6 p.m.
Location | Our Daily Bread Cafe in Mattoon
More info | Full Circle describes themselves as “gospel music with a twist.” The Mattoon band has made Our Daily Bread Cafe their Friday night venue and performs there almost every Friday night. The event is free and open to the public. Full Circle will also be performing March 16.

‘A Chorus Line’ Performance
Time | 7:30 p.m.
Location | Krannert Center in Urbana
More info | The Krannert Center in Urbana will be performing “A Chorus Line,” which played on Broadway for 15 years in New York. While the storyline focuses on the lives of Broadway dancers, it speaks directly to the dreams and experiences of audience members all over the world. The musical won nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Tickets to the play are \$15. There is also a performance of the musical Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Standing Small Concert
Time | 7 p.m.
Location | The Hub in Oakland
More info | Standing Small is a Christian rock band based out of Knoxville, Tenn. The band will be performing at The Hub in Oakland with Returning the Favour. Returning the Favour is an alternative band that spreads a positive message. The event has a \$5 cover charge. The concert is open to the public.

Anger Management Concert
Time | 9 p.m.
Location | Icehouse in Mattoon
More info | Anger Management is a rock/metal band from Champaign. The group will be performing Saturday at 9 p.m. at the Icehouse in Mattoon. Among the bands influences are Audioslave, Stone Temple Pilots and Velvet Revolver.

TailSpin Concert
Time | 9 p.m.
Location | Trotter’s Friendly Inn in Ashmore
More info | This Mattoon-based rock band plays a wide range of music in its live performances, ranging from Godsmack to Bowling for Soup.

Susan Marshall and Company Performance
Time | 7:30 p.m.
Location | Krannert Center in Urbana
More info | Susan Marshall fuses ballet, modern and post-modern dance. She will be performing at the Krannert Center at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Tickets for the event are \$32. Before the show begins, the public is invited to a free lecture/conversation with Marshall and Jan Erkert, head of the University of Illinois Department of Dance. This event, called “Art in Conversation,” will be held at 6 p.m. in the lobby of the Krannert Center. The “Art in Conversation” event is open to the public at no cost.

The Morning Call Concert
Time | 7:30 p.m.
Location | Canopy Club in Urbana
More info | The Morning Call will be holding a CD release party at 7:30 Saturday. The band will also be performing and will be joined on stage by The Dakota and Ian Beert. The event has a \$5 cover charge.

DJ Dance Party
Time | 10:30 p.m.
Location | Canopy Club in Champaign
More info | The Canopy Club in Urbana will be hosting a DJ Dance Party Saturday. The club has an 18-year old entry age.

SUNDAY

Caleb Cook and the Big Naturals Concert
Time | 9 p.m.
Location | Mac’s Uptowner
More info | The Champaign band has a sound that is a combination of folk, acoustic and blues. The band is influenced by artists that include Bob Marley, Sublime Johnny Cash, John Mayer and the Rolling Stones.

The band will be performing at the Uptowner Sunday at 9 p.m.

MARCH 15
Shooter Jennings Concert
Time | 10 p.m.
Location | Canopy Club in Urbana
More info | Country performer Shooter Jennings will be playing at the Canopy Club in Urbana on March 15. Jennings is the son of country music legend Waylon Jennings and portrayed his father in the movie “Walk the Line” in 2005. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$16.

MARCH 16
Battle of the Bands
Time | 7 p.m.
Location | Lake Land College in Mattoon
More info | Lake Land College will be hosting a Battle of the Bands event next Friday. Students returning to Coles County early from spring break can enjoy the entertainment. Among the bands participating are Flux, Seasick Jonah, Teutons, The Stationery, Thorn and Good News. The cover charge for the event is yet to be determined.

MARCH 17
Poprocks Concert
Time | 9 p.m.
Location | Brian’s Place in Mattoon
More info | The local band Poprocks will be performing at Brian’s Place as part of the bar’s St. Patty’s Day Bash. The Effingham-based band is influenced by everything ‘80s and covers many songs of that era.

MARCH 18
Unknown Space Concert
Time | 9 p.m.
Location | Mac’s Uptowner
More info | Unknown Space is a funk/jam band from Charleston. The band will be playing Mac’s Uptowner March 18. **If you would like your events on our calendar, please e-mail them to denverge@gmail.com or call 217-581-2812.**