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Eastern Illinois University

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Demolition in Stevenson will begin this summer

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Track teams win titles in Nashville

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CAMPUS

Wilber demonstrates leadership on Lobby Day



DANNY DAMIANI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eric Wilber, a senior political science and philosophy major and student executive vice president, speaks at a budget forum April 19 in the Martin Luther King Jr. Student Union.

Senior confident, enthusiastic about politics

By Sarah Ruholl
Administration Editor

Editors Note: Administration Editor Sarah Ruholl shadowed Eric Wilber during the college student Lobby Day on April 22.

Just before 8 a.m., he walks onto the bus, a stack of papers and folders in hand.

He does not look out of place in his suit and tie.

His blonde hair is combed back, as usual.

Turning to face the group, he says, "Welcome to Lobby Day. If you don't know me, my name's Eric Wilber."

Wilber is comfortable in his leadership role, largely because of his eagerness to constantly improve and willingness to work hard for it.

Wilber has never shied away from helping his fellow students improve, too.

"Can somebody show me how to tie this?" Pat Lindstrom, a sociology student, asked others on the bus.

"You want to go into politics and you can't tie a tie?!" Wilber asked in humored disbelief.

"Here," Rob Kennedy, a geogra-

phy student, interjected.

"You take the tie and put it around your neck like this," Kennedy said, his own unknotted tie slung around his neck.

"And you wrap it like this and then go over here, then under," Kennedy instructed, as he effortlessly knotted his tie and Lindstrom struggled.

"You're doing this wrong," Kennedy, unknotted his tie to start over.

"OK! You take the tie, put it around your neck like this and wrap it around like this, no, with that part on top," Kennedy said. "I think you need a clip-on."

Wilber took the tie from Lindstrom and tied it, loosely, around his own neck, making sure the knot was straight, before handing it back.

Whether it's leading students through government-relations tactics or representing student concerns as the official student voice, Wilber is prepared and articulate.

He has served as Eastern's student trustee, a voting member of the Board of Trustees, and student body executive vice president for two years, leading the Student Action Team is part of that role.

Wilber has also represented the student voice on the Charleston City Council for three years, is vice president of the Student Democrats and has sat on various boards and committees.

Wilber led the Student Action

Team at College Student Lobby Day April 22.

When he is in the Capitol Building, Wilber's excitement and energy level is like that of a child at Disney Land. He grins and bobs his head, taking in his surroundings.

"Politics," he said. "I enjoy it a lot, and I just want to be there."

Every turn reminds him of a story, and he tells them to whoever is in earshot, like the first time he visited the Capitol and he and Amanda Raz, then student executive vice president, got lost on the Mezzanine level.

"We took a staircase we probably weren't supposed to," Wilber said. "We ended up in the Senate president's office. We just played it cool and walked right out."

Wilber wants to explore the building again today, but first, he has to get the action team ready to lobby and interact with legislators, something he has down to an art form. He explains the group's talking points about the Monetary Award Program grant funding, payment of the university's appropriated general revenue funds and concerns about future funding levels for higher education.

Wilber gives the students a lesson on how to get the attention of government officials.

"That's being a master politician," he said, swinging his arm determinedly forward. "You just get in there and go for it."

This trip was the first without Jill Nilsen, now-retired vice president for external relations, to lead the group. So Wilber is in charge.

"It used to be (Nilsen) that would be doing all this, but since she's gone, I'm taking the lead," Wilber said.

Always prepared, Wilber has a map of the capitol building for the groups when they split up to speak with different elected officials.

Wilber doesn't need a map to find his way around.

He leads the group to Sen. Dale Righter's office and the House floor, remarking on how much he loves the heavy wooden doors.

He knows which elevators go to Mezzanine levels, which hold departmental offices and press rooms.

He deftly leads the group around the building, as if it were his second home.

Soon, it will be.

Wilber will be one of 14 interns in the governor's office through the Dunn Fellowship starting Aug. 2. A total of 71 applicants competed against Wilber for the position.

The nationally competitive internship program requires a bachelor's degree, which Wilber will receive at the 9 a.m. College of Science's graduation ceremony Saturday.

Dunn Fellows must also demonstrate excellent academic skills, leadership and community involvement.

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UNIVERSITY

Endowment created in honor of alumnus

Averill died in April as result of complications from diabetes

By Jason Hardimon
Campus Editor

An Eastern alumna's legacy will continue.

The creation of a new Eastern Illinois University Foundation endowment fund in honor of Valerie Averill was announced at the Residence Hall Association/National Residence Hall Honorary end of the year banquet Friday.

Averill, 51, who died April 16 as result of complications from diabetes, worked with The National Association of College and University Residence Halls for more than 30 years and served as the organization's national adviser for the past eight years.

Mark Hudson, director of University Housing and Dining Services, said Averill's life, which was spent working with and advising

HONOR, page 7

EVENT

Athletes cheered on by hundreds

Special Olympics held at O'Brien Field Friday

By Heather Holm
Activities Editor

Athletes of all ages came from 10 countries to run, throw and compete in the Special Olympics spring games at O'Brien Field Friday. Competitors came from local group homes, workshops and schools, 58 agencies altogether, to participate in multiple events including shot put, running, softball throw and tennis throw.

More than 700 volunteers and officials cheered and assisted the athletes over the course of the day.

Danielle Thompson, a sophomore special education major with dual certification in elementary education, said participants in the softball throw received medals for how far they threw.

Others received medals for how far they jumped, how fast they ran or how far they threw a tennis ball.

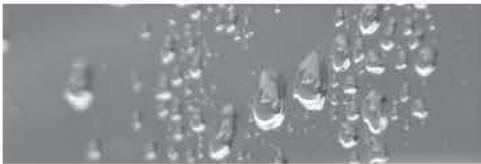
Angie Haarmann, from Effingham, won a gold medal for long jump and said it felt good to win.

Her sister, Sarah Haarmann, has been coaching her for the event and has done so for past Special Olympics.

Amy Wood, a special education teacher from Carl Sandburg Elementary School, had

ATHLETES, page 7

WEATHER TODAY



Sunny - P.M. T-Storms

HIGH 76° Sunny conditions early on today will set up the possibility of severe weather in the afternoon hours. Expect showers and thunderstorms to move in after 1 p.m. The showers and thunderstorms should be out of the area by the late evening, and then we are looking at 72 hours or so of clear conditions.

LOW 52°

WEATHER TOMORROW

Tuesday
Mostly Sunny
High: 78°
Low: 51°

Wednesday
Sunny
High: 82°
Low: 57°

For more weather information: www.eiu.edu/~weather

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Cap, gown and tickets pick up starts Wednesday

Graduating seniors can pick up their caps and gowns 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday in the Charleston/Mattoon Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Tickets for the graduation ceremony can be picked up 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Union. Graduates for the 9 a.m., 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. ceremonies are allotted up to seven tickets, while graduates at the 3 p.m. ceremony are allotted six tickets. Students must present an ID at pick up.

BLOTTER

A residential burglary was reported Tuesday at University Court. The incident is under investigation, the University Police Department said.

A private property accident involving a blue Ford and a blue Chevrolet occurred Wednesday in the Ninth Street Lot. No citations were issued, the UPD said.

A theft was reported from a vehicle Thursday that was parked near Andrews Hall. The incident is under investigation, the UPD said.

An unknown vehicle damaged a black Chevrolet Saturday while parked at the Stadium Lot, the UPD said.

A battery was reported Thursday at Taylor Hall. The incident was referred to the Office of Student Standards, the UPD said.

Gone fishin'



DANNY DAMIANI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Dave Cook of Charleston takes time to go fishing Sunday afternoon at Campus Pond.

DENNEWS.COM



Why all the squirrels?

Online reporter James Roedl talks about his theories of why there are so many squirrels on Eastern's campus. Read his animal blog on DENnews.com.



New textbook rental

Take a look at the new textbook rental building in a photo gallery on DENnews.com.

CORRECTION

The visitation for Keith Spear, an English instructor who died Wednesday, will be between 4 and 6 p.m. at the Adams Funeral Chapel. The funeral service will be at 6 p.m.

In Friday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News*, Clara Kurtz was misidentified in a quotation. Cindy Friesan said "I think it's just the right thing to do and I wanted a bigger role this year."

The DEN regrets the error.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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UNIVERSITY

Student government spring recap

By Erica Whelan
Student Government Editor

With the end of the spring semester in sight, Isaac Sandidge, former student speaker of the senate for student government, encouraged senators to contemplate their service to the student body.

He said the senate had overcome a series of trying times during the semester in light of a declining economy and little aid from the state.

Despite the obstacles senators faced and will continue to cope with in the coming school year, including a reduced budget, Sandidge praised the organization for the accomplishments made for the sake of the students and implored them to work together to achieve greater representation.

Tuition and fee increases

After extensive debate, the senate endorsed two fee increases that were ultimately approved by the Board of Trust-

ees, including one that will raise tuition over the next four years.

The first was the Campus Improvement Fee, which will increase to \$2.50 per credit hour in fiscal year 2011, rising from \$12 to \$14.50 per credit hour. This \$2.50 increase will continue yearly until the rate reaches \$22 per credit hour in fiscal year 2014.

The funds from the increase will go toward deferred maintenance in the existing science facilities and will eventually be used to pay for a new science building.

The second fee increase is a bond-revenue fee that will support maintenance to the Lantz Arena and O'Brien Stadium, which will increase 65 cents per credit hour for the fall semester, bringing it to \$2.50. It will then increase by 50 cents for the next three years. The total fee will be \$4 in fiscal year 2014.

The Student Action Team

In the effort to lobby legislators for

the timely dispersal of the nearly \$27 million Eastern is owed by the state, 13 members of the Student Action Team traveled to Springfield to participate in the College Lobby Day.

Eric Wilber, executive vice president, led the team in discussions with local politicians Rep. Chapin Rose and Sen. Dale Righter about salvaging funds for higher education.

The team will continue to lobby for the annual restoration of funding for the Monetary Awards Program Grant, as well as inform the student body on voter registration.

Wilber will graduate at the end of the semester, leaving behind a four-year legacy of involvement on the Student Action Team and as student executive vice president. Aaron Wiessing will succeed him.

Student Government fan bus

Senators voted to approve the allocation of funds for a fan bus to trans-

port Eastern students and members of Panther Nation to Nashville, Tenn. for the OVC Women's Basketball Tournament.

The resolution stirred a controversy on the senate as some members said enabling travel during a time of financial hardship was irresponsible and unjustified.

The effort, led by Student Body President Michelle Murphy, pioneer of the student cheering group Panther Nation, proved successful when she appealed to senators on the grounds that rejecting the resolution would be opposed of the student body's interests.

Her request was emphasized by the attendance of the entire women's basketball team at the meeting.

Elections

In the spring student government elections Murphy was re-elected to serve a second term by a total of 1,009

student votes.

She will be joined in the fall by the newly staffed executive board, along with the 13 senators inducted at the final meeting of the semester.

Seven of those senators are new to the organization and will participate in a senate mentorship program reinstated this semester by Isaac Sandidge.

His younger brother, Jason Sandidge, will replace his brother in the fall as the newly elected student speaker. Jason said he intends to continue the program and will review the feedback submitted by participants to improve the experience.

Members will also have the advantage of the new "Senators In Training" program approved to generate interest in the student senate and expand leadership skills in freshmen.

Erica Whelan can be reached at 581-7942 or elwhelan@eiu.edu

HOUSING AND DINING

Stevenson Hall undergoing renovations

By Jason Hardimon
Campus Editor

University Housing and Dining Services will be completing a number of renovations this summer to make residence halls and dining centers more efficient and comfortable.

Mark Hudson, director of housing and dining, said demolition for the Stevenson Hall renovations will begin May 10.

"Right now, that serving area is very linear," Hudson said. "We are going to arrange it so when you walk into the area you can go to stations for different levels of service."

Hudson said all equipment in the serving area will be removed and the glass wall, which divides the serving and dining areas, will be pushed out five feet. Enlarging the amount of space in the serving area will allow for an increase in the menu selection, and ensure the area can be navigated more quickly.

"I think it will make the speed a lot faster and it will give more flexibility on menu items," Hudson said.

Updates will also be made to the dining area, including the addition of booth seating.

Also, new accessible bathrooms will be constructed off of the main lobby.

"They will be closer to the dining center and available to the general public who are using that facility," Hudson said.

Over the summer the windows in Stevenson, Thomas and Andrews Halls will be replaced with double-paned-high-efficiency windows.

Hudson said the current windows have been in place for 40 years, since each of three the residence halls was constructed.

"It will result in an energy savings as well as a comfort increase for residents," Hudson said.

Lincoln Hall will be retrofitted with a sprinkler system and new fire alarms, and the current bathrooms will be gutted and replaced with private bathrooms in a centralized cluster.

Thomas Hall will also be retrofitted with a sprinkler system.



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DANNY DAMIANI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Ashley Crocello a junior special education major from Carol Stream, restocks pudding while working in the Stevenson Dining Center Sunday afternoon.

IEWS



Tyler Angelo

Arizona law wrong way to fix problems

Yes, I'm graduating this Saturday.

I'm excited and all, but I don't want this to be another end-of-the-year, clichéd column about what I'm going to do post-graduation or what I've accomplished in my college career.

I'd like to point out an important topic in a state where I lived for about two and a half years, where I first went to college — Arizona State University — before transferring to Eastern during my junior year in spring 2008.

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer recently signed an immigration law that essentially allows police officers to ask for identification from anyone who looks Hispanic — in a Mexico-bordered state no less. This "show me your papers" law sounds all too familiar to a state we've heard of before — Nazi Germany.

The law is Arizona's latest answer to its immigration problem: Complete racial profiling in a state where there are so many different races and cultures. But it's absurd.

As someone with perhaps a more unique point of view of Arizona than many on this campus, I was surprised and appalled that a state from the west, where America's "new frontier" lies, would sign such a law.

It needs to be repealed right away, before it goes into effect this summer.

I talked to one of my old roommates about the new law on Thursday night. He still lives in Arizona and thinks that though this immigration law is a big step, he thinks it may have been the wrong one.

"I think it's politicians just trying to do something about this immigration thing," he said. "No one has done anything worthwhile. No matter how many times they say it's not racial profiling, it is."

He pointed out to me how people have been subsequently trying to organize boycotts of the state of Arizona. Because of this, he wondered how it would affect tourism in the Grand Canyon State.

But it's not the people living in Arizona who should suffer from this atrocious new law.

He said he had heard of people who were trying to get Arizona Diamondbacks fans not to go to their baseball games in Chicago, and he also heard of a group that was trying to boycott Arizona Ice Tea, which isn't even made in Arizona.

"It's not like I agree with it," Hall said. "It's not like a majority of Arizonans agree with it — it's our governor."

My concern with this state creating this law is that it is a step in the wrong direction that I hope no other states will take. Arizona lawmakers have got it all wrong when it comes to dealing with immigration problems. This will likely cause new problems to arise.

Around two million Hispanic people now live in Arizona, roughly 30 percent of the state's population. Does this mean police officers will demand papers from as many of these people as they come across, on a daily basis until everyone is a naturalized citizen?

Thankfully, President Obama is against this tough law. According to an April 23 article in *The New York Times*, Obama said the new Arizona law threatened "to undermine basic notions of fairness that we cherish as Americans, as well as the trust between police and our communities that is so crucial to keeping us safe."

Reform needs to come to the west's immigration problems before more problems arise with the view of that state, and our country's acceptance of different people.

Tyler Angelo is a senior journalism major and can be reached at 581-7942 or trangelo@eiu.edu.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid"

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

Finals week: Time for graduating seniors to reflect on time at Eastern

And so we have come to it. For most of you, this week marks the end of the school year. You will go home or off to internships for the summer, and you will return to Eastern a year older and wiser.

But, for many Eastern students this week marks the end of their college career. This week marks the culmination of four — or more — years of hard work, late nights, crazy weekends and endless stories you will retell and re-live in your memories for years.

For graduating seniors, this week marks the end of an era. The "best years of your life" are coming to an end.

But we say that type of thinking is deeply flawed.

It is true, with graduation comes the end of a certain amount of freedom that is afforded by youth. But these years, while being some of the most fun-filled, are most certainly not going to be the best years of your entire lives.

For those of us who are graduating, we have the potential for brilliant careers, building families and making our mark on the world to look forward to.

We have an endless number of possibilities facing us. The end of college will only mean our academic careers are over. Now it is our time to go out and take the world by storm.

However, this week is a time to pause and take stock of things.

All too often we let the days fly past and fail to think long and hard about a certain moment's historic significance in our lives.

This week, dear seniors, take the time to walk around campus. Take in the sights, sounds and smells of Eastern's campus. Take a moment to simply sit down in the quad and reflect on the time you have spent here and the memories you have made.

Do yourself a favor and just close your eyes and let the

"So as we start this final week of college, let's not overlook the importance of our time here."

moments, from freshman orientation to late nights in Booth Library to countless lunches in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union food court.

Let's recall a campus before Doudna Fine Arts Center was finished. Let's think back to all the frustrating classes and professors — whether they were your favorite or least favorite — who have shaped your education.

And don't overlook your finals. We may be walking on Saturday, but that doesn't mean grades can't be ruined should we fail to take the time to study and finish strong.

Sprint to the finish, seniors. Go out with a bang.

And then, on Saturday, with family surrounding you and friends hugging you and saying good-bye, just think for a moment and appreciate this school.

Some of you may have grown to love Eastern and Charleston, some of you may have found it to be far too small and quiet. But, either way, it has provided the backdrop for a lifetime of memories.

So as we start this final week of college, let's not overlook the importance of our time here.

Take it all in, appreciate it and realize that while these years don't have to be the best of your life coming to an end, they are *some* of the best coming to an end.

And go out into the world, Panthers. Be the kind of alumni who make this university proud.

Go out and be brilliant and show what an Eastern education can do.

You have made it to the finish; you have earned this week, your last at Eastern Illinois University. Good luck out there, and congratulations on a collegiate career coming to an end.

Now go make the next 50 years of your lives even better than the last four. And use all you have learned in your time here to make your lives truly great.

Good-bye, seniors.

FROM THE EASEL



ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID THILL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

FROM AROUND THE STATE

Closing another chapter

By Chelsea Peck
The Daily Vidette
Illinois State University

"It's coming to an end" my iPod sings to me as I attempt to write my final column. Ironically it's true, my college years are coming to an end in exactly one week. It's easy to be happy about this. I'm finally done with papers, projects, presentations and classes, why wouldn't I be excited?

But I'm also finishing a chapter in my life that

may never be edited again. My life will soon go back to the monotony of home life and I'll have the people I've met trapped in my memory forever, seeing them from time to time.

The friends I've made since my start on this campus have changed throughout the years, but I still hold these relationships close to my heart. From the dance parties on Atkin seven to the random apartment parties and dorm room hangouts, my first years on campus are something to remember.

But my upperclassman years will be what

stand out. Of course, I'm talking about the Vidette. I may seem to be wrapped up in my work far too much, but I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

Walking into the Vidette on any day of the week, you'll hear music, talking, maybe some arguing, but over everything you'll hear laughter. I look forward to getting out of bed every day to come to work because, frankly, my co-workers are my best friends.

To read more, visit www.DailyVidette.com

Chowin' down



KIM VINCENT | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Rashaad Kami Rigsby, senior health studies major from Harvey, enjoyed some of the BBQ at the "Kappa Picnic." This event, along with "Nupes at the Apollo," which was hosted by Lisa Raye, and many other fun and informative events during "Kappa Week" were in celebration of the 35-year anniversary of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity at Eastern.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

DEN hires new staff for fall

Staff Report

The Daily Eastern News has completed its interview process and named the staff for fall 2010.

Sam Sottosanto, a junior journalism major from Plainfield, will be the editor in chief for the summer and fall semesters this year. Sottosanto currently serves as the *DEN's* online editor, and has previously worked as a copy editor, designer and reporter.

Emily Steele, a junior journalism major from Oswego, will be the managing editor for the fall, and editor in chief for the spring 2011 semester. Steele is currently the news editor and has worked for the *Warbler* yearbook and has been a reporter and designer for the *DEN*.

Kayleigh Zyskowski, a junior journalism major from Tuscola, will be the news editor. Zyskowski is currently the city editor and has previously worked as a reporter for the *DEN*.

Courtney Bruner, a junior English major from Decatur, will be the associate news editor. Bruner is currently a designer and copy editor and has worked as a reporter in the past.

Dan Cusack, a junior journalism major from Evergreen Park, will be the

opinions editor. Cusack has previously worked as assistant sports editor.

James Roedl, a junior journalism major from Teutopolis, will be the online editor. He has previously worked as a staff reporter.

Julia Carlucci, a junior English major from Chicago, will be the assistant online editor. She currently holds that position for the *DEN*.

Alex McNamee, a freshman journalism major from Bloomington, will be the sports editor. McNamee is currently the assistant sports editor.

Danny Damiani, a freshman journalism major from South Holland, will be the photo editor. Damiani has currently worked as a staff photographer and photo editor for the *Warbler*.

Jordan Boner, a junior journalism major from Benton, will be the assistant photo editor. He has previously worked as a staff photographer.

Doug T. Graham, a sophomore journalism major from LaGrange Park, will be the *Verge* editor. Graham has previously worked as a reporter.

Alycia Rockey, a senior journalism major from Peoria, will be the assistant *Verge* editor. She has previously worked as assistant online editor and designer.

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NATION

Oil geyser to gush for at least one more week

By The Associated Press

VENICE, La. — Federal officials shut down fishing from the Mississippi River to the Florida Panhandle on Sunday because of the uncontrolled gusher spewing massive amounts of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, and the environmental disaster is still expected to take at least a week to cut off.

Even that toxic scenario may be too rosy because it depends on a low-tech strategy that has never been attempted before in deep water.

The plan: to lower 74-ton, concrete-and-metal boxes into the gulf to capture the oil and siphon it to a barge waiting at the surface. Whether that will work for a leak 5,000 feet below the surface is anyone's guess; the method has previously worked only in shallower waters.

If it doesn't, and efforts to activate a shutoff mechanism called a blowout preventer continue to prove fruitless, the oil probably will keep gushing for months until a second well can be dug to cut off the first. Oil giant BP PLC's latest plan will take six to eight days because welders have to assemble the boxes.

President Barack Obama toured the region Sunday, deflecting criticism that his administration was too slow to respond and did too little to stave off the catastrophe.

Satellite images indicate the rust-hued slick tripled in size in just two days, suggesting the oil could be pouring out faster than before. Wildlife including sea turtles have been found dead on the shore but it is too soon whether the spill, caused by an April 20 oil rig explosion, was

"It's like a slow version of Katrina."

Bob Kenney, Venice charter boat captain

to blame.

Even if the well is shut off in a week, fishermen and wildlife officials wonder how long it will take for the gulf to recover. Some compare it to the hurricane Louisiana is still recovering from after nearly five years.

"It's like a slow version of Katrina," Venice charter boat captain Bob Kenney said. "My kids will be talking about the effect of this when they're

my age."

More than 6,800 square miles of federal fishing areas, from the mouth of the Mississippi to Florida's Pensacola Bay were closed for at least 10 days on Sunday by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco says government scientists are taking samples from the waters near the spill to determine whether there is any danger.

Fishermen still were out working, however: They have been dropping miles of inflatable, oil-capturing boom around the region's fragile wetlands and prime fishing areas. Bad weather, however, was thwarting much of the work; Alabama Gov. Bob Riley said 80 percent of the booms laid down off his state over the previous three days had broken down. He

said boom along other coasts is breaking down also.

The Coast Guard and BP have said it's nearly impossible to know exactly how much oil has gushed since the blast, though it has been roughly estimated to be at least 200,000 gallons a day.

At that rate, it would eclipse the 1989 Exxon Valdez tanker spill — which dumped 11 million gallons off the Alaska coast — as the worst U.S. oil disaster in history in a matter of weeks.

"None of us have ever had experience at this level before. It ain't good," said Bob Love, coastal and nongame resources administrator with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. "The longer it goes, the more fish and wildlife impacts there will be."

STATE BRIEFS

Park turned into memorial for 3 slain kids

By The Associated Press

BEASON — Volunteers have transformed a worn central Illinois park into a memorial for three slain children.

About 50 people turned out in the tiny town of Beason on Saturday to paint and refurbish equipment, and install new fixtures.

The park now also has three metal benches bearing the names of 16-year-old Justina Constant, 14-year-old Dillen Constant and 11-year-old

Austin Gee.

The three children were killed in September along with their parents, Rick and Ruth Gee. A 4-year-old child survived the attack.

Two men are in custody in connection with the killings.

Volunteers included the children's friends and relatives as well as strangers from as far away as St. Louis.

Some of the \$20,000 for the park was raised at a community garage sale in April.

3 are shot to death on Chicago's West Side

CHICAGO — Chicago police say they believe one of the three men killed on the city's West Side shot the other two then turned the gun on himself.

Police said Sunday evening they can't yet confirm that version of the events. Officials believe the shooting was domestic-related.

Officers responded to reports of shots fired at about noon Sunday.

Two of the victims were pronounced

dead at the scene. A man who was taken to an area hospital later died.

The victim's names have not yet been released. Police say the victims were a man in his late 70s and two men in their early 40s.

The shootings are under investigation.

Police find mother of newborn left in box

CARPENTERSVILLE — Carpentersville police say they've found the

mother of a newborn girl who'd been left in a cardboard box behind a home.

Police in the northwestern Chicago suburb say the mother and child were being treated for non-life-threatening injuries Sunday at an area hospital.

A woman spotted the box behind her home Saturday afternoon and decided to open it after hearing whimpering coming from inside.

Police say the child's mother was found early Sunday. Doctors say the baby is probably one to two days old.

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WILBER, from page 1

Wilber will work in the Legislative Affairs office for a year. After that year, Wilber said he would attend law school, unless he is offered a job.

He plans to later run for office, with the end goal of being a United States Senator, or possibly the president, he admitted with a sheepish grin.

His student government cohorts named him "Most convinced he'll

actually be the president some day."

His studied manner of speaking and ability to clearly and precisely present the views and concerns of his constituents makes the goal seem not unreasonable.

"I'm just going to see where that takes me," he said. "So..."

'So' is a popular word in Wilber's vocabulary. He says it in anticipation of the next question, which he allows, expects and tries to be pre-

pared for.

After dividing the groups to lobby in different parts of the Capitol, he's ready to explore.

"I was just guessing; we're on an adventure," he said of finding the television pressroom, just down the hall from a set of offices, which will soon be a familiar site for the up-and-coming politician.

"Well, what do you know? Legislative Affairs," Wilber said. "I know

how to get to my office now."

His work as student trustee and lobbying for the Renewable Energy Center helped him land the internship.

"I worked with the governor's office on that, so they already knew my name," he said.

Wilber's professional demeanor has impressed people he has worked with in Springfield as well as Charleston.

"Eric has to be among the finest student trustees in the country," said Dan Nadler, vice president for student affairs. "He's impressive because of his vision and his ability to fully grasp and understand. He has an untiring willingness to jump in on any issue that we face."

Sarah Ruholl can be reached at 581-7942 or seruholl2@eiu.edu

HONOR, from page 1

students, was affected by opportunities she received to develop her leadership skills as an undergraduate at Eastern.

The endowment fund has been created at the request of Donna Averill, Valerie's mother.

"Valerie's family feels the best way to honor her memory is to ensure that EIU students continue to receive that same opportunity given Valerie," Hudson said.

Money from the Dr. Valerie S. Averill Leadership Development Endowment Fund will be used to pay the registration fees and travel expenses for Eastern students who attend state, regional, and national residence hall leadership conferences. As the endowment

grows, funding may be applied to other opportunities to develop leadership skills among Eastern students active in residence hall organizations.

Hudson, who was a close friend of Averill's, said the two met through Eastern's Resident Housing Association in 1977, when she was a freshman and he was a sophomore.

"Val was really a shy person—she was very private—but she really loved working with college students, first as a student leader, but also as an adviser," Hudson said.

Averill served as an RHA officer for three years, one year as treasurer and two full years as president—she was the only Eastern student to have done so.

While at Eastern, Averill was an active member of the Great Lakes Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls, which a division of NACURH the national organization, that represents residence hall associations at colleges and universities in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Ontario, Canada.

Averill served as the director of GLACURH beginning in the fall of 1980 through the spring of 1981 and served as the organization's adviser the following year while attending graduate school at Eastern.

That year, Averill was named the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Board's outstanding senior and

was also the winner of the University Housing and Dining's Enochs scholarship, the department's highest award for student service.

"She was quite recognized for her efforts," Hudson said.

After completing her graduate degree at Eastern, Averill worked for various universities throughout the nation including Texas Tech University, South Dakota State University, the University of Minnesota at Mankato, Kansas State University, Western Illinois University and most recently the University of South Florida, where she worked as the associate director for Assessment Services.

Averill served as an adviser for the

Southwest affiliate and Midwest affiliate of NACURH before being chosen as the organization's national adviser. In 2008 the NACURH renamed their adviser of the year award in Averill's Honor.

"Her whole life was spent working with and advising students," Hudson said.

There will be a memorial service in Averill's honor 2 p.m. June 12 at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Donations for the endowment fund are currently being accepted.

Jason Hardimon can be reached at 581-7942 or jrhardimon2@eiu.edu

ATHLETES, from page 1

three students participating. In all, nine special education students from the school participated.

"We've had eight classes come out to support our students," Wood said. "There was a parade through the hallway where students cheered for (the Special Olympics' athletes)."

Albert Trigg, a student in second grade from the school, competed in the 50-meter dash and received a fourth place ribbon and also took part in the softball throw. Crystal Sparks, a special education teacher at Mattoon Middle School, brought eight athletes to the school, which

won a number of gold medals.

"We've been training for about three months with wrestlers, track stars, volleyball players and basketball players," Sparks said.

Hannah Peruden, one of the trainers and an eighth grader at Mattoon Middle School, enjoyed being able

to help.

"I felt it was the right thing to do—help people who want to do sports," she said.

She trained with one of the athletes, a sixth grader Erika Kramer. Kramer won a gold medal in running and a silver medal in the long-

jump.

"It feels good because you won something and did your best," Kramer said.

Heather Holm can be reached at 581-7942 or haholm@eiu.edu.

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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0329

- ACROSS
- 1 Wash very hard
- 6 "The racer's edge"
- 9 Chart anew
- 14 Hot love interest
- 15 ___-la-la
- 16 Former Mrs. Trump
- 17 Elvis Presley feature
- 19 Mamie Eisenhower feature
- 20 Tooth specialist's deg.
- 21 At the peak of maturity, as an apple
- 23 Shoulder muscle, informally
- 24 Author Ferber
- 25 Formidable opponents
- 27 Scads
- 30 Clad
- 32 Insolent
- 34 Tach readings
- 35 Drinker's road offense, for short
- 38 Fixed as a target ... or a hint to four pairs of intersecting answers in this puzzle
- 42 Commercials
- 43 Appear to be
- 44 Its capital is Sana

- 45 Sugary drink
- 48 Apartment dweller's payment
- 49 Clothing
- 52 Move, in Realtor-speak
- 54 Opposite of freeze
- 55 Spanish devil
- 57 T in a fraternity
- 60 Willie Nelson feature
- 62 Betty Boop and Superman features
- 64 France's longest river
- 65 Asian New Year
- 66 Weapon in Clue
- 67 Step into
- 68 Grp. that opposed the Vietnam War
- 69 Not ___ (middling)

DOWN

- 1 Dirty Harry's employer: Abbr.
- 2 Dirt clump
- 3 Ewes' mates
- 4 Caller of strikes and balls, for short
- 5 Abraham Lincoln feature
- 6 Pull into
- 7 T on a test

PUZZLE BY JOHN DUNN

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

- 8 Cousins of carrots
- 9 Tease
- 10 Got around
- 11 Jon Bon Jovi and Tina Turner features
- 12 It's measured in degrees
- 13 They may be sordid
- 18 Actress Merrill
- 22 Contract provisions
- 24 Impress, as in the memory
- 26 Like a net
- 27 Part of Istanbul is in it
- 28 Real estate
- 29 What tagging a runner and catching a fly ball result in
- 31 Give a shellacking
- 33 "___ no?"
- 35 Coin with F.D.R.'s profile
- 36 Bird that perches with its tail erect
- 37 George Harrison's "___ It a Pity"
- 39 Surrendered
- 40 They see things as they are
- 41 Prefix with dynamic
- 45 Lampoon
- 46 Circles, as the earth
- 47 Throw things at
- 49 Mosey along
- 50 Juan of Argentina
- 51 Pippi Longstocking feature
- 53 Rapunzel feature
- 56 Parroted
- 57 Chi-town paper, with "the"
- 58 ___ Romeo
- 59 Prowned
- 61 Architect Mies van ___ Rohe
- 63 Game with Skip and Draw 2 cards

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TRACK, from page 12

2010). They won 11 events picking up 86 points in the 100-, 200-, 400-, 800- and 1,500-meter runs. The men's team also picked up 56 points in the 110- and 400-meter hurdles.

"We were so stacked," red-shirt sophomore Zye Boey said. "Even if one of us made a mistake, there was someone ready to go. We had everybody ready to go."

Boey ran season bests to win the 100- and 200-meter dashes. Junior Darren Patterson won the 200-meter dash, and senior Wes Sheldon won the 800-meter run. Senior Jason Springer finished second in the 1,500-meter run. Freshman Dominique Hall won the 110-meter hurdles, and junior Chad Aubin won the 400-meter hurdles. Both relay teams (1,600- and 400-meter teams) won on Saturday. Freshman Justin Roberts added a second-place finish in the hammer throw and finished with three top-four finishes.

"It's a great sign of where our depth is," Akers said. "As we got down to sixth places, we've got to do it with quality. It's not like football or basketball where you can substitute people in."

On Friday, freshman Graham Morris finished second in the 3,000-me-

ter steeplechase. Junior Tyler Arnholt won the discus with a season best and matching a personal best of a throw of 173 feet, 3 inches. Freshman Scott Mammoser won the pole vault, and senior Ian Winston won the high jump.

After the first day with the Eastern men's team leading by eight points, Boey said he knew the team was OK.

"After that, I knew we were in the right position," Boey said.

In the men's OVC race, Southeast Missouri finished second with 128 points, Eastern Kentucky finished third with 106 points, Tennessee State finished fourth with 61 points and Morehead State finished fifth with 22 points.

In the women's OVC race, Southeast Missouri finished second with 155.5 points, Eastern Kentucky finished third with 131 points, Jacksonville State finished fourth with 73.5 points, Tennessee Tech finished fifth with 22 points, Austin Peay finished sixth with 66.5 points, Tennessee State finished seventh with 42.5 points, Murray State finished eighth with 30 points and Morehead State finished ninth with one point.

Akers said the meet was delayed multiple times because of the weather, and all the teams went to the Eblen

Center, TTU's basketball complex.

"Hey, everybody's in the same boat," Akers said. "Our kids did a real good job. I heard more complaints about the delays."

Because of the event ending early, individual awards voting for the championship was not completed. Awards should be determined via teleconference today, and when the awards are finalized, they will be posted at ovc-sports.com.

Before the championships, Arnold was named the OVC Female Field Athlete of the Year, and Gingerich was named the OVC Female Track Athlete of the Year.

Gingerich won the 800-meter run at the OVC outdoor championships and also the 1,600-meter relay.

"In typical Gingerich fashion, she mowed them down in the (end)," Akers said.

The Panthers will send athletes to Indiana's Billy Hayes Classic on Friday in Bloomington, Ind.

"That was a good capstone for us as a team," Akers said. "Now it's getting our top kids ready for (the NCAA) Regionals."

Kevin Murphy can be reached at 581-7944 or kjmurphy@eiu.edu.



AUDREY SAWYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior shortstop Cam Strang throws the ball to first base Saturday afternoon during the game against UT Martin at Coaches Stadium. Strang is on a 15-game hitting streak, had two runs, five hits and five RBIs this weekend.

BASEBALL, from page 12

sacrifice fly to right field but freshman pinch runner Nick Priessman was stranded at second base after Green struck out red-shirt freshman pinch hitter George Kalousek to close out his complete-game victory.

The Panthers scored in four of the first five innings of game one against Skyhawks freshman starter Alex Boshers (2-6). The first hitter of the inning reached safely and scored in the second, third and fifth.

But Eastern took an early lead thanks to back-to-back two-out hits from senior designated hitter Alex Gee and Strang in the bottom of the first. With

senior first baseman Richie Derbak and Gee on base, Strang hit a blooper into short center field. Tennessee Martin junior center fielder Jerron Casey got a glove on the ball but it popped free when he collided with second baseman Cory Stooksbury. Derbak scored on the play.

Thoma led off the second inning with a double down the left field line and scored on an opposite-field base hit by freshman right fielder Daniel Rowe.

Borenstein led of the third and fifth innings with singles through the right side and scored on Strang's sacrifice fly and base hit to center field, respectively.

FAREWELL, from page 12

Sports are my love and writing about them is my passion.

These two years reaffirmed my joy in this profession and will always be a fond memory wherever the road brings me.

And while I'm filled with both pride and nostalgia as I prepare to walk across the stage on May 8, the one thing I can be happy about is that I no longer have

to hide my fandom.

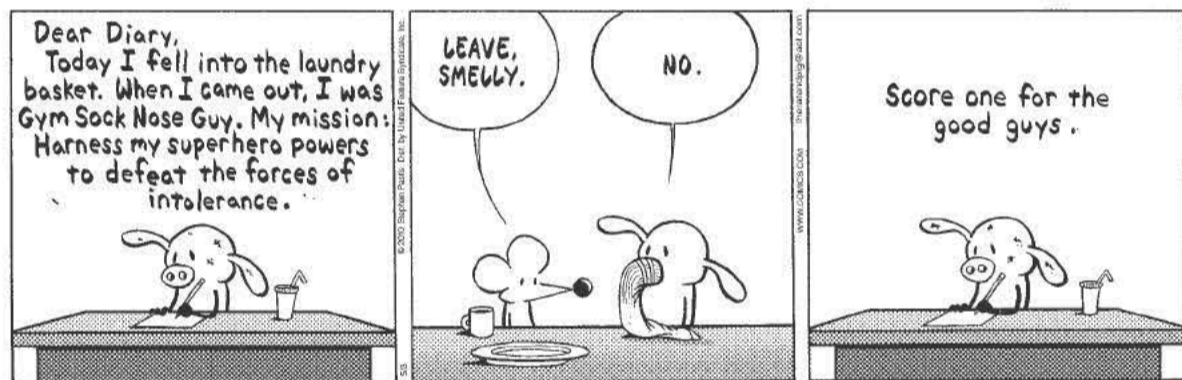
I can root for Eastern athletics, something I haven't been able to do for two years.

Thanks for the memories. Go Panthers.

Collin Whitchurch can be reached at 581-7944 or cfwhitchurch@eiu.edu.

COMICS

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BRIEFS

Softball team rained out in Nashville

Woods signs letter of intent

Coming into the weekend, the Eastern softball team expected to play a three-game series against Tennessee State in Nashville, Tenn.

Floods and tornado warnings ruined those plans.

The Saturday doubleheader was canceled and moved to Sunday, in case the weather would pass. But, it didn't.

The Eastern-Tennessee State se-

ries wasn't the only Ohio Valley Conference series to be washed out this weekend.

The Tennessee Martin-Jacksonville State series wasn't completely ruined as the two teams were able to play an extra inning game, which UT Martin won despite lengthy rain delays.

Sallee inks another recruit

John Wood Community College's Hillary Held signed a letter of intent to play for the Eastern women's basketball team Thursday.

Held started 28 of the JWCC's 30 games this season averaging 12.5 point per game. Also, she led the team in rebounds with just over six per game.

Held said playing Division-I basketball has always been a dream of hers, but said she won't sink in until she gets to Charleston.

"I think everything will sink when I'm there a couple months and then actually playing in my first game, I think it will hit me then," Held said in a press release by WGEM.

Women's tennis brings in new recruit

St. John's (Mich.) tennis star Janelle Prisner has agreed to play tennis for the Eastern women's tennis team next season, according to a *Lansing State Journal* story.

For three years, Prisner played at the No. 1 singles spot for St. John's, including having a 21-5 record this season and advancing to the D-I state quarterfinals.

She was named to the *Lansing State Journal's* tennis Dream Team

in 2009 and helped the St. John's Redwings win the Capital Area Activities Conference Red Division title last season.

Prisner's coach, Angie Pertler, said in a press release she thinks Prisner will do well as a freshman and expects that she will start.

"She's definitely one of the best tennis players I've seen come through St. John's," Pertler told the *Lansing State Journal*.

—Compiled by Assistant Sports Editor Alex McNamee.



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VIEWES

A look to the future for athletic department

After a year's hiatus of being a news editor, I returned to my first love of being a sports journalist.

As sports editor, I was able, with my staff, to keep the Eastern and Charleston community up to date news on campus sports in an interesting and accurate manner.

With graduation upon me, I will not be writing in the sports section for *The Daily Eastern News*.

However, here are some things to look for during the 2010-11 Eastern athletic season:

Fall season

Football is still king on campus, and it will remain so as the Panthers will look to defend their Ohio Valley Conference regular season title. The core of the team is returning and will be led by junior cornerback C.J. James.

However, the quarterback position is uncertain with the departures of Bodie Reeder and Jake Christensen. Also, will this be the final year for head coach Bob Spoo? And will defensive coordinator Roc Bellantoni take over?

Men's and women's soccer are heading in different directions. The men have struggled mightily the last two seasons and will probably struggle again in their final season playing



Bob Bajek

in the extremely difficult Missouri Valley Conference.

They will move to the more appropriate Summit League for the 2011.

Women's soccer improved drastically in 2009 with new head coach Summer Perula at the helm. Her nine recruits should continue the program's improvement and make Eastern more competitive in the OVC.

Volleyball, cross country and rugby are at a crossroads. Volleyball did improve to 11-20, but head coach Alan Segal quit. How will Katie Price do in her first year in an unstable program where some of her players are on their third coach in three years?

Cross country still does not have a coach, but athletic director Barbara Burke said the program will have a new leader by summer. Would this affect recruitment and preparation for the 2010 campaign?

Rugby has been fantastic with con-

secutive undefeated seasons, but the sport still has not expanded as quickly as head coach Frank Graziano wanted. Will Eastern go undefeated again, and rugby's success help the athletic department to renew rugby in 2012 despite lack of expansion?

Winter season

Men's basketball has made tremendous strides in 2009-10 by going 19-12, winning a playoff game and taking OVC Tournament champion Murray State to the limit in the semifinals. This was the first time head coach Mike Miller had a successful season. Will this continue? Maybe.

The Panthers are losing six seniors, with three being main contributors. Shaun Pratl and James Hollowell and incoming freshman studs Tommy Woolridge and Isaac Smith III will be asked to do a lot.

The keys will be if *DEN* Male Athlete of the Year Tyler Laser and Jeremy Granger have superb seasons.

Women's basketball is in an interesting position, as Eastern will have no seniors this season. But that won't stop the Panthers, as head coach Brady Sallee is known for producing top teams.

The terrific Ta'Kenya Nixon, the

"Will Eastern go undefeated again, and rugby's success help the athletic department to renew rugby in 2012 despite lack of expansion?"

DEN Female Athlete of the Year, will be instrumental next season. Also see if fellow freshmen Mariah King and Sydney Mitchell will contribute more. The wild card is Pilar Walker, who sustained a season ending injury but Sallee is high on.

Swimming is rising, thanks to head coach Matt Bos' leadership. Both squads shattered 17 program records this year. How will freshmen swimmers Joe Ciliak, Ken Tiltges and Michael Bowers perform? Will the men place second in the Summit League? The women need new leaders, as three top seniors left.

Indoor track will again win the OVC championships, with Darren Patterson and Megan Gingerich will led both teams.

Spring season

Baseball will be on the rebound after an awful year. The problem this season was losing five of the Panthers

stars to graduation and the MLB draft. Most of the starters were freshmen and sophomores in different positions, so they should be more comfortable. Will Josh Mueller and Mike Recchia leave for the draft? Will the lineup rally behind Zach Borenstein next year?

Softball only has three seniors, but recruits and a strong core should keep them on top of the OVC. Ace Amber May will be in her senior year, so inspired performances should be seen.

Outdoor track will be excellent, as head coach Tom Akers always delivers. Patterson, Zye Boey, Queenie Adeboyejo and Gingerich should have outstanding performances.

Tennis and golf are stuck with being mediocre. Star Jeff Rutherford's departure will hurt men's tennis greatly.

Bob Bajek can be reached at 581-7944 or rtbajek@eiu.edu.

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Textbook Rental Service

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Wednesday, May 5, 2010	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 6, 2010	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday, May 7, 2010	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Deadline to return textbooks without a fine is Friday, May 7, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. will resume Monday, May 10th.

The five day grace period to return late textbooks is Monday, May 10th through Friday, May 14th. Our hours will be 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The

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VIEWS



Collin Whitchurch

A farewell to athletics

If you had told me two years ago that during just two years at Eastern, I would become as immersed as I have in Eastern athletics, I don't know if I would have believed you.

Two years isn't a very long time in the grand scheme of things, but as I stand less than a week from graduation, I realize that is what I've come to know better than practically anything. I've lived and breathed everything from football, baseball and basketball, to soccer, tennis and track.

So being the last column of my collegiate career, I can't help but reflect on these two years, the memories and moments that stand out and how they've helped me on my path to (hopefully) covering sports professionally.

Of all the coaches I've covered at Eastern, the two that set themselves apart from the others are women's basketball head coach Brady Sallee and football defensive coordinator Roc Bellantoni.

Coaches have tough jobs, and we don't make it any easier on them by prodding our noses in their business and sticking recorders in their face day in and day out, but these two were always the most accepting of how I did my job.

Win or lose, they always met me after the game with smiles and handshakes. I could not be more thankful for the respect they gave me on a daily basis.

Of the teams I covered, the 2008-09 women's basketball team was probably the most fun I had. I remember going to Nashville, Tenn., to cover them in the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament. I never came closer to violating the "no cheering in the press box" rule than when Megan Edwards' game-winning shot rimmed out at the end of one of the overtime periods of the championship game.

That team was full of incredibly talented and nice women who made going to practices and games every day enjoyable. Watching Rachel Galligan's historic career come to a close was a pleasure, and Ellen Canale is easily the best interview I've had.

Being a sports reporter, I never thought I would have to write about death, and especially in the manner I did over the course of one month.

I had that unfortunate task of breaking the news of both Jackie Moore and Jeff Hoover's death. I knew players from both teams quite well and seeing the sadness it brought to the players, coaches and others who knew them is definitely not a memory I enjoy reminiscing about.

What it did do is bring out the family atmosphere Eastern is so proud of. I can't imagine many Division I institutions have athletic programs that are so close to one another as ours, and that was never more apparent than during those two tragedies.

There are countless other people and memories that stand out, but one person I have to thank before leaving is Ben Turner. The assistant sports information director is always behind the scenes, but his welcoming attitude and kindness makes it easy for a new reporter to get acclimated to the Eastern sports scene, something I experienced first-hand during my first day on the job covering the women's soccer team.

FAREWELL, page 9

MEN AND WOMEN'S TRACK



DANNY DAMIANI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman sprinter Steven Clark runs during track practice April 22, at O'Brien Field.

Teams win Ohio Valley Conference titles

Tornado warning cancels event, shortens others

By Kevin Murphy
Staff Reporter

The Eastern men's and women's track and field teams started two streaks Saturday.

The women's team won consecutive Ohio Valley Conference championships for the first time in school history, and the men won consecutive titles for the first time since 2003 and 2004. The title is the men's 11th overall as both teams won in a weather-shortened meet this weekend at Tennessee

Tech's Tucker Stadium in Cookeville, Tenn.

"I wouldn't want to go out any other way," senior Chandra Golden said. "It's a great feeling. We're setting a precedent."

A tornado warning in the area forced the men's javelin to be canceled and the women's triple jump to be shortened, but the Panthers accumulated enough points to win both team championships prior to the championships being called off.

"Mother Nature had other ideas I guess," Eastern head coach Tom Akers said.

The women's team finished with 212 points en route to its third championship (2007, 2009 and 2010). Runner-up Southeast Missouri finished with 155.5 points.

"We just wanted to go home and bring it," Golden said. "I wouldn't trade (the championship) for the world."

Senior Shawana Smith won the 200-meter dash and finished second in the 100-meter dash. Smith finished her outdoor career with five outdoor individual titles. Golden closed her career with four titles in the 100-meter hurdles with another win Saturday.

Golden said Eastern athletic director Barbara Burke was in Cookeville, so the team made sure to finish strong in the meet.

Junior Caitlin Finnegan won the 400-meter hurdles. The women's 1,600-meter relay team also won, and the women's 400-meter relay team finished second. Sophomore Queenie Adeboyejo won the weath-

er-shortened triple jump.

Sophomore Megan Gingerich won the 800-meter dash to lead a 1-2-4-5 finish in the event. Freshman Erika Ramos finished third in the 1,500-meter run.

Senior Kandace Arnold won the shot put with a throw of 51 feet, 1.75 inches, which is an OVC record. She also won the discus with a throw of 165 feet, 7 inches, which was seven feet better than her previous school record.

On Friday, senior Erin O'Grady and sophomore Olivia Klaus finished second and third, respectively, in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

The men's team dominated its way to its 11th championship (1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2009 and TRACK, page 9

BASEBALL

Panthers win crucial series against Skyhawks

Staff Report

Junior pitcher Mike Recchia went the distance in his return to the starting rotation, striking out a season-high nine in his first career nine-inning complete game, leading the Eastern baseball team to a 5-2 rubber game victory against Tennessee Martin Sunday afternoon at Coaches Stadium.

Recchia (4-4) limited Tennessee Martin to five hits, three coming from senior catcher Ty Nelson. He kept the Skyhawks off the scoreboard until the sixth inning and surrendered only one earned run.

The Panthers (13-29, 8-9 OVC) scored once in the first and twice more in the third, jumping out to an early 3-0 lead. Sophomore third

baseman Zach Borenstein finished the day 3-for-3 with a walk and an RBI.

Junior pitcher Josh Mueller and sophomore pitcher Mike Hoekstra both pitched seven efficient innings but Eastern split Saturday's doubleheader winning the series opener 7-3 and losing the nightcap 2-1.

Mueller (2-1) gave up only one run on five singles and four walks, striking out eight in his finest all-around outing of the season. He improved to 3-0 as a Panther against the Skyhawks (20-23, 5-10 OVC).

Skyhawks senior pitcher Coty Green (8-2) won a pitcher's duel with Hoekstra in the nightcap. Eastern did not score until the final frame of the scheduled seven-inning game.

"It was two good games and ob-

viously great pitching out of (Hoekstra) and Josh Mueller," head coach Jim Schmitz said. "We just, offensively, let (Green) get his momentum going in the game and never really got a chance to get going until the end."

Junior shortstop Cam Strang finished the day 3-for-6. He drove in a run in each of his first three plate appearances in game one and scored Eastern's lone run in the nightcap after singling in his final at-bat.

Sophomore left fielder Ben Thoma connected for a two-run homer, his fifth of the season, in the seventh inning of game one. He was one of five Panthers to record two hits in the series opener, as Eastern finished with 12 as a team. Freshman second baseman Ryan Dineen was the lone Pan-

ther to have two hits in the nightcap.

Nelson led the way for Tennessee Martin with a 4-for-8 day, recording two hits in both games. Sophomore right fielder Jordan Owen connected for his team-leading 13th home run of the season to leadoff the second inning of game two. Tennessee Martin freshman left fielder Brent Morris knocked in a key insurance run with a two-out single in the fourth inning of the nightcap.

With one out in the bottom of the seventh, Strang and Dineen recorded the only consecutive hits of the game against Green. Strang went first to third on Dineen's base hit down the right field line, bringing the potential go-ahead run to the plate.

Thoma plated Strang with a BASEBALL, page 9

EASTERN SPORTS SCHEDULE

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All day

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Saturday at Jacksonville State (DH)
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