

1-23-2014

## Daily Eastern News: January 23, 2014

Eastern Illinois University

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**ALL HYPED UP**  
Former Eastern quarterback Jimmy Garappolo is preparing for the upcoming Senior Bowl  
**Page 7**

**TOP CAT**  
Erica Brown, a freshman forward, is this week's Top Cat after playing in 16 games.  
**Page 8**



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# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Thursday, Jan. 23, 2013

“TELL THE TRUTH AND DON’T BE AFRAID”

VOL. 98 | NO. 85

## Students brace for more cold weather

**By Jack Cruikshank**  
Administration Editor | @DEN\_News

With frigid temperatures plaguing the Charleston community, students said they simply add more layers of clothing and become stealthier when forming routes between classes.

For Michael Skasick, a junior English major, temperatures, which have fallen into the negative digits, provide him a chance to wear his turtlenecks and wool overcoats.

Skasick said while he prefers to stay inside during periods of cold weather, he enjoys the weather, as it allows him to drink more coffee and tea.

“The cold is demoralizing, and it makes me feel like not going anywhere,” Skasick said. “I always feel like I need to quickly get inside, as I don’t want to experience frost bite.”

For other students, a trend of wearing many extra layers is commonplace during the expected high of 3 degrees on Thursday.

Mike Jachowicz, a freshman communication studies major, said he prefers to walk quickly to class without removing his hands from his pockets.

“My daily routine is the same (in the cold),” Jachowicz said. “However, I just complain about the cold more. Even if I get a text, I still keep my hands in pockets and walk quickly.”

Chris Pickard, a freshman secondary education major, said he tried to prepare for the bit-



Single-digit temperatures are coming up for Eastern’s campus, finding a dip in the periodically low-double digits for the past week.

ter weather by purchasing “smartphone gloves,” which are designed to work with modern smartphones.

“I have these smartphone gloves, but my fingers still get incredibly cold, so I cannot use them at all,” Pickard said.

As well as students changing their wardrobes for the cold weather, many alter their paths when walking to classes.

Pickard said he figured out a new path to his classes, which involves cutting through Booth Library on his way to certain classes.

Arlene Brown, a Booth Library office manager, said the library does not mind students cutting through the library, and she hopes students will use it as a chance to explore the library more.

“(Students cutting through the

library) doesn’t bother us any,” Brown said. “Maybe (students) will see something they like and stick around.”

Brown also said there is an inverse correlation between the temperature and the number of students who cut through the library.

The average temperature for the month of January is 28.6 degrees, while this week, temperatures be-

low zero are common at night.

Chris Kotula, a worker at EIU Lanes in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, said he sees bowling business during cold weather, but not during the extreme cold, when he sees very few students who wish to bowl.

**WEATHER**, page 5

## New washers added to some residence halls

**By Jarad Jarmon**  
Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

New laundry machines have been added to Taylor, Ford, Weller and McKinney Hall this semester.

The old Maytag washers in the buildings, which had detergent and softener dispensers filled with what could only be distinguished as lint and dried and harden softener, are now replaced by 25 new Maytag heavy-duty efficiency washers.

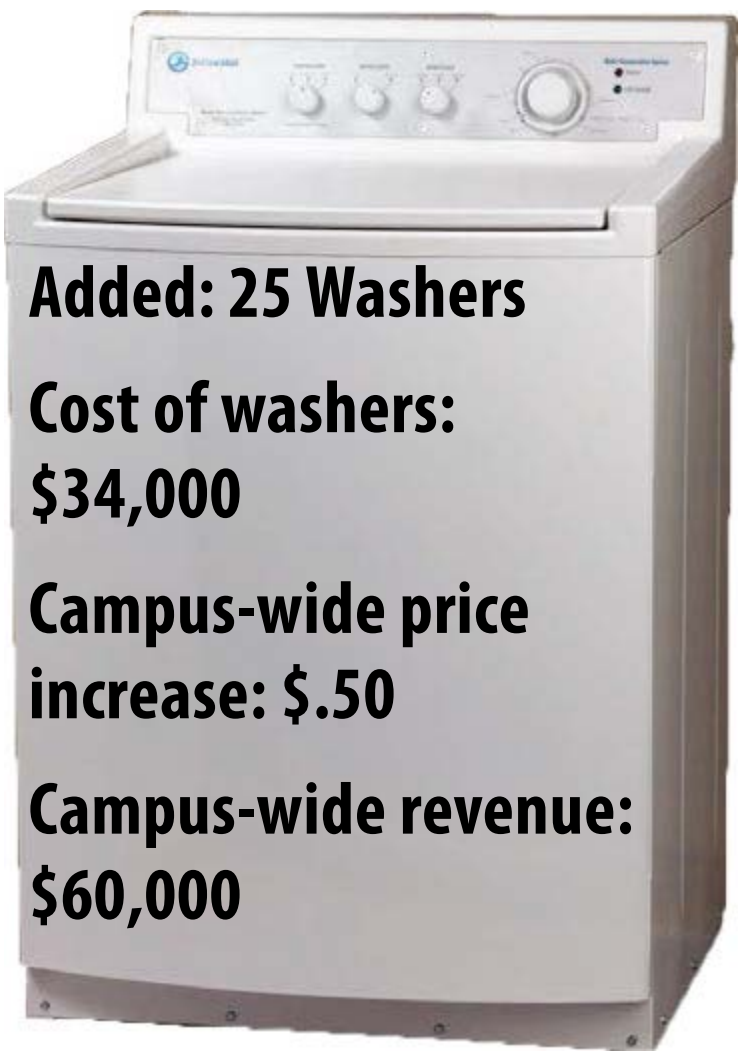
Housing and Dining Services used the additional money gained from increasing the price to do laundry by 50 cents. Mark Hudson, the director of Housing and Dining Services, said they expected to gain \$60,000 a year for the increase.

“That was phase one of our machine upgrade program that we implemented after having increased the washer price last year,” Hudson said. “We said we were going to reinvest in more machinery.”

They spent roughly \$34,000 dollars on the machines. Those 25 machines were 10 percent of the washers.

“Our intention is, later in the spring semester, to buy 25 more,” Hudson said.

He added they hope to have 20 percent replaced by the next school year.



**WASHERS**, page 5

GRAPHIC BY EMILY PROVANCE AND MEGAN IVEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

## Shimkus to visit Charleston

**Staff Report**

House Representative John Shimkus (R-Ill.) will be visiting Charleston to meet with constituents Tuesday, according to a press release from his office.

Residents of the 15th district can meet with Shimkus from 2:30-4 p.m. Residents can make an appointment by calling his office, but walkups are welcome.

“These are one-on-one meetings in order to give individuals privacy and allow them to speak honestly and open about their concern with me,” Shimkus said in a press release.

Shimkus said he uses these meetings to interact with voters who are facing problems with either the government or the bills that have appeared on the congressional docket for the upcoming term.

“In these sessions I get to hear personally from people about the problems they are facing in dealing with the federal government or hear their positions on issues that I am voting on,” Shimkus said.


He has served in the U.S. House since 1997 and will be up for election in the Nov. midterms. In addition to his role in the legislature, he also serves as a delegate to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, a forum that discusses security issues that face states that are members of the alliance.

He also served on the Committee on Energy and Commerce where he has spoken in support of the coal industry. Shimkus also spoke in 2013 in support of the Keystone Pipeline, a crude oil-line that would bring Canadian tar sands across the Midwest and through Illinois.




Local weather

TODAY



Sunny  
High: 10°  
Low: -2°

FRIDAY



Sunny  
High: 24°  
Low: 20°

For more weather visit [castle.eiu.edu/weather](http://castle.eiu.edu/weather).

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Step by step



SASHA CORWIN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Robert Braun, a junior finance major, and Ronnie Nehrke, a junior sociology major, learn the 18 steps to putting on a condom during Rubber Lovers Wednesday in the Martinsville Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Braun and Nehrke said this was their first Rubber Lovers session.

Senate approves lobby trip to NIU

By Jarad Jarmon  
Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

Student Senate members proposed and approved a resolution allowing four student government members to go to Northern Illinois University for an Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee meeting.

At the senate meeting, the budget to go to Northern was approved allowing Kaylia Eskew, the student body president, Shirmeen Ahmad and Yazmin Rodriguez, who are both senate members and Cayla Maurer, the public relations manager, to go talk about issues regarding higher education.

The budget to cover the trip is \$271.

Much of the cost to go was cut because Northern will be providing the hotel accommodations.

The Student Advisory Committee meeting will take place at 10

a.m. Saturday.

At the meeting, student government from various state schools will overview key issues involving higher education including university funding and student loans.

They will also be planning what they are lobbying in April.

Carrie Klaphake, a graduate adviser, also provided some information on the Nearly Naked Mile, which is a mile run where participants will take off their clothes periodical until the only thing covered is their "bathing suit area."

Sign-up for the mile is at 9 a.m. and the race will start at 10 a.m. Saturday in the Carmen Hall parking lot.

They will take off their clothes at the three to four stations throughout trail leading them back to the start.

The clothes will be donated to Standing Stone Community Center.

The shoes will be donated to the Nike Reuse-a-Shoe and the money

from registration will be donated to the Charleston Food Pantry.

To register at the race costs \$15 and pre-registration costs \$10. There are already 30 who are signed up for the run.

Klaphake said she is hoping for 50 more by the time of the race. She added many register right before the race so she is optimistic.

They also had a short video on the WICD Channel 15 Newschannel so Klaphake said she expects more soon.

Despite the fact there are stations along the trail to drop their clothes, she said volunteers will not be forcing you to strip and donate your clothes.

"The volunteers at the boxes are going to go, 'Hey, give me your gloves,'" Klaphake said.

Jarad Jarmon can be reached at 581-2812 or [jsjarmon@eiu.edu](mailto:jsjarmon@eiu.edu)

BLOTTER  
Cannabis, other crimes present in Charleston

- A cannabis complaint and a possession of alcohol by a minor were reported at Taylor Hall at 8:58 p.m. Friday. This was referred to the state's attorney and the office of Student Standards.

- A disorderly conduct and illegal consumption of alcohol by a minor was reported at 1:40 a.m. Saturday near Douglas Hall. This was referred to the state's attorney and the office of Student Standards.

- A burglary was reported at 10:30 a.m. Sunday at Douglas Hall. The incident is under investigation.

- A criminal damage to property was reported at 1:58 p.m. Sunday in Greek Court. The incident is under investigation.

- A cannabis report was reported at 1:12 a.m. Sunday in University Court. The incident was referred to the office of Student Standards.

ONLINE|VIDEO



Check out last week's news recap video hosted by Editor-In-Chief Daminic Renzetti at [youtube.com/user/DENNews](http://youtube.com/user/DENNews).

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“Baa-baa” memoir



OLIVIA S. DIGGS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS  
Daiva Markelis, an English professor, lectures about her new memoir titled, “White Field, Black Sheep: A Lithuanian- American Life” Wednesday in the lecture hall of the Doudna Fine Arts Center. Even though Markelis is active in the creative-nonfiction writing community, this is the first memoir she has written.

Stargazing to be offered at library

By Michael Spencer  
City Editor | @tmskeeper

The Charleston Carnegie Public Library will be hosting Astronomy Night again Tuesday. Attendees will experience the night sky through telescopes provided by the library and several other contributors, one of which is Kim Camden. Camden, a physician at the Carle Clinic in Mattoon, started viewing the stars when he was 24 and said he wants to get more people involved in stargazing. He brings his own telescopes to the library for community members to use. Camden asked the library to move Astronomy Night to Tuesday in order to show partici-

pants the Orion Nebula, a gaseous cloud, which appears next to the other stars in the Orion constellation. “We just try to get people out and orient them to the brighter constellations so they know a little bit about where the Big Dipper is or where Orion is or Sagittarius or Scorpio,” Camden said. Camden hopes those who come for the star viewing leave with a basic knowledge of several constellations that appear over the course of the year. Astronomy Night focuses on these brighter celestial bodies because holding the event inside the city leaves telescopes vulnerable to light pollution, Camden added. Another factor to contend with is the moon, which can also

wash out the view when it is too bright. Camden said this is why he wanted to make sure the event was Tuesday, when the moon will be late in its cycle. By doing this, he hopes to maximize the viewing experience. Beth Lugar, the Youth Program Coordinator for the library, said Camden allows those in attendance to freely explore the sky. “They get to aim pretty much any of the telescopes,” Lugar said. “They’re really generous and totally open to letting everybody experiment and see what they can see.” Lugar also said, despite the cold temperatures, the winter months are some of the best for looking at the stars. Additionally, Astronomy Night offers a chance for library mem-

bers to learn the proper technique for operating a telescope, which will qualify them to check-out the library’s own equipment for star-gazing at home. The library facilitates the program monthly in order to further the education of the community and cater to all the needs of residents. It is a mantra, which is ever present in the library programming. “We are more of a community hub,” Lugar said. “We’re just trying to make the topics that people are interested in available to them. I think people are using us more as a community center to foster their interests.”

Michael Spencer can be reached at 581-2812 or tmspencer2@eiu.edu.

CAA to vote on adding new class


By Jack Cruikshank  
Administration Editor | @DEN\_News

The Council on Academic Affairs will vote on a proposal to amend the general studies bachelor’s degree at its meeting at 3 p.m. Thursday in the Arcola-Tuscola room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. In amending the degree, the CAA will vote on adding a new class, BGS 3002, Critical Thinking and the Adult Learner, as a part of the general studies degree. If approved, the new class would be a requirement for the general studies major and would count as three credits as a part of the 120 credits required for general studies majors to graduate. The new BGS 3002 course would also be a requirement for the general studies: option in child-care education major. According to the program revision proposal, “This course focuses on integrative learning and is designed to provide students with an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of earning a BGS degree, while examining the role critical thinking plays in learning and their experiences as adult learners.” The course will combine technology with the traditional lecture-type learning. If the student wishes to take the class online, the option exists for students who are not on campus. “This course is developed to be offered face-to-face, online or blended. The online course requires weekly discussions that require students to connect the course readings to their own experiences. Students must post their own responses as well as make substantial replies to their classmates,” the course proposal stated. The new course is designed to help students in the general studies program reflect on what the degree truly means, pertaining to society as a whole. “Throughout the course, students will critically analyze and evaluate the course content as it applies to them as adult learners. At the end of this course, students will create learning goals to provide them with guidance as they complete the coursework for their degree.” As well as voting on changes to the general studies degree, the CAA will hear proposals to add a new chemistry course, CHM 3025G, The Chemistry in Your Life. The course, if approved as proposed, will act as a general education-type course in order to teach scientific awareness; it will not be restricted to a certain major. For students who have already received credit for CHM 2040G, Practical Chemistry, the new course will not count in GPA or credit hours toward graduation.

Jack Cruikshank can be reached at 581-2812 or jdcruikshank@eiu.edu.

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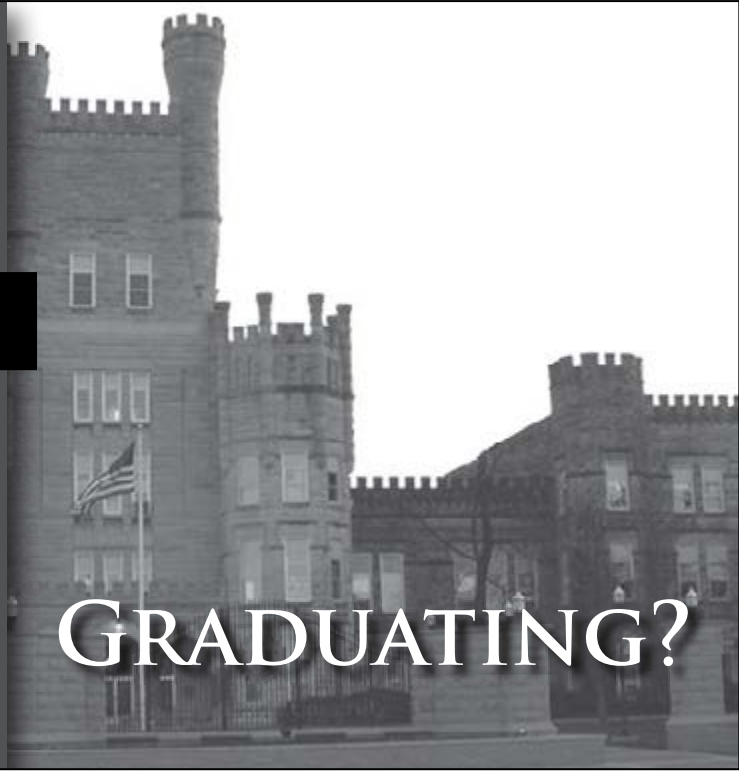
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# GRADUATING?

Come back tomorrow to get the scoop on what’s happening at EIU and in Charleston!



# STAFF EDITORIAL

## New laws should lead to strategy

With new laws that swept through the country and the state of Illinois on Jan. 1 different approaches need to be taken on how they are handled.

At the forefront is the discussion of the legalization of marijuana. As of Jan. 1 it is now decriminalized in the state of Illinois, and because of that we need to take a serious look at how it will be handled.

We need to be taking more care in the education of people who happen to purchase medicinal marijuana when it becomes available.

Rather than just giving them a pamphlet or reading material, we should strive to educate people on a more direct level. That way no discrepancies or disparities will emerge.

The platform for discussion is also changing – and in a big way. No longer is it a done and done deal: if you're caught, you're fined or arrested. Now, with states such as Colorado and Washington legalizing it recreationally, we need to take into account how those actions have changed. Through education of marijuana and its effects, people will understand why it was illegal across the board once upon a time ago.

Without a reasonable discussion of a very real possibility of marijuana being legalized, it will turn into an all-out conflict between the pro and con sides.

Starting the discussion comes from realizing medicinal marijuana dispensaries may show up in local towns. That is just the start. From there, there must be some sort of plan on how it will work once these dispensaries become a reality – such as how it will affect community businesses, how it will affect city revenue and how it will affect local image.

Colorado and Washington are not suffering any of those effects, and that needs to be taken into account. However, for small towns it may come as a culture shock and could affect things like tourism. That too needs to be accounted for.

This is a brave new world we have traversed into. And in this new world things like marijuana are a very real possibility. Whether or not you agree with the new laws is beside the point.

All that matters is that it is happening so we should be ready for this discussion. And through this discussion we can figure out the best possible solution.

The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of *The Daily Eastern News*.

## Write a letter to the editor

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- Letters to the editor can be submitted at any time on any topic to the Opinions Editor to be published in *The Daily Eastern News*. The DEN's policy is to run all letters that are not libelous or potentially harmful. Letters to the editor can be brought in with identification to The DEN or sent to DENopinions@gmail.com.

For extended letters and forums for all content, visit [dailyeasternnews.com](http://dailyeasternnews.com)

## Today's quote:

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

- Dr. Suess

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## DRAWN FROM THE EASEL



JOSH WILLIAMS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

# Go to class in snow, it won't hurt you

I'm not sure what happened to us. Eastern used to have this culture of never canceling class and all of us knowing about it.

It seems like ever since the two snow days a few years ago, we've sort of abandoned all that. Now we want a snow day for everything.

Little bit of snow? Class better be canceled. Snow last night? What do you mean I have to walk through campus?

We need to grow up. We're all adults here, so we might as well act like it, or at least try.

Sure, there are days where canceled class is warranted, and with the way this winter is going, who knows, we just might actually get a snow day before the end of this semester.

Until then, we're going to have to suck it up, lace up the boots, tread through the tundra of Charleston.

I'm not going to lie to you and say that I don't look forward to a canceled class, and if you're in disagreement with this, I'd even venture to say that you're lying too.

A canceled class is great. It gives me one



**Dominic Renzetti**

more day to do that homework I haven't started, enough time to fit in a little midday nap, or another hour for me to just continue to be lazy and put things off some more.

But those are just dreams.

More often than not, class isn't canceled, because, well, that's what we're here for...to go to class.

That's what we're paying for and that's what our parents think we're all doing here anyway – going to class.

Snow days are great, but I think it's the rarity of them that makes them that way. It's an amazing feeling to wake up and find out that you might not have to do anything you were

supposed to do today because of the weather. You don't even have to leave your house. It's even encouraged that you don't leave your house at all unless you absolutely have to.

If Eastern gave us a snow day every time the sky started to get a little cloudy, it'd kill that whole vibe. If class was always canceled, there would be nothing to get excited over when the monotony of our day is suddenly broken by a now free 50 minutes of spare time.

We need to stop begging and whining for snow days. Put up with the little annoying stuff today and hopefully we'll be rewarded in the future.

So, try and look past that the sidewalks are coated with sand and that you almost tore your groin slipping on ice on the way to a terrible class with a professor you don't like. Someday the weather will be even worse and we'll be rewarded with some sort of snow day karma.

**Dominic Renzetti is a senior family and consumer sciences major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or denopinions@gmail.com**

# A degree means nothing, everything



**Liz Purcell**

continues to struggle because she does not have a piece of paper saying she is qualified, even though she is more than qualified.

Because of this, most of our parents have placed a lot of emphasis on us getting our degree. The problem is that now everyone our age is getting a degree and it is losing its meaning.

Even though a degree is expected, it means nothing without extra effort. Companies simply will not hire you if all you have is a piece of paper, but they also won't hire you if you have all the experience in the world without the paper.

Now, on top of college, we have to compete with others by joining clubs and societies, interning at places that probably won't even pay us, and losing sleep at night knowing we might get out of college and have literally nothing waiting for us.

Higher education is extremely beneficial and it is an investment of the future, but to put it

bluntly, we are screwed.

Not only do most of us owe an ungodly amount of money to banks, we are not even guaranteed to have a way to pay back any of our loans once we graduate.

Regardless, we are expected to get our diploma all while using every hour of free time we have to prove to companies that we are worth something. A diploma means nothing, all while meaning everything.

Blame it on my concussion, but this makes my head want to explode. All we can do is work hard at school, work hard outside of school, and work hard outside the outside of school. The worst part of this exhausting scenario is that all this work could still get us nowhere.

In the future, I hope we can figure something out because this situation is not about to get any easier for future college students.

With interest rates increasing and more students attending college and less jobs available, we are absolutely set up for failure. All we can do is work hard and hope for the best, placing our faith on all-nighters and unpaid internships.

**Liz Purcell is a junior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or denopinions@gmail.com**



» WEATHER  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rohan Nanda, a freshman international student from India, said the cold amazes him, as before coming to Eastern, he had never experienced so much cold.

“Cold weather is very depressing,” Nanda said. “It makes me very lazy. I haven’t been missing many classes, but other than that, I don’t do much else outside.”

Nanda, a pre-business major, said he had also never experienced snow in his life.

“I loved it when it was snowing since it was the first time I had seen snow,” Nanda said. “I was scared about getting sick in this weather; now, I just want summers back now.”

Mark Hudson, the director of Housing and Dining, said the residence halls have not had any problems since the failure of some of the sprinkler systems on campus on Jan 6.

However, he said students in residence halls should not open their windows as a form of temperature regulation, as that tricks the HVAC system into thinking it is colder and therefore running the heat more.

Instead, residents who have a concern about the temperature in the dorms should contact their respective Resident Assistants to fix the issue.



PHOTO BY KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Charleston’s chilling temperatures have students bundling up tighter than ever. In addition to piling extra layers under their wardrobes, students said they are crafting new routes across campus to avoid the weather.

Jack Cruikshank can be reached at 581-2812 or jdcruikshank@eiu.edu.

» WASHERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

They will continue to buy more until they have 100 percent of the washers replaced. Hudson said they were on a five-year plan to replace all of the washing machines on campus.

Housing and Dining Services also plans to finish up the renovations in Andrews Hall during Summer Break, where they can have more wiggle room to work and won’t have to worry about

bothering students.

“By the time we open in August, Andrews will all have the same room set-up as the rest of the building and the majority of the campus,” Hudson said.

The plan is to finish renovations on the fourth, seventh and ninth floor. Other than replacing the tile with carpet, they will be redoing all of the woodwork in the building and rewiring the

rooms “so it is updated,” Hudson said.

They also took the bolsters off the wall and put the new movable furniture in allowing for more differentiated set-up options in the room.

During the summer, Ford is also going to have bathroom additions put in. The bathrooms in the center will be renovated and turned private bathrooms allowing

those in the hall with more privacy will also making it so they are not hermits in the room.

“You’ll still go out of your room to go to the bathroom, but there will be private bathrooms on the floor,” Hudson said.

These private bathrooms have a shower, a toilet, sink and an occupied lock on them. These bathrooms will be like the private bathrooms in McKinney, Lincoln

and Douglas Hall. At one point they will also do it in Weller Hall.

They will also be replacing the air conditioning system with a centralized system in Ford Hall.

They will not have those separate cooling units.

Jarad Jarmon can be reached at 581-2812 or jsjarmon@eiu.edu

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# Garoppolo hype rising at Senior Bowl

By **Aldo Soto**  
Assistant Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

It was a no brainer for Jimmy Garoppolo. An opportunity to play in front of the top scouts for all 32 NFL teams was not going to slip past the Eastern quarterback's hands. Once Alabama's AJ McCarron decided to pass up the Senior Bowl, Garoppolo jumped on the chance after getting the invitation. "You can't pass up an opportunity like this to play in the Senior Bowl with the best athletes in the nation so it was a pretty choice," Garoppolo said in an interview with 670 The Score's Adam Hoge. A couple of days before going to Mobile, Ala., to join the rest of the best seniors in the nation, Garoppolo dazzled scouts in the East vs. West Shrine Game in St. Petersburg, Fla., Saturday. Following a less than stellar performance from Northern Illinois quarterback Jordan Lynch, Garoppolo started his Saturday afternoon completing 4-of-6 attempts. On his second drive, the Arlington Heights native completed seven more passes — the last being a one-yard pass to Matt Hazel of Coastal Carolina for the game's first touchdown. Garoppolo finished the all-star game 9-of-14 for 100 yards and a touchdown, earning him offensive MVP honors. Out of the six quarterbacks that played at the East-West Shrine Game, it was clear Garoppolo was the best.



DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Former Eastern quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo prepares for a pass against Towson University Dec. 13 at O'Brien Field. Garoppolo is preparing for the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala.

and is a contributor to the National Football Post, said Garoppolo beat out Fresno State quarterback Derek Carr during Tuesday's practice, adding that Garoppolo has one of the quickest releases he has ever seen. During Garoppolo's interview with Hoge, the quarterback said he wants to set himself apart from the rest of his competition. "I don't really want to fit in here," Garoppolo said. "I want to stand out, just by going above and beyond everyone and hopefully making a mark." Garoppolo will have a step-up in competition Saturday, playing against the top seniors in all of college football, which is something he is look-

ing forward to. "The best players are here and you want to go up against the best players and be compared against the best players," Garoppolo said in an interview. After spending the last two seasons under Dino Babers' spread-out offense that saw Garoppolo primarily take snaps from the shotgun, the quarterback said he needs to improve on his footwork as well as adjusting to learning an NFL offense. "You almost have to treat it as a job," Garoppolo said. "You have to study late at night, study early in the morning get in the playbook as much as you can really and just get the verbage down, and know what you're doing."

As far as his footwork, Jacksonville Jaguar offensive coordinator Jedd Fisch said Garoppolo is doing a good job. "I think his footwork is pretty good," Fisch told Hoge. "I think he's done a nice job and throws with a nice base and good feet, so it's pretty neat to see." Fisch has been working the closest with Garoppolo during this week's Senior Bowl practice. The Senior Bowl starts at 3 p.m. Saturday in Mobile, Ala., with complete game coverage on the NFL Network.

**Aldo Soto can be reached at 581-2812 or asoto2@eiu.edu.**

# Fresno State grad assistant to be linebackers coach

By **Dominic Renzetti**  
Editor-in-chief | @domrenzetti

Former Fresno State graduate assistant and Texas A&M linebacker Michael Hodges will join Kim Dameron's staff as a linebacker's coach, as confirmed by Hodges' Twitter account (@MikeSHodges) on Tuesday. "Currently nine degrees in my new town, Charleston, Illinois," Hodges tweeted. "Proud to be the new linebacker coach for the EIU Panthers." Hodges completed his second season as a graduate assistant at Fresno State, working

with inside linebackers and assisting the defensive coaches with game preparation, film breakdown, scouting and practice plans. Hodges played collegiately at Texas A&M, starting every game during his



MICHAEL HODGES

senior season and earning All-Big 12 honors. He was the Aggies' leading tackler. Hodges was twice named All-Academic Big 12, and was a first-team ESPN Academic All-American in 2010. He won the 2010 Heart Award, which is the highest honor for a Texas A&M senior football player, awarded to "the player who extends himself to the fullest every time he wears his football gear, regardless of the situation, be it in practice or a game." Hodges came to Texas A&M as a walk-on transfer in 2008. Originally at Air Force, a shoulder injury kept him from playing and he transferred to Blinn Junior College in Bryan, Texas, in 2007, before walking on for the Aggies. Hodges graduated from Texas A&M in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in sport management and a minor in business. In 2011, he received his master's in marketing from Texas A&M. Hodges, 27, is a native of Helotes, Texas.

**Dominic Renzetti can be reached at 581-2812 or dcrenzetti@eiu.edu.**

# Panthers set to face Summit League foe

By **Dan Hildebrandt**  
Staff Reporter | @DEN\_Sports

The Eastern women's and men's swimming teams are preparing to take on Summit League foe Western Illinois Friday at Padovan Pool. Both of Eastern's squads are coming off losses to the Ball State Cardinals and will now get a chance to bounce back against the Leathernecks. Eastern coach Elliot McGill said he thinks his team is well prepared for this meet and he will be hoping to see the team's work in practice translate to success in the meet. "We are still performing very well in practice,"

McGill said. "I'd really like to see us put that into a meet and swim fast." This meet is going to be important when it comes to preparing for the Summit League Championships next month. Western will also be competing in the conference meet with the Panthers so this could be a preview of what is to come at conference. With that in mind, Eastern will use this meet as a stepping-stone toward competing well at conference, McGill said. "We are sticking to our plan in preparation for conference," he said. "This is an important benchmark, but swimming fast at conference is more important and our focus will remain on that."

Although the Summit League Championships are more important to the Panthers, Western is not a team to completely overlook. "Western has two very solid squads," McGill said. "They are getting better every year and will be very, very tough to beat." Western's men and women are both coming off losses to South Dakota from their meet on Saturday. The two teams have been conference-rivals for years and it should not change this year. Both teams are going to embrace the rivalry and will be competing very closely with each other in each event. "It is a rivalry," McGill said. "It's a great rivalry

to have. Both schools have been evenly matched for years now." McGill does not think this rivalry should be the only motivation for the Panthers to swim to the best of their abilities, however. "That being said, if you need a rivalry to become motivated, then you're not doing things right as a Division I athlete," he said. Eastern's men are coming in to the meet at 0-6 and the women at 1-6. The Panthers and Leathernecks will start at 6 p.m. Friday at Padovan Pool.

**Dan Hildebrandt can be reached at 581-2812 or djhildebrandt@eiu.edu.**

## » TOP CAT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"I was able to do some good things for my team, and I think that is what led me to play these 20-25 minutes in the last two games," she said. Her teammates are impressed by the way Brown has played, especially junior guard Katlyn Payne, who said Brown came up to her at halftime on Monday and talked to her, which propelled Payne to have a dominant shooting performance in the second half.

"It is always awesome to see a freshman step up," Payne said. "I mean obviously she came in and was playing (Sabina Oroszova's) position, and that is huge shoes to fill. I think she did a great job of not being nervous." When being recruited out of Nashville Community High School, in Hoyleton, Ill, Brown said she had options to go other places, but said Eastern fit more when she visited, because it was closer to

home and easier to make the transition from high school to college. In her four-year career in high school, Brown played up on varsity all four years. Her teams posted a 116-19 record through that time. She also helped her school capture the IHSA 2A State Title as a senior and was named the 'Player of the Year' in 2013 by The Southern newspaper. Brown, who went to state championships three

of the four years when she in high school, said she was working on getting the state title for a long time. "That state championship, itself, has helped me become a better player, because it showed that hard work does pay off," she said. "If you set a goal and work hard enough, you can get to that." **Bob Reynolds can be reached at 581-2812 or rjreynolds@eiu.edu.**



# What can Brown do for you?

## Freshman guard finds home at Eastern

By Bob Reynolds  
Staff Reporter | @BobReynoldsDEN

Throughout her basketball career, freshman women’s basketball forward Erica Brown said her one fear is to make a mistake.

In her short time at Eastern, she has learned to not be afraid to make a mistake and said she is continuing to overcome that.

“My coaches told me that mistakes happen, and they are going to happen in life,” Brown said.

In the first 11 games of the season, Brown was averaging 7.5 minutes a game, and there were two games where she didn’t see action.

During the past two games, Brown has averaged more than 22 minutes of playing time and produced about as well as her coaches wanted her to.

According to head coach Debbie Black, Brown has always been a consistent player at practice.

“It was a matter of biding her time and seeing if she could handle it,” Black said. “She has proven more and more that she is willing to play a role and do what she needs to do.”

In Saturday’s loss to Austin Peay, Brown had 11 points on 5-of-7 shooting and added nine rebound and four blocks.

On Monday, in the win over Murray State, Brown logged 21 minutes of playing time.

She scored 13 points on 5-of-8 shooting, adding six rebounds and three blocks.

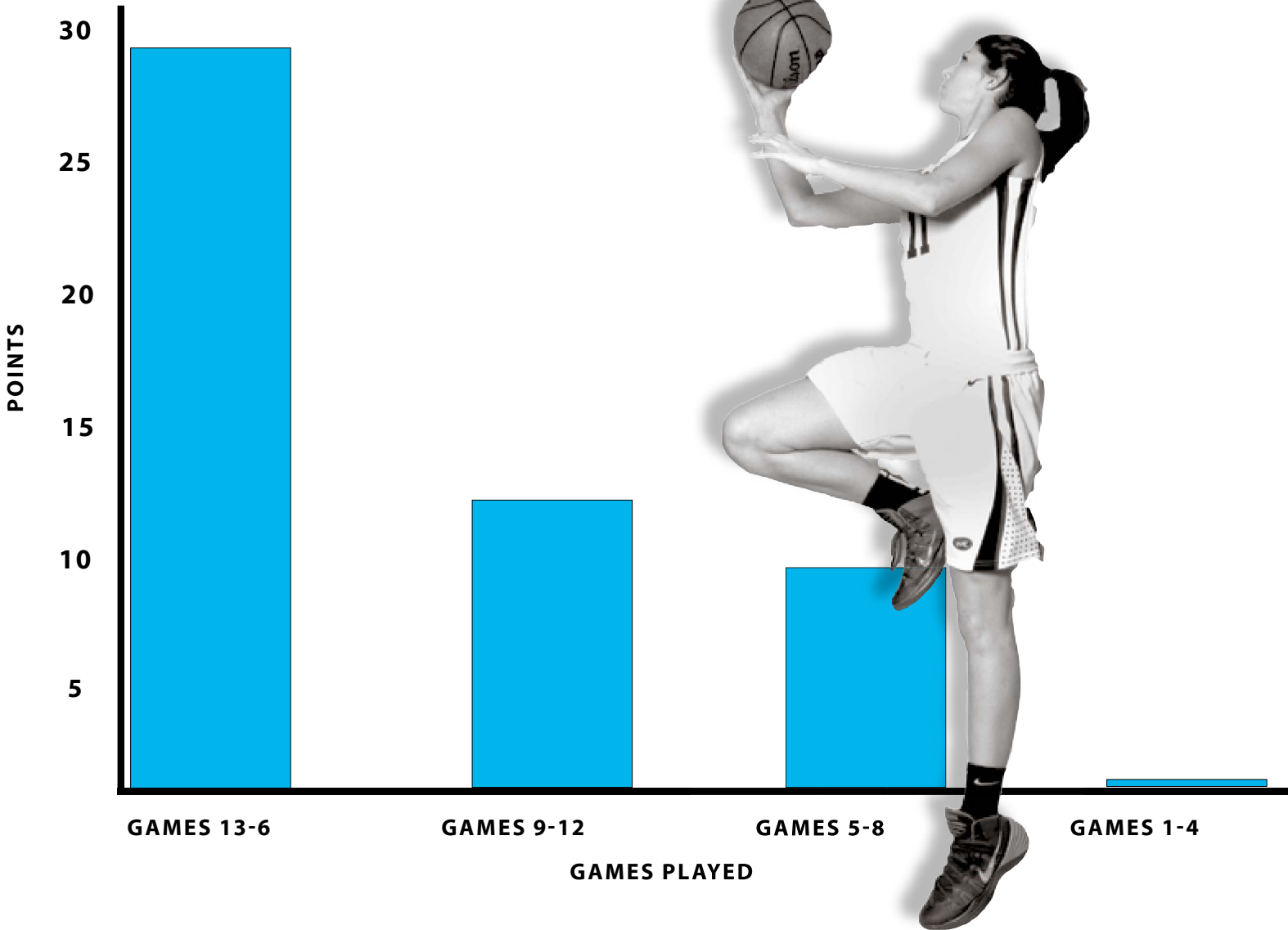


PHOTO BY KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS  
GRAPHIC BY BOB GALUSKI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman forward Erica Brown, has played in 16 games so far this season, averaging 11.1 minutes per game. She scored a season-high 13 points against Murray State Monday in Lantz Arena,

TOP CAT, page 7

# Panthers, Skyhawks strive for OVC win

By Anthony Catezone  
Sports Editor | @AnthonyCatz

The Eastern men’s basketball team’s scoring offense ranks last in

the Ohio Valley Conference at 63.6 points per game.

Luckily, Tennessee-Martin, Eastern’s opponent at 7 p.m. Thursday in Martin, Tenn., brings the

OVC’s worst scoring defense, giving up 80.3 points per game.

Each team combats their league-worst ranking with a more acceptable ranking on the other end of

the floor.

The Panthers answer with their defense, surrendering 71.4 points per game — which ranks fifth and is three points away from the top

spot. Meanwhile, the Skyhawks make up for their defense by scoring 76.2 points per game in OVC play, also fifth in the conference.



### Last Game:

Eastern is coming off a 67-64 win against Austin Peay on Saturday afternoon.

A put-back layup by forward Sherman Blanford gave the Panthers a three-point lead, while Eastern’s defense forced a missed Austin Peay 3-pointer as time expired on the ensuing possession.

Guard Reggie Smith’s 15 points led the Panthers in scoring, as he did so for the second consecutive game.

Eastern shot 53.1 percent from the field, as it was the third time this season it shot more than 50 percent.

The win was the Panthers’ first of the season when trailing at the half.

NUMBERS TO REMEMBER:

24.3... Coach Jason James has a career win percentage of 24.3 at Tennessee-Martin. He is 35-109 in his fifth season with the Skyhawks.

42... Eastern guard Reggie Smith scored 42 points in the Panthers’ two weekend games, lifting his OVC points per game average to 15, which is 12th in the conference.

4... Four Tennessee-Martin players are inside the top 25 in points per game throughout conference play. Eastern has two.

2-0... Eastern coach Jay Spoonhour is 2-0 against Tennessee-Martin, as he swept the Skyhawks in his first season. The Panthers have won four straight against the Skyhawks, including two in Martin, Tenn.



### Last Game:

Tennessee-Martin is coming off an 82-75 loss at Morehead State Saturday.

The Skyhawks led for a majority of the first half and trailed by just two points with three minutes to play.

However, the Eagles would close out the game with an 8-of-10 performance from the free throw line in the final 41 seconds.

Guard Mike Liabo recorded a career-high 32 points in just 25 minutes off the bench to lead four Skyhawks who scored in double-figures.

PROBABLE STARTING LINEUPS		
EASTERN (6-12, 3-4)		
PROBABLE STARTERS:		
G Reggie Smith	13.3 ppg	3.0 apg
G Alex Austin	7.6 ppg	82.2 ft%
G Dylan Chatman	5.1 ppg	1.0 spg%
F Sherman Blanford	11.2 ppg	6.4 rpg
F Chris Olivier	9.2 ppg	3.8 rpg
KEY RESERVES:		
C Luke Piotrowski	4.3 ppg	49.2 fg
F Josh Piper	3.7 ppg	3.2 rpg

PROBABLE STARTING LINEUPS		
TENNESSEE-MARTIN (6-15, 1-5)		
PROBABLE STARTERS:		
G Marshun Newell	11.4 ppg	3.4 apg
G Terence Smith	14.3 ppg	3.2 apg
G Mike Liabo	13.6 ppg	38.5 3fg%
F Tobias Dowdell	2.0 rpg	60 fg%
F Myles Taylor	15.9 ppg	6.7 rpg
KEY RESERVES:		
G Justin Childs	6.9 ppg	3.6 rpg
G Dee Oldham	6.6 ppg	3.2 rpg