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Eastern Illinois University

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CATCHING FIRE

Junior catcher Hannah Cole went through difficult times during the fall, but has rebounded under first year coach Angie Nicholson.

Page 8



QUILTING QUEENS

Five quilters from Alabama share how quilting became an outlet of hope while presenting their stories of poverty.

Page 3



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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Thursday, March 20, 2014

“TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID”

VOL. 98 | NO. 119

Phillips eager to begin after victory

Local business owner wins primary election

By Bob Galuski
Managing Editor | @BobGaluski

Editor's Note: In Tuesday's issue of The Daily Eastern News, the article "Cox, Rankin, Rauner win primary election, the winner of the state representative primary was incorrectly identified. It should have said Reggie Phillips won."

Reggie Phillips believes in order to change, a new approach needs to be taken – and with his win of the Republican primary Tuesday he is one step closer to his goal.

Phillips, a local business owner, won the Republican primary for state representative Tuesday, gathering 42 percent of the vote from all the precincts.

For a man who does not want to wait until January to begin his term, he might not have to, unless a Democratic candidate decides to run against him by June.

"I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work," he said.

Phillips said he it was around 11:30 p.m. Tuesday as he and his wife went through different results that he found out he had won.

"We were pretty sure," he said.

But the experience left him "humbled," mostly because Phillips would not describe

himself as a politician, but instead somebody who wants to help and make a change.

Phillips, who said the only reason he went into the race was to help perpetrate change for Illinois, almost didn't end up on the ballot.

"I jumped in at the last minute," he said. Driven by thinking the public needed a third option to vote on, Phillips said he wanted to let the people know he wants to try a different approach.

Standing on what he calls a "simple platform," Phillips said he believes that by going down the same path, the same results will come forth – most of which include debt for the state.

Focus on businesses and "getting money back to the state" is just one of the issues Phillips worked for during his campaign.

Phillips said during his campaign he would let corporate sales tax expire in order to bring more jobs to Illinois.

Also during his campaign, Phillips said he believed the government should uphold their end of the bargain when it came to the issue of pensions.

But, at the end of the campaign, and after all the votes were tallied, Phillips' whole motivation for running still remains intact: he wants to bring change to Illinois and help make a difference.

"That's the only reason I got into this," he said. "I thought I could really make a difference."

Bob Galuski can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Firearm act prompts no-gun zone signs

By Bob Galuski
Managing Editor | @BobGaluski

Small signs have been cropping up around campus reminding students about the concealed carry act now in Illinois.

The small signs are on buildings such as the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union and Pemberton Hall, each displaying a gun with a red slash through it. This signifies a no-gun zone.

The "Firearm Concealed Carry Act" passed through the General Assembly last year and now lets those of 21 years or older to carry firearms, as long as they also have a valid Firearms Owner's Identification card. Applicants must also not have been convicted or found guilty of a misdemeanor involving threat or physical force in the last five years, or have less than two violations related to driving while under the influence of alcohol, other drugs, intoxicating compounds within the past five years.

According to the act, a concealed firearm means "a loaded or unloaded handgun carried on or about a person completely or mostly concealed from view of the public or on or about a person within a vehicle."

Furthermore, the act states handgun means "any device which is designed to expel a projectile or projectiles by the action of an explosion, expansion of gas, or escape of gas that is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand."

The act also states the applicant must always carry the license when off their property with their firearm.

Illinois joined the rest of the states in the United States by passing the concealed firearm act during last summer. However, with the new slew of licenses being issued starting in February, the signs on Eastern's campus are a recent trend.

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JACOB SALMICH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Spring to see frequent storms

By Jarad Jarmon
Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

After months of salt shortages and inches upon inches of snow blanketing

Charleston and much of the Midwest, the first day of spring begins Thursday.

Instead of the snowstorms though, the Charleston community can expect fairly frequent thunderstorms in place of the snowstorms that hit the area periodically.

Cameron Craig, an Eastern climatologist, said looking at previous weather earlier this year and late last year, students and community members should expect an active storm season especially compared to last year. They will be comparable to the storms seen in winter.

With the ground thawed as of Monday, rain from these expected heavy storms will be beneficial in replenishing the "dry" soil. Last year, there had only been a couple of storms causing a drought for much of the planting season.

Craig said with the stormy season approaching, people should be aware and keep track of weather monitoring stations and alerts throughout the next couple of months.

"It all comes down to the individual," Craig said.

He added the media is out there reporting and it is up to the person to be safe.

The jetstream is still active and expected to stay that way throughout the season. This will only add to the already climatic weather seen in spring leading to more extremes of both warm and cold days.

Craig said the community will still see the "rollercoaster effect" with temperatures until around early April where there will be more consistent warm days.

"Last year, we had snow, big snow, in late March," Craig said.

Local weather

TODAY FRIDAY



Sunny
High: 57°
Low: 40°



Sunny
High: 65°
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For more weather visit castle.eiu.edu/weather.

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Student Senate tables AB-approved budgets

By Jarad Jarmon
Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

Student Senate tabled the Apportionment Board-approved budgets, which included the Student Recreational Center, the student government, University Board and AB budget to be reviewed and voted on Wednesday.

There was little questioning or feedback from senate members at the senate meeting when the representatives from each organization presented their proposed budgets and the changes from previous years.

Executive Vice President Mitch Gurick said he was disappointed with the lack of questioning given for the representatives.

Student Body President Kaylia Eskew agreed. She reminded the senate members that the allocation of \$500,000, which has been appropriated for these organizations almost entirely funded by student fees, is nothing to approve without intense scrutiny from the senate.

"Let's not just rubber-stamp that. Let's have a good discussion," Eskew said.

Despite the money appropriated to these organizations to then be divided out, the total amount of each of the budgets is \$498,918 leaving \$1,082 to be allocated to the AB emergency fund. Darnell Tyms, the student vice president for student affairs, said it is in the AB bylaws that there should be at least \$75,000 in the emergency fund, which is woefully underfunded.

Eskew also announced there will not be an executive board election debate because of the lack of applicants running for each position. Only the executive vice president position is contested. "Ceci Brinker and I talked about it and it didn't really make sense to have a

debate when you only have one person contested," Eskew said.

Instead, there will be a candidate meet and greet where the candidates will be able to talk with people about their platform. This had been done two years prior for a lack of applicants. The meet and greet will be at 7 p.m. Monday in the Oakland Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Eskew and Gurick both said they were underwhelmed by the amount of applications received.

The election committee appointments have also been locked down. Their role is to review and then announce the election results. They exist to make sure everything is done by the book.

The executive board members also decided to re-open the senate applications to the public. The deadline to apply is April 2, and there are currently 14 positions available.

Eskew said it would be an easier transition for the senate.

Tyms announced there is a negative balance in the student government budget. Eskew said student government is still waiting for the sponsorships to make up the money lost in getting T-shirts.

The senate is relying solely on the expected sponsorships for Panther Service Day.

Eskew then announced the constitutional revisions are complete and they will be announced and explained to the senate at the upcoming meeting.

The next senate meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Arcola-Tuscola Room in the Union.

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

Dodging shamrocks



OLIVIA S. DIGGS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Lance Harris, a junior psychology major, participates in the Kappa Delta sorority philanthropic event "Shamrock" on Wednesday. The proceeds from the event went to Prevent Child Abuse America.

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CAA to review 5-year learning goals plan

By Jack Cruikshank
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

The Council on Academic Affairs will review its ongoing 5-year plan regarding the learning goals implementation at its meeting 3 p.m. Thursday in the Arcola-Tuscola room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The council will review the learning goals only, as it has no items to be acted on except for executive actions.

The executive actions include requests from the College of Sciences and the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences. Stephen Lucas, a CAA member and the chair of the secondary education and foundations department, said the council will not make any

official decisions, but rather will discuss the ongoing changes.

"I think we'll do some brainstorming on the next major phase of the plan, i.e., how do we get the revised Learning Goals systematically infused in the General Education curriculum," Lucas said.

The revision to the learning goals process was officially started on Nov. 10, 2011, with the establishment of a CAA subcommittee on university learning goals.

The original subcommittee was formed for "the purpose of gathering information and data in order to review integration, instructional practices and the effectiveness of EIU's undergraduate university learning goals."

The subcommittee has been revising them since that date, with

the culmination of approving revised learning goals on Jan. 16, 2014.

At that date, the CAA approved a timeline, which would implement the learning goals during the next five years.

The first stage would include the "reinvigorating the university's learning goals" in year one, which is 2013-2014.

Year two (2014-2015) includes "aligning the general education curriculum," while the third year (2015-2016) encompasses "extending the learning goals into the majors."

The fourth year (2016-2017) includes "institutionalizing learning goal improvement," while the fifth year (2017-2018) includes "assessing impact."

The CAA, represented by members Lucas and Rebecca Throneburg, presented the new learning goals ideas to the Faculty Senate on Tuesday, during which the representatives were met by some hesitation from Senate members who felt the learning goals seemed too much like "high school" guidelines.

During the meeting, Blair Lord, the provost and vice president for academic affairs, will also request the CAA to provide him with a list of two tenure-track faculty members to serve on the Achievement and Contribution Awards Selection Committee.

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

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Alabama quilters speak about opportunity

By Katie Smith
Photo Editor | @DEN_News

Editor's Note: On Wednesday five quilters from Alabama shared their stories of poverty and how quilting came to be an outlet of positivism and hope. Between answering questions, the artists sang three hymns. This article is divided in three parts – one for each hymn in relation to their story.

Five women from a small Alabama city exposed their experiences growing up in a racially tense America and how they found solace in the eccentric prints and secondhand fabrics of hand-made quilts. The group spoke before an audience of about 125 people Wednesday at the Mattoon Train Depot while singing songs and reminiscing about their journey's and new tales since their October 2012 visit to Mattoon.

The women included: Mary Ann Pettway, Revil Mosely, Gloria Hoppins, Lucy Mingo and Lucy Pettway-Witherspoon.

How I got over

Tell me how I got over, Lord
had a mighty hard time coming on over
you know my soul look back and wonder
how did we make it over?

China Pettway received her first pair of shoes – handmade by her brother and composed of newsprint – when she was 12 years old. She wore them to school and to and from her small home in Gee's Bend, Ala., where her mother urged China Pettway and her sister, Lucy Pettway-Witherspoon, to carry on the quilting family tradition. At first, the sisters were admittedly resistant to the idea. The art had too deep of roots to deny, however.

From the walls of their families' slave shacks to the beds of buyers who purchase the women's work for thousands of dollars, each artist's quilt is a triumphant echo of adversity overcome.

Revil Mosely remembers a time when her people were regularly greeted with racial slurs and treated with low expectations. Adorned in all purple with a picture of her youngest of eight children pinned to her collar, Mosely was modest and humbled while speaking about her experiences. She attributes her demeanor to her upbringing during times of conflict.

"If you come through trials and tribulations you know what the Lord can do for you," Mosely said. "He can do everything but fail – people working together with love and peace, you can do almost anything."

These residents of Gee's Bend chose quilting.

It happened first out of necessity. Quilts would hang on the walls to block the wind in the harsh winter seasons, while the burning threads of their



afternoons. The children wore quilted scraps of cloth or hand-sewn garments from rice and flour sacs.

Although the women's motives for quilting have evolved, the tradition of fabricating crafts by hand remained.

Said I wasn't gonna tell nobody

Said I wasn't gonna tell nobody
Said I wasn't gonna tell a soul
Said I wasn't gonna tell nobody
But I, oh I, oh I, I couldn't keep it to myself

Mary Ann Pettway only started traveling to speak about her quilting in 2002, and although her family has been active in the field for about a century, their quilting was a well-kept secret until the 1990s.

Soon though, their unmistakable second-hand fabrics and free-handed-quilting established a growing fame that would earn them a spot in the Smithsonian and four or five trips a year to tell their stories.

It is in part the method of their practice that draws a crowd in.

Jamie Willis, a co-coordinator of the event, said those who have been taught to quilt in a traditional way, were told that patterns needed to be closely followed and that pieces should be straight and organized.

In Gee's Bend, the key to textile success is that there are no rules.

Mary Ann Pettway said she is thankful she has not found a use for patterns, and can attribute it only to something spiritual.

"The only way I can say it is God

gave me a gift," she said. "It is almost like a voice in my head tells me how to put it together."

I don't want nobody

I don't want nobody
praising me when I'm gone
Whether one of the women's quilts is hanging on a wall in someone's home, tucking someone in at night or displayed in the White House library, the Gee's Bend quilters are happy to be a service to the public.

Although quilting is emerging as an art form and serving decorative purposes, Mary Ann Pettway said she appreciates every quilt for the hours of manual labor and creative stimulation that are behind each one.

Still, she hopes people use her quilts for their intended purpose – even if only for a little while.

She even gets at least one night's sleep on each quilt she makes and recommends that buyers do the same.

The biggest reward for the women of Gee's Bend is in knowing the story behind each quilt, and the assurance that someone will get joy from something that seems second nature.

Grady has experienced this joy firsthand.

"This is more about culture and humanity than it is about art," he said. "It makes you thankful – it warms you up. It just makes you feel full of life."

Katie Smith can be reached 581-2812 or kesmith2@eiu.edu.



OLIVIA S. DIGGS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Top: Mary Ann Pettway, one of the Gee's Bend Quilters, stands up to mingle with audience members after a question and answer session Wednesday at the Mattoon Train Depot. Middle: Revil Mosely reached for quilts they were selling to customers. Bottom: The Gee's Bend quilters sing church hymns Wednesday in the Mattoon train depot.

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STAFF EDITORIAL Gun debate needs to work on all levels

Despite which way you may lean when it comes to the new gun laws in Illinois, it is important to remember that this country was based on a process that seems to be working.

Without the democratic process in place, the whole foundation of America crumbles at its core. Think about that next time it comes to disagreeing with a law or act passed.

We've all had the chance to vote and put people in place who have the power to do as you want.

If you didn't vote for them then just remember nothing lasts forever. Just know exactly who you want in the next election.

The new gun laws - specifically concealed carry - while a heavily divided issue, also was made by lawmakers we put into power. So evidently a majority of the people we put into power felt that we felt there should be a concealed carry law.

As the debate continues to rage and those signs with the gun crossed out pop up on more and more buildings, just take this time to figure out a way to either keep it in place or remove it from law. It takes a vote. It takes you.

Despite just having an election, there are still ways to either voice concerns or enthusiasm. Call your senator or congressman. Write them. Email them. You can even try and show up at their office - if you're passionate enough. But let them know you're dissatisfied with the decisions, because, most of all, it affects you.

This college campus and this state are your homes. It is where you live and learn and love to be. But more than that, it is a place you should feel safe. And at the crux, that's what the concealed carry debate comes down to - what makes you feel safe? A gun on your holster or knowing there's no guns? Again, it is your choice, but you need to let somebody know otherwise nothing gets better. We elect the lawmakers based on a simple principle, and use your right to make sure you know what you want.

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

Quote of the Day

"Only I can change my life. No one can do it for me."

-Carol Burnett

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Ready for March Madness?



JOSH WILLIAMS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

March Madness is not gender specific

Embrace the madness.

For all you wives, girlfriends, and lady friends who thought you were finally off the hook from another male obsession in sports, guess again. March Madness is here and it is not going anywhere.

Besides the Super Bowl and the World Series, this is the best time of the year for sports fans.

I know what you are thinking. This is just another three week hiatus of your man screaming at the television for a team he knows nothing about. But, you are thinking about this all wrong.

It's all about pride. We dive into these tournaments with the notion that we know everything there is about the NCAA. When in retrospect, we are just guessing because the tournament is typically just a bowl of surprises each year.

Why not guess along with us?

You realize that based on the unwritten truth that whatever money we win is somehow going to be manipulated into buying you dinner somewhere. Enter in a bracket



Kyle Daubs

and better our chances. Who honestly cares that you don't know anything about college basketball?

The odds will be forever in our favor.

It's not too late to enjoy some of the madness with us if you can get it in by noon Thursday. Just do what any other person does when they enter in a bracket. Determine your picks based on colors, mascots and what states you like.

It's all for fun anyways. I had a teacher tell me she picks Gonzaga every year because she has a bulldog.

Don't worry because I have advice for the fellas too.

Guys, if your girl does not care about college basketball; do not force her to watch games with you. She does not care that Providence will probably upset North Carolina. That's the whole point of texting your friends.

This goes two fold though.

If your girl has made you watch Lifetime movies with her the last couple of weeks, you better make darn sure she has an open seat for when Ohio State and Syracuse play each other in Round 32.

I will not be forcing my girlfriend to watch games with me because I know that she doesn't care too much about it. She's more than welcome to watch them if she wants because she has a bracket.

Granted, I'm the one that made it for her.

At least I know that if she wins, the bill to Red Lobster will be covered. It will just come at a cost of vast bragging of how "she's" the all-knowing genius of college basketball.

Kyle Daubs is special education major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com

Use Lent to make a change in yourself

Every year those who are Catholic decide what they are giving up for Lent.

It could be a bad habit or anything they wish to change about themselves. It is 40 days of sacrifice. Typically, this is seen as a religious concept, but I feel it is possible to gain benefits from this even if someone is not religious.

For the past three years during Lent, I have decided to go vegan for 40 days. It is my own personal challenge. I am already a vegetarian, and I like the idea of going vegan, but I find it difficult. To help myself adjust, I tried the idea out over Lent to help make it into more of a habit than a struggle.

I liked the idea of taking the time to reflect on something you might wish to change about yourself.

It's 40 days to try to improve yourself. If you can make it the 40 days, chances are you can make it into a habit. It takes roughly 20 to 30 days to break or form a habit, so Lent is a perfect opportunity to do this.



Jessica Kozik

The whole concept I take away from it is its renewal. Spring, a time of rebirth, is rolling around. The leaves on the trees are starting to grow and the flowers are starting to bloom. It is a fresh start. It should be taken advantage of as a time for self-improvement.

By now, we have all forgotten about our New Year's resolutions. We have given up our exercise plans, our eating healthy plans, and have spent most of the winter in hibernation.

The real meaning of Lent is a period of

prayer, sacrifice and fasting in preparation for Easter. It is an important part of religious culture, however, I do not think its only use has to be for religious purposes.

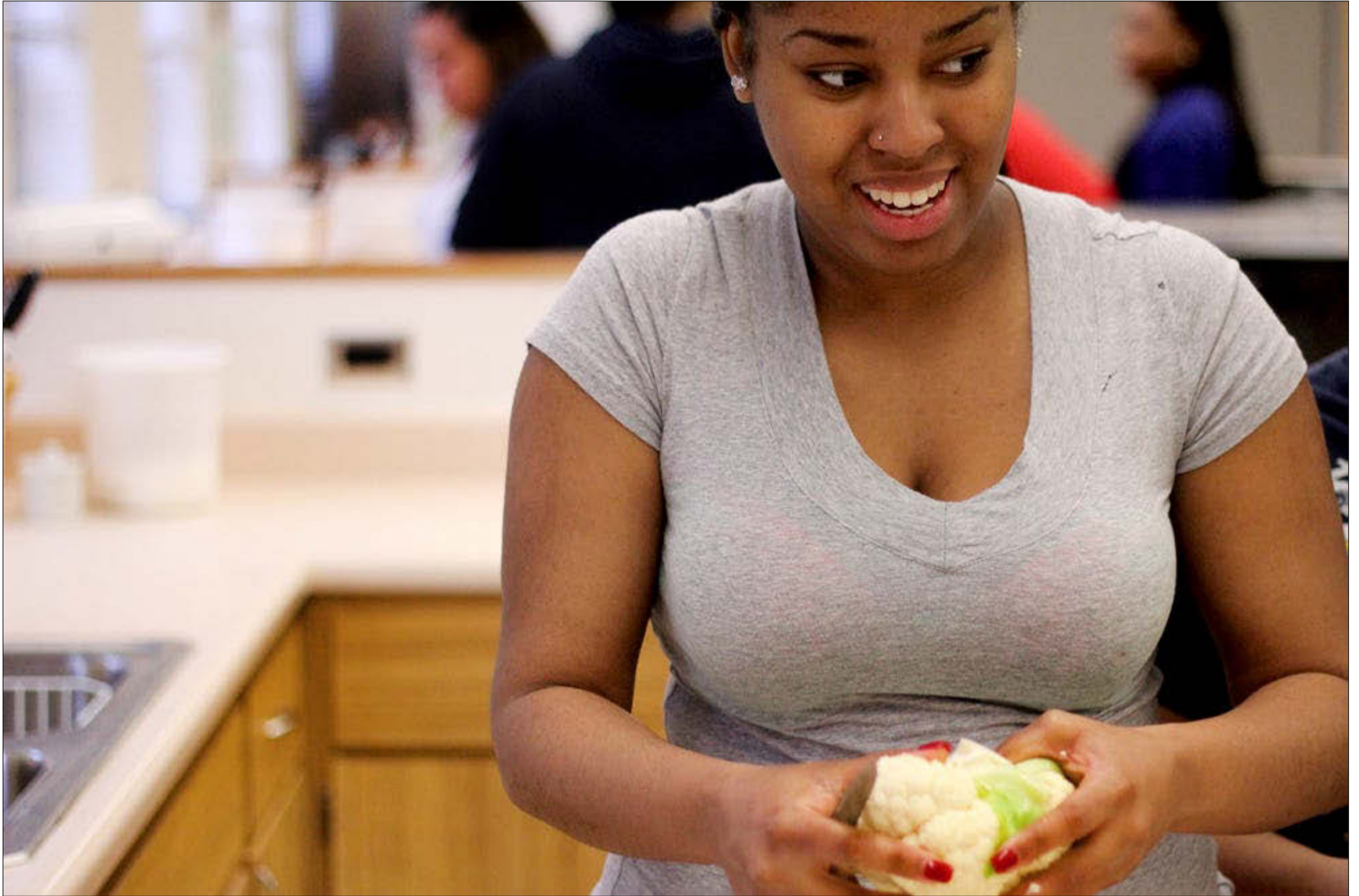
If someone wants to change something about themselves, it is easier to do it in a time when many other people are changing a habit of their own. It supplies them with support.

Support is one of the most important components to have when trying to make a change. It makes the whole process easier when someone else is going through a similar process as you.

Whether it is for a religious purpose or for your own personal desire for change, it may be a good idea to try to give up something for Lent. It is a time of change, so why not embrace it?

Jessica Kozik is a freshman journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or denopinions@gmail.com.

What's cookin', good lookin'?



OLIVIA S. DIGGS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Precious Williams, a freshman nursing major, starts to cut up cauliflower for the Parmesan Crusted Roasted Veggies during Healthy 101: Choose MyPlate Recipe Book on Wednesday. The next Healthy 101 will be April 19.

» SPRING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Currently, the jetstream is inactive leading to warmer days for the rest of the week peaking Friday with temperatures in the 60 to 65 degree range. This will last until the jetstream is active again Monday when it will drop to temperatures area residents have learned to anticipate and prepare for.

Overall, the season will have an active jetstream, but various factors can cause minor four to seven day spikes of inactivity throughout.

Craig added just because the date

says it is the first day of spring, which is the Vernal Equinox, does not mean people will instantly see warm weather from here on out. The average temperature for March is 42 degrees. The area will see the extremes of both cold and warm.

The jetstream is expected to move back north and become fully inactive at the start of summer. Craig said more and sunlight and heat calms the jetstream down.

Despite these predictions, Craig

said it is impossible to really predict this far into the future with weather patterns. They can change drastically within hours let alone days and months, but there is a very assured outlook that there will be significant storms hitting Charleston.

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

BLOTTER

Hit, run reported near Stevenson Hall

• *Update* Shandria Marshall, 21, 1420 6th St., Charleston, was arrested at 1:15 p.m. Monday at the University Police Department. She was charged with battery and released at 2:03 p.m. after posting 10

• A hit and run was reported at 4:46 p.m. Tuesday near Stevenson Hall. This incident is under investigation.

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DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior forward Taryn Olson shoots a free throw in a game against Eastern Kentucky University on March 5. Next season, the Panthers will begin with two returning starters.

Eastern learning from mistakes for future

By Bob Reynolds
Staff Reporter | @BobReynoldsDEN

The Eastern women's basketball team will be heading into next season with two returning starters and a roster that is mostly inexperienced.

Luckily for the Panthers, those two returning starters were their top two scorers from this season.

Sabina Oroszova posted 16 double-doubles, averaging 16.9 points per game on 44 percent shooting. She averaged 34 minutes per game and was one of the top players in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Guard Katlyn Payne, who averaged 37 minutes a game, had the best season of her career, averaging 13.8 points per game.

Heading into next season, Eastern coach Debbie Black has already signed four recruits to the roster that features a foreign player from Australia in Grace Len-

nox.

Lennox was the second member of the class to be signed by Black, along with post player Morgan Martin.

Lennox was a member of the Australian Under-17 National team and she was named All-League point guard, helping her team to the 2013 Premier League Championship.

Black said Lennox would be more of a point guard at the college level rather than playing the combination guard role.

"She is a tough, hard-nosed competitor that has played at the International level," Black said in a press release. "She is from Tasmania and helped lead her team to the championship last season."

Lennox and Martin are two of the four players Black has signed for the next season. Mariah Madison from Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep in Chicago and Kan-

dance Tate from Homewood-Flossmoor high school are the other two recruits that will be on the Panthers roster next season.

As for the team that just had its season ended in Nashville, Tenn., Oroszova said they are preparing for next season already and are going to learn from their shortcomings.

"We are definitely going to learn from mistakes and the fact that every day and every game matters," Oroszova said. "We're trying to get ready for the season early and don't wait till the last minute. Postseason and also pre-season are going to be really important for us to get better and click better as a team."

As for building toward next year, the junior from Slovakia said the transition the team went through from losing a head coach and four seniors and having to adjust to a new style was one thing

she said they can build off.

"I think we have done a really good job with this early in the season," she said. "Newcomers and players that weren't used to playing a bunch of minutes took the responsibility and helped the team to every win."

Newcomers such as freshman Erica Brown, Alyisah Gains and transfer Arnisha Thomas played big roles, coming off the bench for the Panthers this season.

All three players averaged more than 10 minutes per game and their roles are expected to expand with the loss of the three starters from the previous season.

Next season will be the first season in three years that the Panthers will have the same head coach from the prior season.

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» CHANGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Before, Cole was accustomed to rotating as she took a swing, but Nicholson taught the Eastern hitters to have all of their motion going forward.

But like she made adjustments to be able to be comfortable behind home plate to catch for Maday and Mennenga, Cole made another this year with her hitting style that she said is now paying off.

"Now that I've started to hit the ball out and forward and through the ball it has really helped me and I can definitely feel it when I foul a ball off and it goes all the way over to the left side I can tell what I did wrong and how to fix it faster," Cole said.

Being a catcher means constantly getting beat up and getting the short-end of the stick most times, Cole said.

Despite the grueling task of sometimes having to catch both ends of a double-header, Cole has managed to hit .361 this season, which is the second highest average on the team.

"I feel like catchers get the s--- beat out of them all the time," Cole said. "During a game there's no time to rest because you're either hitting, or getting your catcher's gear back on to catch. I wake up the next day feeling like I've been hit by a truck."

Catching is not the most pleasant thing a softball player could go through and neither is a coaching change.

Eastern's coaching transition was not the easiest for Cole and the rest of the Panthers, but now that the team is on the same page, being more familiar with each other, Cole said Eastern is more confident than ever before.

Despite having double the amount of wins to losses in the past three seasons, Eastern has fallen short in the Ohio Valley Conference tournament each of those three years.

This year, Cole envisions a much stronger ending to the season.

"I feel like we're not as scared for tournament games nearly as much as we were before," Cole said. "Teams that were good in previous years would make us worried going in to games, like, that we would get beat. I feel like now we're just going to fly by any team."

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Anything can happen for Eastern Kentucky in March

Don't slip, Kansas, because Eastern Kentucky is more than capable.

Before you stop reading, hear me out.

The South Region of this year's NCAA Tournament has the No. 2 Jayhawks pitted against the No. 15 Colonels at 3:10 p.m. Friday on TBS.

In the last two NCAA Tournaments, three 15 seeds have advanced past the first round, including one reaching as far as the Sweet 16 last season.

Lehigh beat Duke 75-70 and Norfolk State beat Missouri 86-84 both in the first round of the 2012 NCAA Tournament.

Both went on to suffer double-digit losses in the next round, but both advanced on the heels of unheralded upsets in the first round.

Fast forward to 2013 and this time Florida Gulf Coast was the No. 15 seed and it upset No. 2 Georgetown 78-68 in the first round.

But the Eagles did not stop there.

Florida Gulf Coast continued its "Cinderella" run, beating No. 7 seed San Diego State 81-71 in the second round to become the first 15 seed to advance to the Sweet 16.

The Eagles run ended, however, when they ran into the Florida Gators in the third round and lost to the No. 3 seed 62-50.

Florida Gulf Coast's up-tempo play deemed it the name "Dunk City."

And despite losing in the first round of the National Invitational Tournament as a No. 8 seed this season, the Eagles' run is still cemented as one of the most remarkable in college basketball history.

Look for Eastern Kentucky to possibly this year's Lehigh or Florida Gulf Coast, if there is any.

The Colonels won the Ohio Valley Conference tournament as a No. 3 seed, upsetting both Murray State and Belmont in the



Anthony Catezone

process of recapturing a conference title and an NCAA Tournament berth for the first time since 2007.

Eastern Kentucky coach Jeff Neubauer's uncanny offensive game plan is one that has him put at least four shooters on the floor at a time — sometimes five.

Such a lineup has led the Colonels to make 303 shots from 3-point range this season, which is third most in the country.

Their 3-point field goal percentage of 39 percent is also 23rd in the NCAA.

Nearly half of Eastern Kentucky's field goals come from behind the arc.

A large part of Eastern Ken-

tucky's 3-point production comes from guard Glenn Cosey, a First Team All-OVC honoree.

His point-per-game average of 18.8 was third in the conference while his 3-point field goals made (110) and 3-point field goal percentage (42.5) rank fifth and 20th in the nation, respectively.

For what it's worth, Cosey made 10-12 shots from behind the arc in a 100-81 wallop over Eastern Illinois for a career-high 34 points.

Now, there is a marginal difference between Eastern Illinois and Kansas, but the Jayhawks' 3-point defense is nothing to brag about — far from it, to be exact.

While the Jayhawks have the No. 3 Rating Percentage Index and also managed to escape the nation's the No. 1 toughest schedule with a 24-9 record, they also allowed opponents to shoot 35.9 percent from 3-point range this season, ranking 264th in the country.

For example, in the Big 12

Conference semifinal game, a game which ultimately cost Kansas its No. 1 seed, Iowa State shot 11-of-19 (57.9 percent) from 3-point range on the Jayhawks in a 94-83 Cyclone win.

Kansas coach Bill Self compared the Colonel offense to the Cyclone offense, obviously not an appealing comparison for Self's team.

The 3-point matchup is the one to watch in this game.

If Eastern Kentucky wants the upset bid over Kansas, it will need to beat the Jayhawks behind the arc. And if the Colonels' sharpshooters show up who knows what they'll be deemed.

Trey City? 3-point City?

Neither has much of a ring to it, but you get the picture. Eastern Kentucky 79, Kansas 75.

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AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Catcher Hannah Cole guided the Eastern softball team to a 3-1 record during spring break while hitting .429 and driving in three runs and scoring another three runs. The Panthers will return to play Saturday for a doubleheader against Jacksonville State in Jacksonville, Ala.

Gotta catch 'em all

Eastern catcher undergoes season of change

By Aldo Soto

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Hannah Cole's first on-field experience with the Eastern softball team was a terrifying memory.

Being a part of a Division I program did not frighten Cole — she was more petrified of one particular teammate, pitcher Stephanie Maday.

No, Maday wasn't a bully, but nothing in Cole's previous softball experience could prepare her for Maday's pitches.

"Steph's balls are harder and it's hard to explain, but they feel heavy when you catch them — they just float and move around really fast," Cole said.

Maday's menacing pitches were not the only challenge for Cole, as another pitcher in Hanna Mennenga followed suit with a splendid pitching arsenal as well.

Prior to Cole's first season as a Panther in 2012, she had not caught Mennenga at all, as the pitcher did not join the team until the spring, Cole said.

Cole had her work cut out for her from the first time she caught for Mennenga, too.

"I used to be afraid — I didn't get to catch her that much, but I remember not being able to catch her rise ball because it would jump so fast and I would never be able to keep up with it," Cole said. "Hanna's pitches move like crazy. They take off every which way direction and you just have to be on your toes."

Cole came to Eastern being extremely timid, Maday said. Cole was so shy that during scrimmages, Maday along with other teammates would have to make Cole talk.

"I think there was a time when we told her she would have to tell the pitchers something like every five pitches," Maday said. "We were trying to get her out of her shell."

But after two years under her belt, Cole now crouches behind home plate with confidence, transforming into a new person.

"She is very good about telling us pitchers how our pitches are working and communicating with us throughout our workouts and games," Maday said. "She has become a leader for this team and has grown into a great catcher."

Cole has adjusted to new pitchers, surpassing that challenge, yet

entering the 2014 season she and the rest of her teammates had to make an enormous adjustment together.

Following eight years as Eastern's softball coach, Kim Schuette left to coach Purdue in June of 2013.

Angie Nicholson, who coached at Cleveland State for seven years, was hired less than a month later to be Eastern's newest coach.

It was a tough transition at first for the Panthers, who under Schuette, went 104-52 from 2011-13.

"At first in the fall it was kind of rocky," Cole said. "Everybody was so used to playing for our former coaches and the coaching styles were so different. We just didn't know each other."

Cole said Nicholson asked for trust from the team, but after being accustomed to playing under

Schuette, Nicholson's up-front demeanor startled the Panthers at first.

"I think it was hard for some people to give everything to a totally different coach and be able to forget about the last couple of years and move on and realize what we have now is what we have," Cole said.

The biggest difference between Schuette and Nicholson is her aggressiveness both on and off the field, Cole said.

Cole admits to not being the fastest player on Eastern, yet she has 11 stolen-base attempts, which is the most by any Panther this year. As a team, Eastern is 41-of-50 in stolen bases, which is already five more attempts through 25 games this season than all 50 games from last season.

"She isn't afraid to run us on the

bases and she'll speak her mind at any given time," Cole said. "She's very blunt. She'll definitely tell you anything you want if you ask. She'll tell it straight to your face whether it's good or bad."

In Eastern's most recent road trip down South, Cole had been struggling on offense, not hitting as well as she would have liked.

After making an out, Nicholson pulled Cole aside and had a candid conversation with her catcher.

"She told me, 'you can make a change, or you can be pissed off at the world — the change is simple, you just have to do it,'" Cole said. "I was fuming and so was she, but I realized that I had been upset too long and tried to fix nothing by doing that."

A hit followed in Cole's next plate appearance.

That conversation between Cole

and Nicholson has not been the only time the pair has been at odds with each other, as Cole was not so open to changing her hitting style before the season started.

Coming off a 2013 season that saw Cole hit a team-high .418 with five home runs and 34 RBIs, both second highest for the Panthers, Nicholson wanted to change the way Cole hit.

"I was very upset whenever it was that I came in and they told me there would be a new hitting style," Cole said. "I just thought why? I'm a junior in college and I've been hitting the same all my life and I hit over .400 last year. Why change my hitting?"

It was a rough first couple of weeks of practices in the fall for Cole, who also had her batting stance widened, which made her feel that she was losing her power.

CHANGE, page 7