Furlough day discount reels in local business

LEAH STOVER Daily Egyptian

On two days that SIU employees didn’t work, they and the rest of the shoppers at the Neighborhood Co-op Grocery were given a discount on groceries.

On Dec. 23 and Jan. 3, the university’s second and third of four furlough days, the Neighborhood Co-op gave a five-percent furlough day discount on all merchandise. Frank Murphy, general manager of the Co-op, said the objective was to give back to the community on days when some SIU employees were out of work.

The sale made around $30,000 Dec. 23, about 30 percent more than on a normal day, Murphy said.

"It was successful from the point of view that we were giving back to the community," Murphy said. "Any amount, it has been successful.

However, Murphy said the store has been slow Jan. 3 because there weren’t as many people in town. People tend to go out of town this time of year and all businesses within the community suffer, Murphy said.

As SIU’s financial problems continue, Murphy said a lot of people are afraid of further cuts and are taking precaution by limiting their spending. In turn, he said, local businesses are hurting.

"The thing about SIU is that there are over 7,000 employees, so whatever happens to SIU has a huge impact on all the other businesses in the community," Murphy said. "It’s the economic engine for the whole region."

Marla Martin, a high school teacher from Harris, said the discount couldn’t be anything other than a positive incentive for people to shop at the Co-op.

Martin said the discount provides motivation to drive the extra mile.

Murphy said the Co-op business doesn’t seem to be as greatly impacted by students being on break as it is by SIU’s financial troubles.

He said 85 percent of the Co-op’s customers have at least a bachelor’s degree and 35 percent have advanced degrees. The store’s customers are primarily employees of the university, not students, he said.

"It took until graduate school that students really begin functioning as a household,” Murphy said.

However, the Co-op does offer savings for students by putting on a special Sunday every first Sunday of the month. Murphy said students receive 10 percent off their purchases by providing their student ID.

Martin said she has seen in the area for more than ten years and has seen the economic status of Carbondale noticeably decline. She said retail and grocery stores didn’t seem to be losing business, but the strip used to be as popular as it used to be.

She said the Dec. 15 meeting of Husar’s, a bar that had a roof collapse during a January 2003 snow storm, is going to benefit Carbondale and hopefully bring more business to the area.

Husar’s owner Sally Carter said his club has asked for better business during the break. Carter said there’s been a good night every night since the bar reopened and the building has been filled with people.

"I think opening during finals week was great because it got enough of the college students interested," she said. "It seemed like the entire student body was in town the first few nights and if they didn’t get to make it, then they’re going to want to check it out when they get back."

Carter said the main reason Husar’s has received a lot of immediate business is because it’s new, and she expects business to eventually level out.

Murphy said he thinks the reopening of Husar’s is good for the community and will hopefully be an incentive for students to attend SIU.

He said the Co-op will offer the furlough day discount for the third time on March 9-10, the university’s fourth furlough day.

"What happens in the community directly affects us, so we use the furlough day discount as a way to give back and recognize what we’ve been here for 25 years (thanks) to a large measure to the university community," Murphy said.

Leah Stover can be reached at
Isaac Smith | DAILY EGYPTIAN
The Weather Channel® 5 day weather forecast for Carbondale, Ill.

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About Us

The DAILY EGYPTIAN is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Daily and biweekly editions run Monday through Friday. All biweekly editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All biweekly editions run on Wednesdays. The biweekly edition is distributed on Mondays of the remaining weeks. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale, Murphysboro and Carterville communities. The DAILY EGYPTIAN online publication can be found at www.daily-egyptian.com.

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The DAILY EGYPTIAN, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary, and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

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The Best Rentals in Town

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*Available Now*
Israel focuses its energy on clean technologies

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — After a successful run of high-tech and computer-related innovation, Israel is focusing its ambitions on the next big thing — preparing the world for life without coal and oil.

Israel is driving to become a world leader in alternative energy, with the government throwing its support behind cutting-edge technologies. The number of private entrepreneurs entering the so-called ‘clean-tech’ sector has swelled dramatically.

Already, a number of firms are moving to roll out new ideas. Perhaps the country’s best known clean-tech company — Project Better Place — aims next year to activate a network of charging stations for electric cars across Israel, which would be one of the most extensive such grids in the world.

Others are still in early stages. On a 10-meter (yard) stretch of a north Israeli highway, the firm Innowatt, which emerged from the CLIC Wing Fund, has installed underground hydrogen fuel cells. The project is part of Israel’s plan to create a hydrogen economy.

"If we view this as a national goal of the highest importance because the addition to oil has led to the Western world being dependent on the oil-producing countries and harms the standing and security of the state of Israel," said Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister.

"That but that may change as Israel’s clean-tech sector revs up," he said. "In the third quarter of this year investments in the sector totaled $120 million, half of all private-equity investment in Israel."

Israel was among the leaders in clean-tech in 2006, and since then has passed 10 percent of its electricity generated from alternative means.

"As an Israeli-based operation Siemens AG’s Solaris Solis, is helping build the Mojave Solar Park, a 6,000-acre power-producing complex in California expected to go online next year," the government said.

Israel has established the International Renewable Energy Agency, a world body to develop and support the use of large-scale renewable energy sources.

"Israel is now at a level of development that cannot be ignored by the world," said Benji Brafman, a country’s economic czar. "It now tops a quarter of the world’s renewable energy market."
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III. Democrats edging toward vote on tax increase

The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Illinois Democrats are edging closer to a possible vote on raising income taxes during a lame-duck session of the state Legislature.

Senate President John Cullerton said Tuesday that Democratic leaders are studying whether they can pass an income tax increase before the House. The Senate has already approved a tax hike of 2 percentage points.

House Speaker Michael Madigan is pushing two constitutional amendments that might help win support for higher taxes. One would limit in-state spending, while the other would make it harder to approve costly pension benefits for government employees.

Democrats are also pursuing deals on Medicaid costs, school reform and workers' compensation.

Together, the measures could be used to argue Democrats are serious about handling tax money more responsibly if an increase is approved.

Chicago mayoral candidates want a new police chief

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — No matter which of the four top candidates running for mayor in Chicago is elected, there will be a new police superintendent.

On Tuesday, Rahm Emanuel told reporters it's important if he's elected to have what he called a "fresh start" and select a new police superintendent when he's in office.

Emanuel, who is running in a March 19 primary, has been widely seen as the frontrunner. But he could be joined by at least three other candidates.

Services set for Ill. Marine killed in Afghanistan

The Associated Press

BETHALTO, Ill. (AP) — Services are scheduled Thursday for a southwest Illinois Marine killed last month during combat operations in Afghanistan.

Twenty-three-year-old Lance Cpl. Kenneth Center of Bethalto died Dec. 24 of injuries sustained 19 days earlier when a roadside bomb detonated in Afghanistan shortly after his previous deployment.

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WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. Senator is asking the Federal Trade Commission to investigate whether safety claims made by helmet companies appear to be misleading advertising claims and that "some helmet companies may be falsely selling used helmets as meeting an industry safety standard."

In his letter to the FTC’s Lebowitz, Udall says he is "troubled by misleading marketing claims by Riddell, which supplies the official helmet to the National Football League.” He quotes Riddell’s website as saying that their product shows a 31 percent reduction in the risk of concussions in players wearing a Riddell Revolution football helmet compared to traditional helmets.

Udall adds: "Yet there is actually very little scientific evidence to support this claim.

In the letter — which was first reported by The New York Times — Udall also refers to what he terms "misleading safety claims used in online video advertisements for helmets." He specifically cites Riddell and Schutt Sports.

"After reviewing Senator Udall’s letter but declined comment.

In November, Udall asked the Consumer Product Safety Commission to investigate whether safety standards for football helmets are adequate to protect players from concussions. Udall serves on the Senate Commerce Committee, which oversees the CPSC.

Udall’s letter to the FTC’s Lebowitz says the "Innovation standard for football helmets does not specifically address the concussions or reduction that standard is set by the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE), a nonprofit corporation.

Helmet used in NFL, NCAA and high school football are supposed to pass a test developed by NOCSAE. The group’s website says it establishes "voluntary test standards" that "manufacturers test their own helmets", and that "NOCSAE does not possess a surveillance force to ensure compliance with the standards."

Udall also wants the FTC to "look into potential false and deceptive practices related to the certification of helmets.

He writes "NOCSAE to the National Athletic Equipment Recertification Association (NAERA) does not conduct market surveillance or follow up testing of helmets to ensure compliance with their certifications.

Moreover, there are no standards for how often used helmets must be recertified. Such potentially dangerous used helmets are commonly worn by players at all levels of football.”

Anthony Kim wants to be about golf, not gossip

DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — Anthony Kim said last week that he was working on his game in 2011 to improve his ranking. He’s working on his game in 2012, too.

Kim is still working on the course these days, so it’s easy to overlook as amazing talent that brought him a PGA Championship title as a 25-year-old rookie in 1999 and a British Open victory at St. Andrews. Kim found it coincidental that after headlines he made in Las Vegas in October, Daly was the only player to reach out to him in a text message.

"Both have majors," Kim said. "I think I’m closer to Tiger because I love putting to the time. I’ve given away from this. But I definitely feel like I’m closer as far as the values of the Asian culture and putting in time, not worrying about tough times. In a lot of ways, I think people see me as a guy who likes to have fun, and that’s it. But I care about a lot of things.”

Kim is careful not to be motivated for the wrong reason.

He’s trimmed the number of his traveling party and has hard from enough people whom he trusts that playing with the purpose of proving players wrong isn’t worth it. He feels as than fame, the media and players are questioning his devotion to his sport."

"I have a lot of people doubting me, which I like," he said. "When asked why they没啥's skilful of his future, Kim first mentioned the arrival of so many players in his group. Indeed, that’s what makes golf more intriguing than it has been in years. Martin Kaymer, who just turned 26, last year’s youngest player in the field. Jason Day won in Dallas, and is the youngest player at Kapalua. Slightly older than Kim, and still a professional, is the keen of Dustin Johnson and Hunter Mahan.

"It’s a lot of guys played well who are younger, and they’re lookin a lot. But I’m not that have nothing to say. I know I’m capable of winning. But then it’s a lot less than the youth movement picking Kim."

When asked whether he was troubled about players doubting him because of his activity off the course, Kim’s eyes widened and he turned in his chair away from the Orange Bowl game on television.

"One hundred percent. Couldn’t have said it any better,” he said. "I feel that is a major reason why people don’t. They don’t know him. They don’t know his career. They don’t know people who don’t know me to say, ‘He’s 25, having a good time with his friends.’ If anyone knows me, they know I’m willing to admit my mistakes. But when I do something, I want to be the best at it. I’m going to scratch and claw my way up the ladder. People around me see that.”

Kim doesn’t see the need to explain what happened in Las Vegas. If there was a reason that came out of that, it’s understanding that it’s better to be the center of attention than be under the radar through a near miss.”
Salukis shake up categories for nationals

When it all comes down to it you can only control the things that you do, I can't do anything about my competitors (but) I can try and prepare for my competitors.

— Rick Walker
SIU swim coach

Swim teams get back to work during break

The Saluki swim teams plan to use Friday's meet against the Washington University Bears and Lindenwood University Lions in St. Louis as a practice meet, says sophomore distance swimmer Kirsten Groome.

Swim coach Rick Walker said he plans to use the two weeks before classes to whip his swimmers and divers back into shape. Every swimmer will be busy this week with SIU's competition sure after the teams prepare for conference competition later this month, he said.

Friday's meet is the team's first after a long rest and takes place in the middle of their training camp. If the Salukis perform well, it will show the potential they have when rested, Groome said.

Junior backstroker and individual medley swimmer Cesar Perez said Walker and coachers Scott Olson and Chauhua Zhao urged everyone to stay active during break by lifting weights three times a week and swimming daily.

"I think the most important part of the year is when we don't have to worry about school or anything else but swimming and resting," Perez said.

Junior freestyle swimmer Matt Persson said the coaches have designed the first two weeks of practice in January to get everyone back in shape fast.

"The Salukis will practice twice a day, at 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. in preparation for the spring season," Walker said.

"Historically, any meet that falls within the first 10 or 12 days after Jan. 1 is anybody's (meet)," he said.

Walker said the Salukis want to win Friday, but it doesn't matter if the team loses to Washington and Lindwood because it's more focused on being ready for conference meets.

"We don't really have very high expectations at the time but I know that we should win this meet still," Perez said. "It's going to be a test of how tough we can swim, how much we can tolerate and how tired we are trying to swim well!"

The Saluki men's swim team is currently ranked eighth in the nation among mid-major programs and is the highest-ranked team in the Mid-American Conference.

"People said the men's team has a chance to end Eastern Michigan's reign as MAC champions. There will be pressure on the Salukis to perform well, but more pressure will be on the Eagles because they are the defending MAC champions," Parsons said.

"When it all comes down to it you can only control the things that you do," Walker said. "I can't do anything about my competitors (but) I can try and prepare for my competitors."

Groome and Perez said the team will not focus as much on achieving certain times Friday as it will on improving form and technique.

The meet is set to begin 6 p.m. Friday in St. Louis.

Brandon Coleman can be reached at bcoleman@dailyequiptan.com or 536-3311 ext. 259.