



LOCAL | BUSINESS

Local politics feel female leadership

This is part two of a three-part series exploring the lives of influential women in Coles County in part of Women’s History and Awareness Month.

By **KRYSTAL MOYA**
Administration Editor

“Because I am a woman, I must make unusual efforts to succeed. If I fail, no one will say, ‘She doesn’t have what it takes.’ They will say, ‘Women don’t have what it takes.’”
—Clare Boothe Luce

The transition of community women into political leaders buds in Coles County like the cottonwood blossoms fill the courthouse square and Eastern’s campus.

March is Women’s History and Awareness month, and the women who sit in political office are taking notice. They sit in their offices with piles of papers like raked leaves ready for spring-cleaning. And in the spirit of this month, they sit at that desk decorated in dusted metal from welding, grandchildren’s crayon drawings or gleam of the high noon sun on the glass and they speak. They tell their stories, their opinions and answer the question: Where are women now?

Beginning a career in politics

Charleston City Council member Lorelei Sims has chosen to step down from her service to the community. However, the sole female voice on the city council is not leaving because of lack of fervor for the process or the politics, but rather a concentration



ERIN MATHENY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

While Lorelei Sims does not feel she is a role model as a member of the Charleston City Council, she thinks her position as a female blacksmith provides insight for newcomers to the Charleston area who have felt the blacksmith field is only for men.

on personal wants and needs – “the things that make me happy,” she said. The lack of fervor was also not absent in her original bid for city council. Sims described her campaign as a platform she felt spurred from her concerns being ignored.

“I felt we needed a change, a different attitude and I wanted to present it,” she said. “I originally wanted to run for mayor, but my friends wanted me to crawl before I walked and I ran for city council.”
Jan Eads, Coles County board

member, was always active and responsible. She found her place on the board through an appointment from fellow female Republican Jackie Bacon, who retired for health reasons.

» SEE **WOMEN**, PAGE 5

UNIVERSITY | DEATHS

3-month wait for toxicology results

Memorial held, donations needed to aid transportation

By **EMILY ZULZ**
Associate News Editor

More than three months are expected to pass before a decision is made whether to charge the suburban St. Louis police officer involved in the car crash that killed three Eastern students and another victim, authorities said.

Don Schneider, assistant to St. Louis Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch, said it would be a minimum of three months before the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office receives the reports.

Schneider said they have to wait until they get the toxicology reports, investigative reports, photographs, witness statements and the complete accident reconstruction.

» SEE **CRASH**, PAGE 2

CAMPUS | SPRING BREAK

Helping make a difference

Spring break offers students a new outlook

By **JENNIFER BROWN**
Staff Reporter

For Katie Pliner, Habitat for Humanity was an opportunity to make a difference on Alternative Spring Break.

Hosted through the Newman Catholic Center, Pliner was first attracted to Alternative Spring Break last year when she went to Fayetteville, Ark. This year, she attended another Habitat for Humanity location in Jackson, Miss.

“I was inspired to go again because of the amazing experience I had,” the sophomore elementary middle school education major said. “I met so many great people and had a blast with my group.”

“I am hoping to gain experience working with volunteers and the family, as well as bonding with my team. I also want to come back and share my experience with others and hopefully gets other people to become interested in in volunteering for service trips.”

» SEE **ALTERNATIVE**, PAGE 2



AUDREY SAWYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Katie Finn, a biology and pre-med major at the University of Minnesota Duluth, places siding on a house on March 18 in Jackson County, Ky. Finn participated in Work Fest at the Christian Appalachian Project during her Alternative Spring Break.

UNIVERSITY | SCHOLARSHIP

Underclassmen could get more from Hope

Scholarship effectively doubled because of flooding last summer

By **JOE ASTROUSKI**
City Editor

Freshmen and sophomores at Eastern could qualify for an extra tax credit this year, thanks to last summer’s devastating flooding.

All college students in their first two years qualify for the federal government’s Hope Scholarship tax credit, according to the government’s 2008 Internal Revenue guide.

The credit is worth up to \$1,800 each year, depending on each student’s college costs.

But since Coles County, which includes Charleston, was declared a disaster area last summer, the amount each student can receive increases, said Gary Hawker, a certified public accountant.

“The Hope credit is effectively being doubled,” Hawker said.

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— Gary Hawker,
certified public accountant

He said the increased value of the tax credit is not automatic.

“The credit is part of the preparation of their tax return or their parents’ tax return if they’re a dependent,” Hawker said.

Hawker said disaster-area credit increases are based on the counties where students attend school, not the counties of their permanent addresses.

“Unfortunately, if a student from Coles County went to school somewhere else, they wouldn’t qualify ... (for the increase),” Hawker said.

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