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Eastern Illinois University

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DOUBLE HEADER

The Eastern softball team faces Tennessee-Martin Friday and has a chance to earn 10 conference wins.

PAGE 7



FAST QUARTERBACK

Johnathan Brantley calls himself a pass-first quarterback and he and the Eastern football coaches believe in his ability to pass the ball.

PAGE 8

Let's play ball



JORDAN BOYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS Brock Kukman, a senior elementary education major, catches a baseball Thursday evening in the South Quad.



Departments talk transition to new College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

By Brooke Schwartz and Cassie Buchman Administration Reporter and Editor-in-Chief @ DEN_News

The combination of the College of Arts and Humanities with the College of Sciences has departments in it talking about how they will collaborate and transition into one entity.

In the reorganization plan recently announced by Provost Jay Gatrell, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences would be the biggest of the four colleges.

In it would be two schools, (the School of Fine and Performing Arts and the School of Communication and Journalism) as well as the history, philosophy, foreign language, English, political science, economics, psychology, biology, physics, geology/geography, math and computer science, sociology, anthropology and criminology and chemistry departments.

Gatrell plans to have the college combination implemented by July 1. However, he has said the coming academic year is a "process" where things can be tweaked if needed.

"It's a year of transition," Gatrell said. "(It) requires shared governance, open and frank discussions."

The current operating budgets for all four colleges are \$75,000 each for a total of \$300,000. Future budgets will be based on the total number of faculty in the college, Gatrell said.

"One of the reasons we're talking about adjusting budgets (is that we're) making sure resources are there for every faculty member in every program to thrive," Gatrell said.

The existing resources for academic departments themselves will not be impacted. The only thing that would become a question of redistribution or reallocation would be how the dean's office is funded, according to Gatrell. The dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' office is set to be in Doudna. Two associate deans will correspond to the College of Arts and Humanities and the College of Sciences. Doug Klarup, the dean of the College of Sciences, said hurdles to the plan will come in the form of the administrative

details being worked out.

"Although (the College of Arts and Humanities and the College of Sciences) have a lot of similarities, they come with different procedures and that's going to have to be sorted out," Klarup said.

Anita Shelton, dean of College of Arts and Humanities, said the college is still in a bit of a holding pattern until the Board of Trustees approves the reorganization, though she and the dean of the College of Sciences have been communicating.

Because they are anticipating the board's approval, the deans are planning in May to start joint meetings with deans and chairs in both of the colleges.

One issue to be looked at is making sure there is sufficient staff in place for the new dean's office. The provost has said no staff positions will be eliminated, but some will be reassigned to support academic departments, registrar and the new College of Health and Human Services.

As dean, Shelton said she wants to make sure the support staff is not overloaded with work as a result of the colleges combining.

"There's a lot of work that has to be done," Shelton said. "There's Doudna to run, the Tarble Arts Center, in this college now we're adding another nine or so departments from sciences—it increases the workload a lot."

Collaboration between different disciplines will become easier in the new college, especially when it comes to ongoing initiatives such as the ones in health communications and the medical humanities, she said. Shelton said whoever the dean is will have to learn about the discipline they are not already familiar with.

"It's definitely a process of adjusting and adapting, but I think that the physical spaces remaining for the most part the same is going to help with maintaining the cultures that people are accustomed to," Shelton said.

JORDAN BOYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Hannah Brezinski, a sophomore sociology major, laughs while playing catch Thursday evening in the South Quad.

Steven Daniels, chair of the physics department, and Diane Burns, chair of the geology/geography department, both have backgrounds in schools that had a liberal arts and science-based college.

Transition, page 5

Professors to discuss Trump's policies in Middle East, Asia

By Andrew Paisley

Campus Reporter | @Andrew_Paisley1

Discussions on President Donald Trump's policies on the Middle East and East Asia will be held from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Monday at Booth Library in the 4440 Conference Room.

Jinhee Lee, chair of the Asian Studies department, along with finance professor Candra Chahyadi and history professor Brian Mann will be leading the discussions as part of Asian Heritage

Month.

"I think it is critical for our students to have awareness of the current U.S. policies toward the outside world and their implications and practical consequences, especially toward Asian and Middle Eastern countries," Lee said.

The panel will provide a venue where our university community members can come together and share their knowledge and views on this important topic, according to Lee.

"I chose Professor Mann to be a panelist be-

cause as a history professor, he has done a lot of studying on Iran and the Middle East," Lee said. "Dr. Chahyadi was chosen because he will inform us about the implications of Trump's policies on both local and international finance and economy, with a focus on Asia."

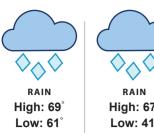
As a professor of Asian studies, Lee will discuss policies on Korea and East Asia.

Mann plans to discuss the history of some of the conflict that is going on in the Middle East today. "The Trump administration has faced challenges and will continue to face them as it tries to formulate some sort of coherent foreign policy in the region," Mann said. "It is a difficult task for any administration, but more so this one because of the fact that no one involved in foreign policy stays for more than a few months in the administration, before being fired or resigning."

Policies, page 5

Local weather

State and Nation



 $\Diamond \Diamond \Diamond$ High: 67 Low: 41

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SATURDAY

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inspectors head to suspected Syrian gas, chemical attack site

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — A team of inspectors from the international chemical weapons watchdog was on its way to Syria on Thursday to begin an investigation into a suspected chemical weapons attack near the capital that has brought the wartorn country to the brink of a wider conflict, amid Western threats of retaliation and Russian warnings of the potential for "a dangerous escalation.'

The fact-finding mission from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons was expected to head to Douma, where the suspected attack took place and where Russia said rebels had now capitulated to government control. The Syrian government said it would facilitate the mission's investigation, which was to begin Saturday.

Syria and its ally, Russia, deny any such attack, which activists say killed more than 43 people last weekend.

Speaking at the United Nations on Thursday, Russia's U.N. ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, said the top priority had to be to avert a wider war, and he didn't rule out the possibili-

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The U.S. Department of Energy said lab.

Federal officials said it's the first known rupture of a barrel containing radioactive sludge at the site but might not be the last.

ty of a U.S.-Russia conflict. Speaking to reporters after a closed emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council, Nebenzia said Russia was very concerned with "the dangerous escalation" of the situation and "aggressive policies" and preparations that some governments were making — a clear reference to the Trump administration and its allies.

We hope that there will be no point of no return — that the U.S. and their allies will refrain from military action against a sovereign state," Nebenzia said, adding that "the danger of escalation is higher than simply Syria."

The imminent arrival of the chemical weapons inspectors came as rebels in Douma surrendered their weapons and left the town for opposition-held areas in the north. Russia's military said Thursday that Douma was now under full control of the Syrian government after a Russianmediated deal secured the evacuation of the rebels and thousands of civilians after it was recaptured by Syrian forces.

Then came the suspected chemical

attack in Douma, followed by international condemnation and threats of military action.

Amid conflicting tweets about the timing of any retaliation, President Donald Trump said Thursday that an attack on Syria could take place "very soon or not so soon at all." On Capitol Hill, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said the National Security Council would be meeting later Thursday to present Trump with various options, adding that he could not talk about any military plans because an attack "is not yet in the offing."

In response to the threats, Assad said Thursday that a potential retaliation would be based on "lies" and would seek to undermine his forces' recent advances near Damascus. Western threats endanger international peace and security, Assad said, and military action would only contribute to the "further destabilization" of the region.

After the back-and-forth coming from Washington, Moscow and European Union capitals, residents in Damascus appeared to have brushed off the threat of an imminent attack.

Senate urges against sending troops to border

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — The Illinois Senate is urging Gov. Bruce Rauner to reject a presidential call to send National Guard troops to help secure the U.S.-Mexican border

The Democratic-controlled Senate voted 33-22 Thursday to adopt a resolution urging the GOP governor not to comply if President Donald Trump makes a request.

Chicago Democratic Sen. Martin Sandoval sponsored the resolution a day after Rauner said he would deploy troops if the Republican president asks. Sandoval says National Guard troops are needed at home and criticized similar moves by former GOP President George W. Bush and Democratic President Barack Ohama

Mattoon GOP Sen. Dale Righter says national security issues should be left to Washington.

Arizona, New Mexico and Texas have pledged state troops and Democratic California Gov. Jerry Brown acquiesced on Wednesday.

Governor signs plan to expand 5G technology

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner has signed a measure that local governments say would limit their ability to regulate big wireless facilities including AT&T and Verizon.

The plan expands access to 5G networks by allowing companies to install small cell antennas on streetlights and utility poles. Local governments cannot regulate or charge for the installation or maintenance of the wireless facilities.

The Republican governor says the plan will create jobs and provide residents with faster internet service.

But local municipalities across the state oppose the proposal. They say it is a handout to big businesses and will lead to higher taxes for residents.

The legislation affects all areas of the state except the city of Chicago. Ohio and Texas have also passed similar measures.

Radioactive sludge barrel breaks at nuclear site in Idaho Thursday

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A barrel containing radioactive sludge ruptured at an Idaho nuclear facility, federal officials said Thursday, resulting in no injuries and no risk to the public but possibly slowing progress in shipping waste out of the state.

the 55-gallon (208-liter) barrel ruptured late Wednesday at the 890-square-mile (2,305-square-kilometer) site that includes the Idaho National Laboratory, the nation's top federal nuclear research

That is because secretive record keeping during the Cold War makes it hard for officials to now know the exact contents of similar barrels, said Idaho National Laboratory Joint Information Center spokesman Don Miley.

The barrel contains a mixture of fluids and solvents that came from nuclear weapons production at the Rocky Flats Plant near Denver, Colorado.

Officials during the Cold War were extremely secretive about the contents of the barrels for fear that the process of making nuclear weapons could be revealed if the contents were known, Miley said.

A preliminary theory about the cause of the barrel rupture, he said, is that ra-

dioactive decay made the barrel heat up and ignite particles of uranium. An investigation is planned.

"They haven't run into anything like this actually happening," he said. "They've got a really good idea of what's in (the barrels), but they might not always know the concentrations.'

He said an investigation will try to determine if there are other barrels at risk of rupturing.

Workers entering the structure, even before the breach, must use self-contained breathing apparatus and wear full protective clothing. Officials said no radiation has been detected outside the structure, which has special filters to prevent radioactive particles from escaping.

TODAY ON CAMPUS

FRIDAY, APRIL 13,2018

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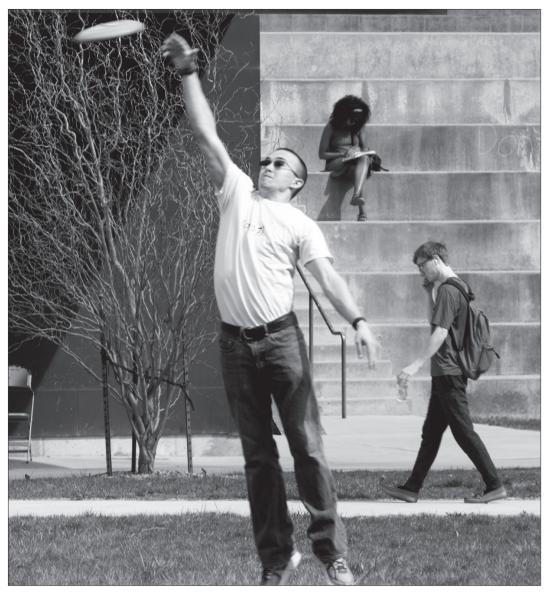
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Jump for it



JORDAN BOYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS Ben West, a senior music education major, catches a frisbee Thursday evening in the Library Quad.

Local children to perform 'Gulliver's Travels in Space'

Show is directed by Missoula Children's Theatre and will take place this weekend

By Andrew Paisley

Campus Reporter | @Andrew_Paisley1

Local children between the ages of five and 14 will be performing this weekend in the production of "Gulliver's Travels in Space," directed by the Missoula Children's Theatre.

Public performances of the show will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Friday, along with a 2 p.m. matinee and a final performance at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the Dvorak Concert Hall at the Doudna Fine Arts Center. "Gulliver's Travels in Space" is based on the novel "Gulliver's Travels" by Jonathan Swift.

"The production is similar to the novel," said Emily Nan Phillips, tour actor and director for Missoula Children's Theatre. "The only difference is that Gulliver is tied up by aliens and travels around to different planets in space to help them out. After that, he has to try to find his way home."

Phillips said of the children who auditioned, 30 were selected to perform in the production.

"We have a bit of a small group in this production," Phillips said. "However, we have been amazed at how great they have been at performing, listening and singing."

Chance Walker Carter, tour actor and director for Missoula Children's Theatre, said it has been inspiring to see how well the children have studied lines that are equivalent to those of high school students.

"These kids have really been fantastic and have truly shown true talent during this week of rehearsing," Carter said. "We may have a small group, but our group is what we would call 'mighty,' because of how wonderful they are."

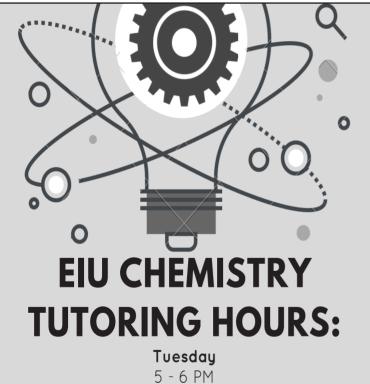
The Missoula Children's Theatre is an internationally touring theatre group out of Missoula, Montana. The theatre goes from community to community each week, holding auditions on Monday and rehearsing from Tuesday to Friday with shows being held during the weekend.

"We really try to base the performance and rehearsals not just on theater itself, but also on education," Carter said. "We want to emphasize the skills of leadership, communication and teamwork and we want to teach them literacy skills from the scripts that these kids may never learn in a classroom."

Dan Crews, programming director of the Doudna Fine Arts Center, said Eastern is excited for this opportunity.

"I really think it will be a wonderful experience for the children in our community," Crews said.

Andrew Paisley can be reached at 581-2812 or at abpaisley@eiu.edu.



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DPINION

STAFF EDITORIAL

Don't let spring get to you, still go to class

As the weather becomes warmer and more students want to break free from the dungeons they call rooms, it is only natural to enjoy what the campus has to offer.

This may include walking up and down the quads, sitting and doing homework on the Doudna steps, playing with chalk, playing catch in the South Quad or even playing basketball or tennis on the many courts that are scattered across campus.

However, although it's only right to enjoy the beautiful weather since it's been a long time coming, that doesn't mean we should skip class.

Spring fever is not a valid excuse to ditch class and drive around Charleston with the windows rolled down and your arm sticking out.

Yes, it has been an awful "spring" so far because of what seemed like endless amounts of snow, freezing rain and at one point a disgusting mix of both and the warm weather is a refreshing feeling.

Therefore, we get it. No one, including us, wants to be cooped up inside especially when the sunshine and warmth are calling our names and taunting us like fresh baked cookies before dinner.

It feels impossible to sit through class, sweating profusely because of the uncomfortably warm classrooms and actually paying attention to what our professors have to say.

But, we have to push through it and we have to fight spring.

Finals are just three weeks away and we can't let the arrival of spring sabotage our hard work by distracting us with its warm breeze and sunny skies that make you want to smile all day long.

It seems silly that we would need to fight back the urge to go frolicking in one of the quads, but when reality and "adulthood" set in to remind us that our future careers are at stake then we can't afford to fool around.

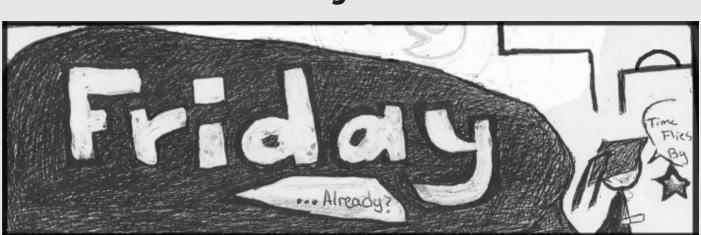
Go to class. Continue to learn something and take as many notes as possible.

We all know that every research paper or major project is due soon so pay attention and get your work done.

Then, once everything is said and done and all your work is taken care of during the week, we can enjoy the warm weather during the weekend.

If only it wasn't supposed to rain.

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



JALEN MASSIE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS



Sean Hastings



SEAN HASTINGS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS Kona, the new puppy in the house, intently 'watches" the Cubs game during opening week

Sean Says: Quality time spent with a best friend

A dog is a man's best friend. I have said it before, and my puppy Kona is making that ring true to the moon and back.

As a dog owner, all you can ask is for the dog to be loyal, and the rest is just added bonus.

And as a man, there are few things better than sitting on the couch with your best bud with a nice cold beer in your hand and watching a baseball game.

Something like that is tough to beat. A week ago, it was just my dad and Kona holding down the fort at my house. My mom and sisters were off doing their own thing.

And as sports fans, there is nothing like Opening Day/Week for the MLB. It is the start of a long haul to the finish line and you are with your team every step of the way.

So my dad, as a Cubs fan, found himself sitting on the couch watching the Cubs beat up the Brewers 8-0.

And as any best friend would, Kona popped a squat on the couch, away from my dad, in her own square on the couch and proceeded to stare at the TV and watch the game.

She did not even sit like a dog on the couch. She leaned back comfortably on the couch and did not break eye contact with the game to look at my dad sitting 10 feet away from her.

Just the two of them watching baseball. My dad did not even have to ask Kona to do anything. All she did was come downstairs, sit by herself on the couch and watch TV.

This was not the last time it happened, however. This turned into a family affair just a few days later. This time, it became a teaching moment for Kona.

We did not have to teach her to love baseball; that came naturally, apparently. But it was not hard to realize that she was mesmerized by the ball.

Couple days later, whole family watching the game, Kona, sitting alone watching the game with them.

Like I have said before, Kona does not understand the concept of fetch. At least outside she does not. She will fetch 1,000 balls inside and somewhat bring them back to you. If we go outside, forget about it. She is clueless.

While she is very intently watching the game, my dad jokingly starts talking to her "watch them throw it, then see what they do? They bring it back to the pitcher."

Literally my whole family is sitting on the couch showing love to Kona, but she is dead-eyeing the TV while watching the baseball game.

Sorry I am not around too much to watch these games and have a beer with you, Dad. But for now, it seems like Kona can take my place. She'll take a water.

Sean Hastings is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or smhastings@eiu.edu.

All skills are worth trying to learn

Jack of all trades, but a master of none; still better than a master of one.

The term "jack of all trades" was first referenced in 1592 by author Robert Greene's famous booklet "Greene's Groats-Worth of Wit" when he negatively referred to actor and



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playwright William Shakespeare to critique his published work at the time.

The "master of none" portion was added later, which was meant to describe a person who has knowledge in numerous subjects and skills, but does not have specialization in any of them.

Then came the "better than a master of one," which ultimately makes the phrase a compliment.

The phrase now has a more positive connotation when it is used to describe a person who can bring a number of skills to the table and make them work in a local and practical way in order to problem-solve.

Whether you agree with the sentiment of this phrase or not, you cannot argue that having a working knowledge of numerous subjects can potentially make you an invaluable resource to prospective employers, and in general.

Whether it is a good or bad thing, I like to think of myself as a "jack of all trades" because I like jumping from subject to subject learning new information and skills and then turning

Angelica Cataldo

around and trying to apply them. Then, when I feel like I have the hang of the concept, I move on and learn something new.

Is this conducive to my work ethic? I sure as hell do not know, but I do know that when I fill out an application and hand in a resume, I have a whole lot of skills and knowledge in various fields that will prove useful to my future employers.

I think this concept is inherently useful for my generation and generations to come, especially if those people are not planning to focus their skills on a trade job that calls for professional specialists who emphasize their work in one field.

I imagine every other field of study requires you to know more than your concentrated discipline of work, and I think that is exactly how people should view their education.

Knowledge is valuable, and if you have the chance to be exposed to new information or work with a professional who can teach you a new skill or get you interested in a new topic, it is an opportunity you should never turn down.

Nearly every day, I hear people say, "I'm going into *insert subject here,* why do I need to learn *insert course material here*?"

If anything, that train of thought is regressive and will only set a person up for failure when they enter the working world.

I used to think the same thing about the Pythagorean Theorem. Now I use that concept every day, and I'm just a journalist.

Learn as much as you can about everything you can or you'll just be a one-trick pony with no real value.

Angelica Cataldo is a senior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or at amcataldo@eiu.edu.

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>> Transition CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I really am used to the whole concept," Daniels said. "I think the sciences and humanities are tied together."

Burns said in a lot of respects, it is a natural pairing. Marshall Lassak, chair of the math and computer science department, said if the university is going to reorganize, having a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is not uncommon.

"(It's) always a concern that whoever the dean is, will (they) be able to adequately sort of address all the areas, but it's not an impossible thing to do," Lassak said.

Programmatic things might be made easier and the colleges will see each other more often, Daniels said. The biggest issue Daniels has heard about the reorganization is how fast it is, but Daniels said these things have already been thought about during the vitalization project.

"It's good we're moving on (with) real substantive changes that will improve the university," he said.

25 years ago, Eastern had a structure like the one Gatrell proposed, political science chair Richard Wandling said.

"In a sense, we're going back and we're bringing back a model that's time-tested," Wandling said.

Wandling said with such a big college, there could be a risk of losing smaller programs in the transition process, though this would be the case no matter what the organizational scheme would be.

"There are going to be some inherently large departments in that college, for example biological sciences, communications studies, psychology," Wandling said. "On the other hand, to the extent that it facilitates ongoing partnerships with a more moderate-sized department, then I think it could also be a plus for those departments." Seeing how one bigger college will work into the structure of the university might be difficult, Daniels said, but he thinks it will work.

"It depends on the leadership," he said Though the college will be large, Burns said this does not necessarily mean it will be detrimental.

"As long as it's still the same playing field, all the chairs get together to talk, all the chairs hear each other and all the deans get together to talk and all the deans hear one another, I don't think there's going to be any burying of any voices," she said.

History department chair Nora Small said this change is an important evolution for Eastern.

"The entire plan strikes me as very forward looking, and EIU in its 100+ years of existence has gone through many identities, from a normal school to a university," Small said. "It strikes me that this is another part of that continuing tradition of changing with the times."

Philosophy chair Jonelle DePetro said she is enthusiastic about the proposed changes.

"(Changes) can be a little mysterious, what will the changes actually be or mean in terms of committee structure and how things get done, but I imagine we'll find our way," DePetro said. "There will be a few bumps and then it'll be just fine."

Economics chair Ali Moshtagh said he is excited to move past the mentality of the last couple of years.

"(Eastern) needs to get over this vicious rumor that was spread all over the state that Eastern is going to close," Moshtagh said. "By doing this (restructuring), we're sending a strong message to the whole state that Eastern is not going to close, Eastern is a viable institution of higher learning."

Cassie Buchman and Brooke Schwartz can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

Rucksack loading zone



Fernando Gutierrez, member of the Army ROTC, packs his rucksack, which is a bag that is made of stronger material, Thursday evening outside of Klehm Hall.

» Policies CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mann said two of the worst humanitarian disasters going on in the world today are the conflicts in Syria and Yemen.

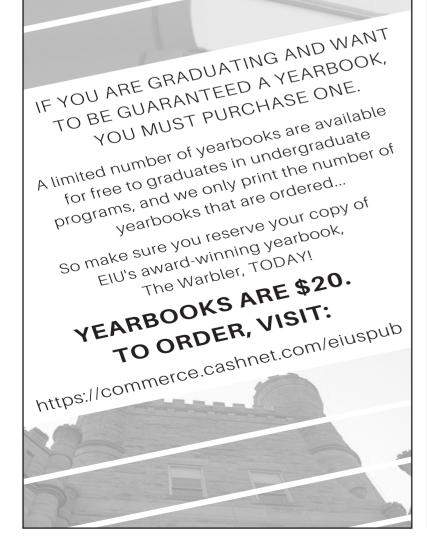
"In Syria, close to 10 million people are refugees or have been internally displaced," Mann said. "Moreover, we are again seeing the use of chemical weapons on civilians there."

According to Mann, 22 million people in Yemen are in desperate need of food, water, medicine and/or shelter.

"These conflicts are very complex, with confusing historical roots and puzzling present-day realities," Mann said. "My hope is my participation on the panel, and being there to answer questions, will help the audience understand the roots of these conflicts, and the difficulties the current administration faces when trying to figure out what to do."

Andrew Paisley can be reached at 581-2812 or at abpaisley@eiu.edu.

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Packing up



Colt Bible, a member the Army ROTC, packs his rucksack, which is a bag made of stronger material, Thursday evening outside of Klehm Hall.

JORDAN BOYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Ehe New York Eimes Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Group in the original "Ocean's 11"
- 8 Classic arcade game with lots of shooting
- 14 Like Istanbul 16 Emphatic
- admission 17 First world
- capital, alphabetically 18 Like clothes
- buttons, generally
- 19 Unexciting poker holding 20 2008 Bond girl
- Kurylenko 22 L

- 54 Gulf of ____ 29 Strange things 32 Super 8, e.g. 56 Santa ___, Calif. 33 Group of female 57 Juiced (up)
- seals 59 Jacob's partner 34 Powerhouse
 - in "A Christmas in Olympic Carol" weightlifting 61 City nicknamed
- 36 Gradually "The Old Pueblo" 39 Animated character who 62 So-so, as graduated support
 - from Dogwarts 63 Acropolis figure University 64 Spots
- 40 The "R" of 28-Across

41 Circular parts

DOWN

42 Formidable 1 One going opponents against the

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Softball team with 2 double headers

By Sean Hastings Sports Editor @DEN_Sports

Coach Kim Schuette called junior Kayla Bear's diving catch in left center field in the seventh inning of the first game Wednesday against Southeast Missouri the best she has seen on that field.

No one was on base and the Panthers were already up 4-1, but it showed another bright spot that Eastern's softball team has through now six conference games.

The win in game one pushed the Panthers to 5-0 in the OVC and a win following that made them 6-0.

And now Eastern has a chance to make it 10 conference wins in a row as it is set to play a doubleheader against (4-6) Tennessee-Martin Friday, which was supposed to be played Saturday but was moved due to poor weather in the forecast.

The Panthers are still slated to play (5-1) Southern Illinois-Edwardsville Sunday.

What Schuette liked so much about that play is that it showed how if the hitting is not working well, the pitchers step up, and if the pitchers give up a big hit, the fielders also have their back, and vice versa.

Following Bear's diving catch, senior pitcher Michelle Rogers gave up a hit up the middle, but went on and struck out the next batter to secure the win.

Schuette called that "the armor" of the team. Tennessee-Martin is one of the teams that has not

had its season readjusted because of bad weather as it has already played 10 games, compared to Eastern's six.

Leading the offensive charge for the Skyhawks is Alli Fulcher, who is batting .298, which is second on the team, but she leads Tennessee-Martin with a .492 slugging percentage and 21 RBIs.

Sophomore Haley Mitchell leads Eastern in that category with 43.

Tennessee-Martin takes on the same approach with two main pitchers just like Eastern. Caitlin Karo

<image>

Sophomore Haley Mitchell rounds third base and is greeted by coach Kim Schuette for a high five after hitting a three-run home run in the first game of the doubleheader against Southeast Missouri Wednesday at Williams Field. Eastern has four games scheduled this weekend to continue OVC play.

and Hannah Ridolfi have similar numbers as both have sub 3.00 ERAs.

Ridolfi has struck out nine more batters than Karo, with 48, but she has pitched six more innings than Karo.

Compared to Eastern, the Skyhawks are not much of a strikeout pitching team. Wireman has pitched 17 less innings and has tallied 138 strikeouts, and Rogers has racked up 63 in 90 innings pitched.

Southern Illinois-Edwardsville is a strong hitting team like Eastern with four players batting over .300 and four with double-digit RBI totals.

Pitching-wise, the Cougars turn to one pitcher a majority of the time as Emily Ingles has pitched 100.2 innings this season, which is 45 more than the next pitcher. Ingles does not strikeout batters like Wireman, but she, like Wireman, does not give up a lot of runs. She is 10-5 with a 1.81 ERA.

Friday's games will start at 2 and 4 p.m. and Sunday's games will start at 1 and 3 p.m.

Sean Hastings can be reached at 581-2812 or smhastings@eiu.edu.

Baseball team faces another tough OVC team

By Maher Kawash Baseball Reporter | @DEN_Sports

Runs have been limited for the Eastern baseball team this season, especially in conference play, but the Panthers have a chance to turn that around at home.

Eastern hosts Belmont in a three-game series, and once again, rain is impacting the schedule for that series.

Instead of playing three games in as many days, the two teams face off in a double-header Friday followed by the finale on Sunday in an attempt to avoid the expected storms in the forecast Saturday.

While both teams try to avoid rain, the Panthers are just trying to avoid another conference loss.

The key to doing so comes on the offensive end where the bats have just been hit or miss this season.

Junior Tyler Jones takes the ball in game one for Eastern in hopes of limiting a Belmont offense that has been up and down as well to start.

Belmont holds a team batting average of .273, ranking just into the bottom half of the Ohio Valley Conference.

The Bruins are good at getting on base, but they struggle at driving those runs in, and that puts them at eighth among the conference.

What Belmont does do well is play clean baseball as the team is third best in the OVC with just 37 errors on the season.

Jones may just be the man for the job if Eastern is going to snap its current three-game skid as he has

a 1.76 ERA while capturing three of the Panthers' 10 wins.

That ERA ranks first in the OVC.

His last outing was one of the best on the year, tossing six innings with one earned run on two hits.

Sophomore Alex Stevenson is dealt the hand in game two of the double-header Friday, and he has seen all types of action.

His last start was also his best, despite it ending in a loss, as he threw for seven innings and allowed three runs with two of those coming in tough home run shots.

Eastern has not announced its starter for game three, but on the other side, the Panthers will face three right-handed pitchers this weekend.

All of them possess ERA's above 3.00, but that

does not mean they do not rank among the conference's best.

Casey Queener, who Eastern faces in game three, has pitched the most innings in the OVC with 51, and his go-to is the strikeout pitch.

Queener has 55 strikeouts on the year, and that gives him the third best rank in the conference.

Regardless who is on the mound, the key for the Panthers is to find consistency in their bats.

Eastern has combined for just eight runs in its last four games, and that has led to being outscored 24-8. This series gets underway Friday at 11 a.m. with

game two expected to follow right after at 2:30 p.m.

Maher Kawash can be reached at 581-2812 or mwkawash@eiu.edu.



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Sports Editor Sean Hastings 217 • 581 • 2812 DENSportsdesk@gmail.com







Eastern's new quarterback Johnathan Brantley throws a pass in spring football on April 4th at O'Brien Field. Brantley is a transfer from Tulane and one of four quarterbacks in camp for Eastern.

Brantley more than just a runner

By JJ Bullock Assistant Sports Editor | @DEN_Sports

Forget what the statistics say. Disregard what his coaches at Tulane wanted him to be, Johnathan Brantley is a pass-first quarterback and he and his new coaches at Eastern believe in full of his ability to pass the football.

Is Brantley the fastest quarterback on Eastern's roster? Without a doubt. Do his career numbers at Tulane, 395 yards rushing and three touchdowns to just 152 yards through the air, support the idea of him being a "running" quarterback? Yes, they do. But that is not who he believes he is, and that is one of the reasons he transferred from Tulane to Eastern.

He is a self-described "passing first, running second, playmaking" quarterback and has a lot of confidence in himself as a passer. ning a spread, air-raid style offense, where the ball will be in the air more often than not, and having a quarterback with keen throwing skills will be pivotal to executing this offensive attack. The new offense along with Eastern being in the need for another transfer quarterback, the fit with Brantley was perfect and he agreed to transfer to Eastern without even making a visit to the campus. Brantley can roll out of the pocket with ease and quickly cut his 6-foot-1, 195-lbs. frame up the field, too fast for lineman and linebackers to catch, and just fast enough to keep defensive backs on their toes.

Brantley said he is picking up on some parts of the new offense quicker than others. Some of it he had done before and that is what he says he is trying to build on in spring football.



Johnathan Brantley, Quarterbac

"It was pretty easy. He came without a visit. So, it might have been

The goals to get Brantley comfortable have been clearly addressed already in spring football and are something that Parr expects him to get ahold of. The group of four quarterbacks currently in spring camp does not even include incoming freshman Qua Gray, who threw for 60 touchdowns as a senior at Coronado High School in Texas.

No one is sure right now who has a leg up in the quarterback competition, and the coaches are using spring ball as an indicator to see who can run the new offense.

Brantley's plan to separate himself from the pack is to just be himself and show the coaches that he can move the ball down the field in Parr's offensive system. But the biggest thing in his mind he wants to show he can do in spring football is prove he is a coachable player.

"(Being coachable means) taking something from the film room and translating it over to the field and when coach corrects you on something, making the correction and doing your very best to make the "He is a guy that has some experience at a Division-IA, FBS school. He has played in some big venues, started some games for Tulane last year, one specifically against Oklahoma, that was a pretty good opponent," head coach Kim Dameron said. "He is a smart young man, he is talented, he probably is the fastest of all the quarterbacks, as a matter of fact I know he is. I would think that he would be."

Coming out of C.E. King High School in Texas, Brantley ran a 40yard dash time of 4.74 seconds

As of now, Brantley is just a quarterback at a new school, in a new offense, trying to prove to a new group of faces that he is the passer, and the runner for that matter, that he truly believes he is.

There is still just under five months until the Panthers travel to Arkansas for their season opener and between now and then, there will be plenty of decisions for Dameron and Parr to make regarding the quarterback situation, but until then, Brantley has plenty of time to showcase if he is the best fit at quarterback.

"In the summer when I work out, I work on my passing, I don't work on running," Brantley said. "In high school I was a passer, so why not be a passer in college?"

When Brantley was in high school, he was in a spread offense that allowed his passing game to show itself, but at Tulane he was worked into more of a triple-option style offense that required him to use his quickness, and feet more often than his arm.

Brantley wanted a change and reached out to Eastern, looking to get back into a more spread style offense once again. Brantley had a previous connection to Eastern's new offensive coordinator Scott Parr, who had personally recruited him "hard" when Parr was at Navarro Junior College.

"Coming to a coach that I was familiar with, Coach Parr, I met him when I was in high school my senior year so at least I knew what type of guy he was," Brantley said.

This season Eastern will be run-

the best deal in college football as far as affordability," Parr said.

There is no question by anyone at Eastern to his ability as a passer and runner, but one of the hurdles Brantley will have to jump is learning the new offense. But this hurdle might be easily crossed for Brantley as Parr describes him as a "sponge" and a "student of the game."

"He is a very explosive runner. (He has) great speed, great change of direction. Right now, we're getting him back to trying to get him comfortable with a spread system and throwing the ball," Parr said.

In spring football, the quarterbacks cannot be touched by the defensive players, and if anyone even comes close, they will hear loudly from one of the coaches to back off the quarterback. But getting touched by a defender might not be a problem for Brantley. Frequently in practice his speed and ability to move with the ball is displayed when the pocket is collapsing, or the pass rush is on his tail. "He was a good passer in high school and we have got to get him comfortable with knowing where to go with the ball. He has a quick release, he gets it out fast," Parr said. "We have to get more velocity on his balls, so we can get more catch and runs in space, but with this spring and a summer and knowing and practicing the offense and knowing what he has to work on, I am expecting a big jump by the time we get to fall camp."

Brantley is just one of four quarterbacks in spring football all trying to prove that they deserve the starting nod in next season's opening game against Arkansas. The group of four includes redshirt sophomore Scotty Gilkey Jr., who started five games last year for Eastern. Redshirt freshman Jaylon Banks and redshirt sophomore Harry Woodbery, who transferred from Navarro Junior College along with Parr. correction," Brantley said.

One of the things that the Eastern staff liked so much about Brantley is his experience playing against big schools.

In 2017 he started a game against Oklahoma, who was ranked number two in the country at the time, and had 103 yards from scrimmage.

JJ Bullock can be reached at 581-2812 or jpbullock@eiu.edu.

Projected quarterbacks for Eastern in 2018

Scotty Gilkey Jr.- 6'4, 235 lbs. Started five games for Eastern in 2017. Threw for 606 yards and three touchdowns.

Jaylon Banks- 6'1, 190 lbs. Redshirted last season. Played at Oswego East High School.

Johnathan Brantley- 6'1, 195 lbs. Transfer from Tulane. Started a game against Oklahoma in 2017.

Harry Woodbery- 6'2, 200 lbs. Transfer from Navarro Junior College where he played with OC Scott Parr.

Qua Gray- 5'11, 174 lbs- 2018 Eastern commit. Threw for 60 touchdowns as a senior.

*In no order