**State**

Gov. Quinn passes out raises to staff  

**Sports**

Stadium provides perks for more than just players

**Voices**

Our Word: Administration, exercise caution with loans

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**Moccia: We will search for donors until the end of time**

RYAN VOYLES

Daily Egyptian

The new football stadium will be named Saluki Stadium this Thursday, but the athletic department will look to change it as soon as possible.

Despite months of looking for donors, no one has appeared as a viable option to buy naming rights, said Athletic Director Mario Moccia. He said it was important to have a name in place before the home opener Sept. 2.

"It was becoming apparent that (someone purchasing the naming rights) was not going to happen in time for the first game," Moccia said. "We decided to start looking for a placeholder name," and we kicked it around internally, talked to a lot of people on campus and it seemed like Saluki Stadium was a clear name. It is where you were at and it will also be able to be interchanged without any hard feelings if we get any donors." 

A donation of at least $10 million is required to be considered for naming rights of the entire stadium, according to the Saluki Way website. However, Moccia said the number is not set in stone.

"There's a specific formula that the university and Board of Trustees has,” he said. “Now there is flexibility in that number — the corporation may want this, that, so it's a lively and breathing thing and we're just going to give the name in the stadium and that is it." 

Moccia said his $10 million for naming rights would go toward the overall money raised for the project, which is why it is so important to find a sponsor. He said the department would continue to look for a donor "until the end of time.

"We will not stop looking for a donor; we've got our list and we are certainly going to ask methodically," Moccia said. "We will exhaust every individual we have on our radar before we say hey, this is just going to be called Saluki Stadium." 

Saluki Way is the master overview on the east side of campus. The first phase carries a price tag of $43 million with $20 million coming from a tax imposed by the city of Carbondale, $41.5 million coming from student fees and the remaining $21.5 million coming through private donations. The 15,000-seat, $25.5 million stadium is part of the first phase of construction.

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**Program looks to further prepare new students**

LAUREN LEONE

Daily Egyptian

One jam-packed weekend event in August will aim to transform high school students into Salukis.

Coordinators of Saluki Start Up, a new program at SIUC, have planned the program's first extended orientation for new students this fall. The program is an opportunity to revisit some of the information mentioned to Student Orientation and Achievement earlier in the year, said Engel, director of New Student Programs.

"We go into SOAR, knowing these kids are quite a bit older than most," she said. "The parents are in, but students aren't quite there yet." 

Royal said students should begin to show interest in SIUC by mid-August.

"We hope students will begin to think 'I'm not going to be a high school student at a community college," Royal said. "It's a kick start to get them in the college zone."

An extended orientation is something new. Students' Programs has wanted to do for quite some time, but have been very limited in resources.

Royal said: "We've said to multiple departments, such as Saluki First Year New Student Programs, University Housing and University Programming have pooled resources together to make this happen." 

"When we look at our budgets independently, we really can't do a lot," Royal said.

Don Castle, assistant director for University Programming, has plans for Drop Night Out, scheduled for Aug. 20 in the Student Center.

"We'll have a coffee house artist, caricature artist, game shows with cash prizes, laser tag games — all of which is free," Castle said. "Playstation and XBOX would also be set up for students to play video games. It's about having fun with your friends."

The departments behind the funding are doing what they can to keep students fees down, Royal said.

"Everything we do for new students and families comes out of the fees they pay for SOAR, and we don't want to continue to raise that fee," she said.

Royal said events for the weekend are still in the finalization stage but she has a blueprint for what each day holds for students.

Students will move into housing Aug. 18, while a pep rally is scheduled for Aug. 19 with plans to have Marching Salukis, cheerleaders, and the football and volleyball teams in attendance, she said.

"It will be a tailgate party too," she said. "Students will get a chance meet administrators and faculty and people who care about them," she said. Aug. 20 begins with a make-up SOAR for students who missed the ones held earlier in the year. "College Monster Advantage" will be hosted by Monster, a global organization that helps people create resumes and seek jobs. Representatives of the company will stress the importance of academic success and building leadership skills to students while they are in college, Royal said. She said Student Life Advisors would also give students a tour of their colleges and help figure out class schedules.

The day does not end until midnight when students can relax and socialize at Drop Night Out. Saluki Start Up and the Week of Welcome would conclude Aug. 22.

"Meet Me On Main," organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Carbondale Main Street businesses, is scheduled for Aug. 24. At the event, upperclassmen will lead a series of guided tours of downtown Carbondale for incoming students unfamiliar with Carbondale.

There will also be games with cash-winning prizes or gift certificates to local restaurants, entertainment and retail stores, said Meghan Cole, executive director for Carbondale Main Street.

Cole said it is important to show students the city of Carbondale, not just the university campus.

Royal said Saluki Start Up's goal is to get students to think about what their life will be like once they arrive on campus.

Lauren Leone can be reached at lione@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 255.
The Weather Channel® 5 day weather forecast for Carbondale, Ill.

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- 92° High
- 57° Low
- 30% Chance of Precipitation

Thursday
- 89° High
- 52° Low
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Friday
- 80° High
- 68° Low
- 30% Chance of Precipitation

Saturday
- 85° High
- 66° Low
- 0% Chance of Precipitation

Sunday
- 86° High
- 64° Low
- 30% Chance of Precipitation

About Us
The DAILY EGYPTIAN is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale 10 weeks per year, with an average daily circulation of 20,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Friday. Summer editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intersemest editions will run on Wednesdays. Breaking and Breakingeditorial stories are distributed on Mondays of the pertaining week. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale, Murphysboro and Carterville communities. The DAILY EGYPTIAN online publication can be found at www.dailyEgyptian.com.

Mission Statement
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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Publishing Information
The DAILY EGYPTIAN is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Offices are in the Communications Building, Room 1209, at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, IL 62901. Bill Prevedel, fiscal officer.

Upcoming Calendar Events
Sonya Miller "Memoirs of the Red" • Charity benefit and silent art auction benefit for the Marine Mammal Conservancy • All are invited • Closing reception: 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. July 10 • Additional Gallery hours are 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. July 8 and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. July 9 • The Douglas Art Place, 900 Douglas Street, Murphysboro • For more information, call 618-364-2770.

Correction
In the Tuesday edition of the DAILY EGYPTIAN, the story "Lions Club's" contributions explode July 4", should have stated "Eills Mitchell, member of the civic organization, stilled the initial firework show for the city in 1990, with permission from Dylith Morris, former university president who took SIU from a teachers' college to a major university." The DAILY EGYPTIAN regrets this error.

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Ireland

Ireland
Officials from Garden of the Gods forest have upkept the 3,300 acres of forest well for future campers and hikers with technician and volunteer cleaning services.

Ruth Lamb, a senior from Chicago studying psychology, and southern Illinois hiking grounds became one of the best summers yet.

"The forest is well kept which makes it a very beautiful place to be and interact with nature compared to other places I have been in the Midwest," she said. "This here has changed my summer experience for the better."

Jim Smith, recreation technician for Shawnee National Forest, said hikers and hiking traffic increase during the summer and fall, which increase the need for volunteers and cleaning technicians for the campgrounds.

After considerable observation, Smith said he altered the sanitation structure of the forest from excessive trash cans to importing a few dumpster sites. Cleaning technicians oversee the restroom and public ground cleanings by physically picking up trash along observation trails and public sites.

"Our new system increases sanitation, eases the physical task of our staff and increases the safety of campers from wildlife threatening their campsites due to excessive lingering waste in trashcans," Smith said.

As an incentive for people to gain a better camping experience, campers are advised to collect their trash and dispose it in dumpster locations throughout the campgrounds, said Smith.

Other means of sanitation support have kept the Garden of the Gods in a delactive state.

National grassroots environmental organizations such as the Friends of Shawnee and the Illinois Chapter of The Nature of America, a non-profit organization, provide invaluable service to the forest, said Lucky Russ, public affairs spokesperson for the national forest.

"We offer several volunteer service programs to the public and local and national organizations to sustain the structures of our paths and cleanliness of our campsite," Russ said.

"Without these organizations, our resources would suffer damage," last year, the national forest offered more than 14,000 hours of volunteer service to the public, she said.

Trash Bash, an annual sanitation event, is held every October by the national forest to encourage organizations and others to help preserve the land.

"One of the best things about this park is (for cleanliness) and the scenery," said Micah Sheary, a Carbondale resident. "They do a great job of maintaining here."

Michara Canty can be reached at mcanty@dailyeagoin.com or 618-536-3311 ext. 263.
Borrow with caution

The decisions made by SIU President Glenn Poshard and his team of administrators in the next several weeks could determine the future of the institution for the next seven years or more.

The state Legislature handed the university a blank check when it gave the Board of Trustees the power to borrow up to 75 percent of outstanding state payments. And with the amount of money the state still owes the university, there are a whole bunch of digits administrators can tack on to an open check.

So the $82 million question has become what path will the university go down now that it has reached this financial fork in the road?

We know there will be sacrifices no matter what decision is made, but we believe it is best to fight through the lack of money by borrowing as little as possible to avoid potentially passing costs to future students, even if it means students suffer a little more now.

There will not be much time to ponder the university's direction. The ability to borrow to make up for the roughly $82 million the state owes the university will expire Aug. 31, putting Poshard and his colleagues under pressure to decide quickly.

Poshard can decide to borrow tens of millions of dollars now so the university can operate efficiently in a time of legislative gridlock and financial woes, but that would mean more pain for students in the following years. Although the loan is supposed to be short-term and repaid once the state hands over the money it owes, the reality is there is a chance SIU will never see its full 2010 appropriations.

If the state is unable to pay what it owes for 2010 — or even 2011 appropriations — students could have to cover the cost of a loan plus interest through tuition, fees or other increases.

The other option is to borrow as little as possible, if at all, and suffer through more cuts now. Chancellor Rita Cheng has already asked deans of each college to make a 4 percent cut in their budgets by the end of July — a difficult task considering deans just sliced budget lines in the spring semester.

Poshard has also said he wants to borrow as little as possible and treat the temporary authority as a safety net. If the university continues to tighten its wallet it could mean colleges will be restructured, departing professors won't be replaced and programs will offer less than before — but it would also mean less financial hardships on future students.

The path the university chooses will become clearer in the next seven weeks, but that may not be long enough time for the pieces Poshard wants to see fall in place to come together. Poshard said if the Monetary Award Program can receive full funding and the Legislature passes a bill that would create potential savings in the state budget through the way it pays for future pensions, SIU could receive all of its outstanding payments by the end of October.

Should neither of those two happen by Aug. 31, Poshard may not be able to afford to gamble that it will happen at a later date and need to borrow.

The university received its cake when the state gave it borrowing authority and it looks like now it might have to eat it too.

We just ask that administrators shave off the excess frosting and take a small bite.
Complete the grid in each row, columns and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudokus.org.uk.
DAILY EGYPTIAN FEATURE: DAYS OF SPILLWAY

Melody Sepikis and her daughter, Jedia, of Lemont, try to avoid the water at the six-year-old Spillway. Scooby shakes off himself to avoid getting wet in Murphysboro. "We always come down here," says Sepikis. "It's a yearly thing, we visit Giant City, the Spillway, the peach orchard, Tres Hombres and the wineries when we come!" Though temperatures have been in the 90s the past few days, Carbondale is expected to reach a high of 80 degrees Friday, according to www.weather.com.

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Hard times for Illinois, but not for Gov. Quinn's staff

JOHN O'CONNOR
The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn has handed out raises — some of more than 20 percent — to his staff while proclaiming a message of "shared sacrifice" and planning spending cuts of $1.4 billion because the state is awash in debt.

The Democrat has given 43 salary increases averaging 21.4 percent to 35 staffers in the past 15 months, according to an Associated Press analysis of records obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

They include a $24,000-a-year bump for the man promoted to shepherd the state through the fiscal storms. Budget Director David Rey, who got a 20 percent raise to $186,000 in Quinn's office when he moved to his new position from Quinn's staff, where he was a special aide, said Thursday the raises didn't prevent him from making deep spending cuts in his office.

"Overall, the amount of money spent by taxpayers on the governor's office is significantly lower today than it was when I took office," he said at a Chicago news conference planned for him to sign legislation to speed up the processing of evidence in rape cases.

Quinn said he'll cut spending in the office by 25 percent since he took over 17 months ago. But his staff and spending was 21.4 percent in the budget year that just ended, with plans for another 25 percent reduction this year. They did not specify what had been cut.

Lawmakers, whom Quinn has asked to raise income taxes and borrow billions to meet its obligations for employee pensions reacted with skepticism and anger.

"It's insulting," said Rep. Jack Franks, a Woodstock Democrat who voted "no" on Quinn's proposal to borrow $3.7 billion for the pension payment that the House OK'd but Senate has not.

"It shows how out of touch he is with the real world, where businesses are freezing salaries and in some cases laying people off," Franks said.

Half of the raises are the result of promotion or a change in job title, Quinn spokesman Matt Jentsz said.

But others were reported as "salary adjustments," such as a 10.4 percent bump in January for deputy budget director Gladys Taylor, to $110,000, and a 7 percent bump in May to $90,000 to bring associate budget director Malcolm Wern's pay to $92,000.

They were based on "re-evaluating work output, additional duties and overall performance," Jentsz said.

Voters now make $110,000 after he was promoted in January to deputy director and chief of staff with a 19 percent raise.

Sen. Bill Brady, R-Bloomington, Quinn's opponent in the full election, said the raises show Quinn has a different set of rules for the powerful insider crowd. "While working families are tightening their belts and doing more with less, Pat Quinn is doling out massive pay raises to his own staff — and we're paying for them," Brady said in a statement.

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The Associated Press

BOB CHRISTIE

Phoenix – The federal government took momentous step into the immigration debate Tuesday when it filed a lawsuit seeking to throw out Arizona’s crackdown on illegal immigrants, saying the law blatantly violates the Constitution.

The lawsuit filed in federal court in Phoenix sets the stage for a high-stakes legal clash over states rights at a time when politicians across the country have indicated they want to follow Arizona’s lead on the toughest-in-the-nation immigration law.

The legal action represents a thorough denunciation by the government of Arizona’s action, declaring that the law “will cause the detention and harassment of unauthorized visitors, immigrants and citizens who do not have or cannot identify documents” while altogether ignoring “humanitarian concerns” and harming diplomatic relations.

Supporters of the law say the suit was an unnecessary action by the federal government after years of neglecting problems at the border. Republican Gov. Jan Brewer called the lawsuit “a terribly bad decision” and defended the law as “reasonable and constitutional.”

Arizona passed the law after years of frustration over problems associated with illegal immigration, including drug trafficking, kidnappings and murders. The law opens the biggest gateway into the U.S. for illegal immigrants, and is home to an estimated 460,000 illegal immigrants.

The law requires officers, while enforcing other laws, to question a person’s immigration status if there’s a reasonable suspicion that they are in the country illegally. The law also makes it a state crime for legal immigrants not to carry their immigration documents and bars day laborers and people walking in public streets from blocking traffic on streets.

Other states have said they want to take similar action — a scenario the government Resist as a reason for bringing the lawsuit.

“The Constitution and the federal immigration laws do not permit the development of a patchwork of state and local immigration policies throughout the country,” the suit says.

The heart of the legal arguments focus on the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution, a theory that says federal laws override state laws. The lawsuit says there are comprehensive federal laws on the books that cover illegal immigration and that those statutes take precedent.

“In our constitutional system, the federal government has pre-empted the field regulating immigration matters,” the lawsuit says. “This authority derives from the United States Constitution and numerous acts of Congress. The nation’s immigration laws reflect a careful and considered balance of national law enforcement, foreign relations, and humanitarian interests.”

The lawsuit also says that the Arizona measure would impose a heavy burden on U.S. agencies in charge of enforcing immigration laws, diverting resources and attention from the dangerous aliens who the federal government targets as its top enforcement priority.

The government is seeking an injunction to delay the July 29 implementation of the law until the case is decided or Arizona ultimately loses the lawsuit.

Brewer predicted that the law would survive federal challenges as well as send pending suits previously filed by private groups and individuals.

“As a direct result of failed and inconsistent federal enforcement, Arizona is under attack from violent illegal immigrants and drug traffickers,” Brewer said. “We have nothing more than a massive waste of taxpayer funds.”

State Sen. Russell Pearce, the principal sponsor of the bill, said the lawsuit has derailed the federal policy argument on immigration and that the Arizona law will be upheld.

The lawsuit is sure to have legal and political ramifications beyond Arizona as the courts weigh in balancing power between the states and the federal government and politicians involve in the immigration law in this crucial election year.

Reflecting the political delicacy of the issue, three Democratic members of Congress in Arizona asked the Obama administration not to bring the suit in a year or two during election season.

On the Republican side, Sen. John McCain is locked into a tough primary fight to have his winning GOP challenger take him to task for his earlier promotion of comprehensive immigration reform, which he has since abandoned in favor of a message to “Complete the dang fence.”

The case stands heavily on the legal argument called pre-emption — an issue that has been around since the founding fathers declared that the states shall be the “supreme Law of the land.”

The Obama administration’s reliance on the pre-emption argument in the Arizona case marks the latest chapter in its use of this legal tool.

Within months of taking office, the Obama White House directed departments to undertake pre-emption of state law only with full consideration of the legitimate pre-emptive power of the states.

The 2009 directive was aimed at reversing Bush administration policy which had aggressively employed pre-emption in an effort to undermine laws of the states on health, safety and environmental laws.

“The case strikes me as incredibly important because it’s going to determine,” Bush administration’s former immigration commissioner, said University of Michigan constitutional law professor Julian David Mortenson. “If the courts are going to take a look at how the Arizona law conflicts with congressional objectives at the federal level.”

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**Government files suit to throw out Arizona immigration law**

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**World & Nation**

**LOUISIANA**

Two months into the crisis, oil seeps into Lake Pontchartrain, worrying fishermen.

**NEW ORLEANS** — For the second time in six months, the oil that began spiking into Lake Pontchartrain, threatening another environmental disaster for the huge body of water that saw the devastating effects of the 2010 BP oil spill now is under the spotlight once more, a fouled fishing ground and a popular spot for boating and swimming.

**NEW YORK** — The government said Tuesday it planned to appeal the decision of a federal judge in New York, which threw out an environmental lawsuit against the Russian spy accused of passing classified information to the United States in the 1970s.

**Newspaper Announcement**

An announcement is made from the U.S. Attorney's Office that no days after the trial was set to take place the day that was announced.

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Tom Heisserer, of Scott City, Mo., clamps a supporting ceiling beam as he hangs portions of ceiling Tuesday at Saluki Stadium. SIU will host Quincy Sept. 2 to kick off the inaugural season of the stadium.

James Horeman, an electrician from Raleigh with Clinton Electrical, installs the final light fixture in one of the 12 suites Tuesday at Saluki Stadium. The stadium will include 12 suites, an amenity not previously offered at McAndrew Stadium.

The SIU Board of Trustees will vote on the Saluki Stadium name Thursday, but SIUC Chancellor Rila Cheng said she did not foresee any problems for the name.

She said it was obvious the stadium needed to have some name coming into the season, regardless of sponsors.

"It was important to get something on the stadium, even if it was a placeholder," Cheng said. "The athletic department had some good rationale with this name. Everybody knows that it is a placeholder that can be changed when needed.

Moccia said the amount of money and the economy were the culprits in the stadium naming discussions. Despite that, he said there was disappointment going into the opening of the stadium without a name, but said he hopes fan reaction to the stadium raises interest from donors.

"We have a lot of goals. We wanted to raise $1 million; we wanted to have everything named," Moccia said. "I would have loved to have the stadium open with a new name on it, but I think getting it to where it is well received by the students and the fans — it'll make our case for selling naming rights stronger. It gives us a stronger case if it is well received as we think it's going to be.

Cheng said although Saluki Stadium will be a placeholder, the stadium name will remain.

"We do need to have a name, so why not one with a Saluki in it?"

Ryan Voyles can be reached at rvoyles@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 254.

"It is incumbent upon us to look and see if there is any of those types of ancillary money-making events that might be out there," Moccia said.

He said football and basketball players would also receive new locker rooms. Moccia said the locker rooms for the men's and women's basketball teams will contain three parts: a video classroom, team lounge and an actual locker room.

Moccia said the most important part about Saluki Stadium is it allows the program to remain competitive. He said the stadium is a huge investment in the future of Saluki athletics.

"I am confident that in the future, no matter who is the coach or what the situation is, this facility is always going to give us the opportunity to compete for top-notch athletes," Moccia said. "Facilities are something that is a huge draw for prospective student-athletes."

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Forestry Club chops down competition

BRANDON LACHANCE  Daily Egyptian

Saluki fans in search for an SIU dynasty have to look no further than the woods.

The Forestry Club has won the annual SIU TIMBERSPORTS Midwest Collegiate Challenge for 18 consecutive years and will start to take steps towards a 19th in May when it sends last year's winner to a national competition in August.

Last year's team captain Mike Dirks, who graduated in May with a degree in forestry, said the entire team competes for the trophy, but only one person can represent the school on ESPN at the individual portion of the Midwest Collegiate Challenge.

Dirks selected Kory Garrie to last year's championship where he came away victorious. Dirks said it was his responsibility as team captain to pick Garrie because of his work ethic.

"Winning a championship for 18 years is serious," Dirks said. "No one wants to be involved in losing. Kory's dedication towards the event made it an easy decision."

Garrie, a senior from Byron studying forestry, won the competition last September after he competed in four events including the single buck, standing block chop, deck saw and underwater chop.

He will compete in this year's competition, but not before a warm-up national event in August.

Garrie said he hopes to improve his times at the event and start to get in to top form for the collegiate level.

"I'm big underdog, but everyone loves the underdog," Garrie said. "I'm improving my time, not quite where I want to be, but I can see myself in the top-three."

Netherlands into World Cup final, 3-2 over Uruguay

BARRY WILNER  Daily Egyptian

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Arjen Robben emerged from the bottom of an Orange mash pit, mud on his brow and a smile on his face. For good measure, he threw kisses at his teammates and fans.

His goal gave the Netherlands a 3-2 victory over Uruguay and a spot in the World Cup final.

"That's when the Dutch play," former Spain and Germany for the championship of the world.

"If you win the final, you make yourself immortal, at least in our country," Robben said. "We will do everything we can to take the Cup back."

Long wasteful with its soccer talent, the Netherlands sure has found the right touch in this tournament.

Stars Wesley Sneijder and Robben scored three minutes apart in the second half as the Netherlands advanced to its first title match since losing in 1978 to Argentina.

"We are so close," Sneijder said. "There is nothing bigger than the World Cup."
**Saluki Way**

**Saluki Stadium sees suite improvements**

**RYAN SIMONIN**  
Daily Egyptian

As Saluki fans pile into Saluki Stadium on Sept. 2 for the season opener, there will be more to experience than football.

Chet Savage, associate athletic director of external operations, said Saluki Stadium will offer fans more amenities to set it apart from McAndrew Stadium.

"It is going to be a new experience for the fans," Savage said. "All the new upgrades will be a noticeable difference when they come into the stadium."

Savage said Saluki Stadium will have 12 suites — a feature McAndrew Stadium never had. He said there are three suites still available for next season.

Savage said Saluki Stadium would be equipped with a total of nine concession stands compared to McAndrew Stadium’s four stands.

"These stores are going to look a lot more professional and it will be significantly more bathroom stalls than the old stadium," he said. "He said there would also be a patio where people could sit and enjoy their concession food."

King said fans at the games will be able to buy game merchandise at an actual store instead of the makeshift setup that was in the old stadium. He said the SIU Arena and Saluki Stadium would each have a store.

"These stores are going to look a lot more professional and it will be convenient for the fans to know where they are," King said.

Athletic Director Mario Moccia said parking would be a noticeable improvement. He said the parking lots south of the arena would now be useful for the fans going to the football games, which were far from McAndrew Stadium.

Moccia said the new facilities will also bolster the community.

"Once people get a taste of it or we get closer to the season and the stadium takes a little more shape, I think that is going to spike people’s interest level," Moccia said. "If we can get close to a sell-out crowd every game, then that is a significant amount of people (who) are coming to town and spending some dollars in the community."

He said Saluki Stadium also provides an opportunity to host other events such as concerts or high school football playoff games.

Please see SALUKI WAY • 10

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**Women's Basketball**

**with: Brooke LeMar**

**BRANDON LACHANCE**  
Daily Egyptian

Brooke LeMar is new to Saluki women’s basketball team, but she is no stranger to the basketball court.

The freshman guard was a nominee for the 2010 McDonald’s All-America High School Game, a two-time All-Santa Clarita Valley All-Area first team representative and a two-time Most Valuable Player at Canyon High School in Canyon Country, Calif.

The DAILY EGYPTIAN caught up with LeMar to discuss her decision to play for the Salukis and why she favors the Clippers over the Lakers.

DE: Why did you choose SIU?
BL: The coaching staff, new facilities and the fact that we could start to build a new program.

DE: When did you first start playing basketball?
BL: I was 10 and in the fourth grade. I played in a (recreational) league and have been playing ever since.

DE: What were your first impressions of the women's basketball program at SIU?
BL: I didn’t really know what to expect, but I really like it here.

DE: What is your favorite sport to watch?
BL: The NBA, the Clippers are my favorite team.

DE: Why the Clippers?
BL: Because that's my dad's favorite team and I'm from the Los Angeles area.

DE: Are there any basketball players you consider an idol and try to imitate their style of play?
BL: Yeah, I used to have a poster of Sue Bird in my room. I still watch her.

DE: In your free time do you play any sports besides basketball?
BL: No, just basketball. I never really tried any other sports.

DE: What is your favorite TV show?
BL: I don't really watch TV, but I'd have to say Real World and ESPN: that's all I watch.

DE: Has LeBron James been offered a contract by SIU?
BL: What? ... No.

DE: Where do you think LeBron will sign?
BL: Hopefully Chicago, then I can take the train to catch a game. I think he would play well with Derrick Rose.

DE: Since you are a NBA fan let's make a very easy prediction, what two teams do you predict will be in the 2010-11 NBA Finals?
BL: I think LeBron will make it to the finals against the New York Knicks. They're going to be good next year since they got Amare Stoudemire. I'll go with LeBron vs. the Knicks since I'm not a Lakers fan.

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