Gas prices ripple through region

Shane Harris, of Carterville, fills up Monday at the BP gas station on East Main Street. Carbondale residents as well as the university have been finding new methods to battle high gas prices.

Cutbacks prevail with students, tourism

The national average for gas prices rose to a record $4.08 per gallon Monday as the increasing trend to hike up with rising crude oil costs continued.

Olgo said the price increases have affected his financial situation drastically as a college student.

“Most students budget what they need and anything higher than (that) will cause them to run into financial problems,” Olgo said.

Students and other residents are not the only ones digging deep in their pockets to afford to travel. Local businesses are beginning to see the consequences as well.

Betsy Rosenburg, co-owner of Crab Orchard Camp Grounds in Carbondale, said the rise in gas prices has led to a decline in the number of patrons at the usually popular site.

See CUTBACKS, Page 2

Hard-hit companies struggle to offset fuel burden

For cash-strapped consumers already struggling to fuel up their vehicles, price increases for other products have become an unwelcome burden.

Carbondale resident Raymond Davis, 25, said the prices have become too much as he awaits the arrival of his fourth child.

“This is taking away food from my kid’s table,” Davis said. “I spend more money in gas than anything.”

Davis said he has noticed increases in the price of food, which he attributed primarily to the rising fuel costs.

Companies and cities across the nation are struggling with escalating prices, and many have taken measures to offset their own increased costs.

Local shipping industries, such as L&D Trucking Co. in Carbondale, have raised their shipping rates to combat the prices they must pay at the pump. Most deliver dry goods to retailers as well as rubber and oil. L&D supervisor Greg Sanders said the company was forced to raise its rates from $1.40 per mile to more than $2 in the last two years.

L&D operates with 14 trucks that deliver in southern Illinois and also ship to Texas, Louisiana and Ohio.

Sanders said the problem continues as prices at the pump escalate.

“At first we weren’t doing too bad, but it keeps getting worse,” Sanders said.

Sanders and his company are working on several strategies to combat costly fuel. He is constantly on the phone trying to negotiate better deals with his fuel providers and retailers, he said.

Along with extra negotiating, Sanders said he is tightening his company’s purse strings. His drivers were once allowed to take their trucks to and from work, but they are now required to provide their own transportation.

The companies L&D ships for will help bare the weight of increased fuel prices by paying a fuel surcharge. This is an additional fee determined by the federal government that certain producers pay to help the shipping industry.

One such company is RDP Inc., located in Eldorado. President Dale Kjensrud said the recent increase has had a substantial impact on his business.

The fuel surcharge to ship his company’s rubber has increased by approximately 30 percent from last year. In just the first five months of 2008, Kjensrud estimates his company has spent an extra $75,000 in fuel surcharges.

The city of Carbondale also has to contend with the increase. While the city came in $8,000 under its fuel budget for the last fiscal year, city officials have increased the current budget by approximately 18.5 percent, or about $347,000.

See PRICING, Page 2

Wendler to lead School of Architecture

When he came to Carbondale, former Chancellor Walter Wendler never thought the university would make him so concerned with fashion. But several years and one plagiarism scandal later, Wendler is ready to take the helm of the School of Architecture, interior design, and fashion design and merchandising programs.

Though Wendler, a registered architect, said he is not very familiar with the latter program, he hopes to learn more and help the three disciplines unite for a stronger curriculum.

“I think there’s something to find out about (fashion and merchandising), I just don’t know what they are yet,” Wendler said. “But this is all about the journey.”

One of his biggest goals is to usher the university’s fledgling master of architecture program to accreditation, Wendler said. The program began July 1.

Students don’t have to graduate from an accredited program to become registered architects, but they soon will, Wendler said. If the university wants to attract more students, particularly those from other states, it needs to offer an accredited program, he said.

According to the National Architecture Accrediting Board’s Web site, there are 12 institutions with accredited architecture programs in Illinois and 115 in the country.

See WENDLER, Page 2
City Manager Jeff Doherty said the city employees have been using several conservation efforts to help lessen the effects of rising fuel costs.

“They are essential services we have to provide and we have to provide the fuel to run those vehicles,” Doherty said.

Parking unused vehicles and carpooling are some of the ways city employees are keeping their expenditures low. Doherty also said buying fuel in bulk helps the city from paying commercial gas prices.

When it comes to maintaining a fleet of vehicles, SIUC’s Memorial Day, said the city employees have said buying fuel in bulk helps the city from paying commercial gas prices.

During the late spring and early summer months, the camp area is normally filled with visitors from all over the country, Rosenberg said. Rosenberg blamed the scarcity of the usual crowd to the high gas prices.

“Camps have expressed concern about how slow everything is and how they’re not going to the places they used to,” Rosenberg said.

The campground is booked at least two weeks in advance for holiday weekends, but plenty of spaces remained unused this past Memorial Day, Rosenberg said. She said she worried it might be a sign for the upcoming months.

According to the American Automobile Association, the amount of people traveling on US highways for the holiday weekend was down 1 percent from last year. AAA predicts it will be the same for future holidays if prices increase during the next couple of months.

Web sites, such as http://www.gaswatchers.com, supply information that may help people save money at the pump, said Mike Right, AAA’s Vice President of Public Affairs in St. Louis. But he said it is still hard to find a way around spending more than previous summers.

When people look for alternative ways of traveling such as buses or planes, Right said, they end up spending more money in the long run.

With airlines starting to cut back on flights, they are increasing fares because of the cost to fuel the planes. Therefore, when people think they are saving from paying a lot to travel by car, it is costing them more for the plane ticket these days, Right said.

Jenn Lofton said a committee from NAAB visited in the university in February and offered suggestions to improve the processes for their next visit, which should occur sometime in the next two years.

Jane Workers program director of fashion design and merchandising, chaired the search committee for the director position. She said Workers was chosen from 10 candidates, two of which she was finalist.

“She’s a wonderful teacher and I anticipate (stu- dents) will be very pleased,” Workers said.

Period Board of Trustees appoint- ed, Workers is scheduled to become direc- tor July 1 — exactly seven years after the day he became the university’s chancellor. SIU President Glenn Poshard demoted him to professor of architecture in 2006, citing poor commu- nication, different leadership styles and low enrollment. The move came shortly after he was accused of copying Southern at 150 — a plan he created to make SIUC a major research institution by 2019 — from Texas A&M’s Vision 2020 plan, with which he had worked at the University.

Workers said he would have never predicted he would wind up where he is, but he’s happy with the position just the same.

“There’s no more energy right now in the place,” he said. “It’s very interest- ing to be a part of it.”
Chimps calm each other with hugs, kisses like us

Randolph E. Schmid
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For most folks, a nice hug and some sympathy can help a lot after we get pushed around. Turns out, chimpanzees use hugs and kisses the same way.

And it works. Researchers studying people's closest genetic relatives found that stress was reduced in chimps that were victims of aggression if a third chimp stepped in to console them.

“Consolation usually took the form of a kiss or embrace,” said Dr. Olihar N. Fraser of the Research Centre in Evolutionary Anthropology and Palaeoecology at Liverpool John Moores University in England.

“This is particularly interesting,” she said, because this behavior is rarely seen other than after a conflict.

“If a kiss was used, the consoler would press his or her open mouth against the recipient’s body, usually on the top of the head or their back. An embrace consisted of the consoler wrapping one or both arms around the recipient.”

The result was a reduction of stress behavior such as scratching or self-grooming by the victim of aggression, Fraser and colleagues report in Tuesday's edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Franco de Waal of the Yerkes Primate Center at Emory University in Atlanta said the study is important because it shows the relationship between consolation and stress reduction. Previous researchers have claimed that consolation had no effect on stress, said de Waal, who was not part of Fraser's research team.

“This study removes doubt that consolation really does what the term suggests: provide relief to distressed parties after conflict. The evidence is compelling and makes it likely that consolation behavior is an expression of empathy,” de Waal said.

De Waal suggested that this evidence of empathy in apes is “perhaps equivalent to what in human children is called ‘sympathetic concern.’”

That behavior in children includes touching and hugging of distressed family members and “is in fact identical to that of apes, and so the comparison is not far-fetched,” he said.

While chimps show this empathy, monkeys do not, he added.

There is also suggestive evidence of such behavior in large-brained birds and dogs, said Fraser, but it has not yet been shown that it reduces stress levels in those animals.

Previous research on conflict among chimps concentrated on cases where there is reconciliation between victim and aggressor, with little attention to intervention by a third party.

Fraser and colleagues studied a group of chimps at the Chester Zoo in England from January 2005 to September 2006, recording instances of aggression such as a bite, hit, rush, trample, chase or threat.

The results show that “chimpanzees calm distressed recipients of aggression by consoling them with a friendly gesture,” Fraser said.

Student Health Center gets new leadership

Allison Petty
The Daily Egyptian

The Student Health Center’s new director has a lot to do before he assumes the position in July.

Leaving his job at Ohio State University — “check”

Move into Southern Hills while looking for a Carbondale home — check

Release butterflies at his daughter’s wedding — check.

Ted Baggett, former director of disaster preparedness and health policy at OSU, was chosen to lead the SIUC’s Student Health Center in May. He hopes his role could help instigate other areas of the campus.

“I understand there have been some retention issues,” Grace said. “Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could take part in improving retention.

With a two-year-old facility that has been praised by college health professionals nationwide, the university’s health program incorporates medical, mental, dental and women’s health services. Its leader stands to earn $148,000 a year and manage more than 150 staff members.

Grace — who was the only one of the finalists with no ties to SIU — plenty of experience to work with management.

Before his current job, he spent 15 years as director of the Student Health Centre at OSU’s 40,000-student campus. He was the only candidate to work in his own private practice.

Grace said his passion for college health, which has increased more than two decades, began during his practice years in California. Then, he said, he treated a lot of elderly patients whose health was locked in steady decline.

“There just not a lot you can do (in those situations),” he said. “I began looking at ways I could get to the opposite age spectrum, the opposite end of it.”

Working with younger people gave him the opportunity to educate a wider audience who had the concern and ability to change their habits for the better, Grace said.

He said he hadn’t developed specific goals yet because he’s only visited the university once. But he does plan to be literally “hands-on,” becoming the first of the facility’s directors to treat patients.

Jake Baggett, associate director of the facility, was a finalist for the position. Baggett started as a student worker and advanced through the university’s health services during the past 24 years.

Though he disappointed he didn’t get the job, Baggett said his commitment to the program runs deep.

“When those things don’t turn out the way that you personally hope that they would, you have to treat that there’s a reason for that,” he said. “I’m very loyal to this institution and the Student Health Center.”

And Baggett had only positive words about Grace, whom he’s met on several occasions.

He said he and Grace’s strengths complement one another.

“He’s a nice fellow, very pleasant,” Baggett said. “Obviously he’s a phy- sician and he has a much more intimate knowledge of medicine than I do. He’s, being a lay administrator, I have a great deal more experience in business operations than he may have had directly, recently.”

Larry Dietz, vice chancellor for student affairs, recommended Grace for the post.

“When we can attract people from high quality places, that makes the university’s program look high quality too,” he said.

Dietz added that the university agreed to pay Grace more than it would have paid a director without health experience, citing a higher market value for directors who are also doctors.

Though he holds a vari- ety of roles in planning the futures of his eldest daughter, who got married in medical school.

Because his wife died four and a half years ago, Grace said he’s taken an aggressive role in planning for the optics of his eldest daughter, who got married in medical school.

“Not only do I go there to get her to the wedding gown has been special, because everybody look at me like, ‘What are you doing here?’” Grace said. “I want to be as present person and I’m going to follow it through, so everything from flowers to permissions to booking churches to the photographer, I’m involved with, so I hope I don’t forget anything.”

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www.siuDE.com
Some gay couples planned to rush down to their county clerk’s office Monday evening to be among the very first to say “I do” under the historic court ruling making California the second state to allow same-sex marriages.

The May 15 decision by the California Superior Court was set to take effect at 5 pm. While Mondays are not exactly a big day for weddings, at least five county clerks across the state agreed to extend their hours to issue marriage licenses to gay couples. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of couples from around the country are expected to seize the opportunity to make their unions official in the eyes of the law.

Local officials are required to issue licenses that have the words “Party A” and “Party B” where “bride” and “groom” used to be. A conservative Christian legal group asked a state appeals court to block the weddings, but the move was given little chance of success. California’s high court rejected a previous request for a postponement.

In San Francisco, where Mayor Gavin Newsom helped launch legal battles over marriage rights, hundreds of couples got ready for the rush to the altar. By Monday night, many had returned home Saturday.

More than a quarter of Paradise residents moved out over 85. Many had to be moved in buses because they don’t drive, while those who were bedridden or in wheelchairs were moved in vans or ambulances.

We are a significant number of elderly people in wheelchairs at the shelters,” Pamela Hoopers, Butte County senior authority manager, told The Sacramento Bee. “It’s very confusing, very frustrating when you have to change and care for everything you know.”

One elderly woman died after suffocating a heart attack while being evacuated.

In recent days, high temperatures, steady wind and tinder-dry vegetation contributed to wildfires around the state.

In Santa Cruz County, firefight- ers got a handle on a wildfire that has charred one square mile and burned at least 10 homes in the Bonny Doon community. An evacuation order remained in effect for some areas where fire fighters were still trying to stifle a blaze that was 75 percent contained.

The causes of all the California blazes remain under investigation.

In southern New Mexico, fire teams were trying Saturday night to keep a wildfire burning on federal and military land from destroying historic structures in Soledad Canyon including an old sanitarium.

“We’ve had no lightning. It has to be man-caused,” Bureau of Land Management Fire Management Officer Chuck Paterson said.

In southeastern Colorado, about 290 firefighters battled a wildfire that had spread over 65 square miles in and around a military training site. Aided by calming winds, the firefighters were able to get the fire 30 percent contained. Fire management team spokesperson Steve Segs said: “They’ve got a lot of work ahead of them,” Segs said.

A wildfire in the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, which straddles Virginia and North Carolina, prompted a smoke advisory Saturday for much of the Norfolk, Va. area.

Weather aids Northern California firefighting

Steve Liebenberg trims a 200-foot Redwood in the Cathedral Grove, part of Bear Mountain in Feltin, Calif. June 9. Still rugged at 56, Liebenberg is the nation’s veteran woodsman working in fire-weathering forest during a devastating fire season, helping to evacuate animals and protect the forest.

Kurt T. Bresnahan

California prepares for gay marriages

Lisa Left

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Interviews begin for admissions director

First of three candidates visits university

Jeff Engelhardt

Patsy Reynolds wants to make SIUC’s enrollment her problem — and then she wants to solve it.

Reynolds, Courtney Kohn and Rance Larsen are vying for the position held by interim Director of Undergraduate Admissions James Carl. Carl has held the position since Anne De Luca left in March 2006.

Reynolds, former director of admissions at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, addressed the importance of increasing enrollment during her meet-and-greet with members of the university and community Monday.

While director of admissions at Tennessee at Chattanooga from 1984-2001, Reynolds helped the university achieve its highest freshmen enrollment in school history. Reynolds emphasized problem-solving as a simple, effective way to create positive feedback about the university.

“The first words a student should hear should never be ‘It’s this department’s problem, not mine,’” Reynolds said. “If a student comes to you with a problem, it becomes your problem and it should be followed up until it is solved.”

Declining enrollment has plagued SIU for the better part of 10 years and Victoria Valle, assistant vice chancellor for enrollment management, said the new director of undergraduate admissions would help with retention and recruitment.

“Though Reynolds delivered her presentation to administrators and SIU employees, she gave it as if she were speaking at a SOAR event to prospective students and their parents,” Valle said. “She wanted Reynolds to give a mock presentation because she needed to see her in a setting necessary for the job.

“The point of this exercise was to see how well a person interacts with people and what they feel is most important with an exercise like that.”

The search for a permanent director began in December, but Valle said she extended the search to assure the university could choose from the most experienced candidates.

Rod Sievers, assistant to the chancellor for media services, said the near two-year delay to begin a search was because of the amount of turnover that happened in the admissions and enrollment department at the same time.

“(Anne De Luca) carried two titles at one time and it proved to be too much so they split it into two positions,” Sievers said. “They had to get the permanent enrollment director in place because she is the one responsible for hiring the admissions director.”

With the search underway, Valle said she is focused on finding the candidate capable of recognizing and relaying students’ concerns. She said a boost in enrollment could not happen overnight, so focusing on the current student body would help for the future.

“The director is the first line of communication with the public,” Valle said. “They are the gatherers of information. It’s just as important to listen as it is to talk. So we need to listen to the wants and needs of parents and students.”

Kohn and Larsen will visit the campus today and June 24, respectively.

Sievers said university officials hope to fill the position by July 1.

Jeff Engelhardt can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 259 or jengel@siu.edu.

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www.carbondalere ntals.com

Tuesday, June 17, 2008
The Duke report
My name is America, and I'm a petrol-holic

Andrew O'Connor
andrewoc@siu.edu

It's the devil oil companies. It's China. It's speculation. It's the calculated desecration of the American dollar. It's those damn baby seals in Alaska. It's anything but me.

I'm an American and I'm a petrol-holic. Say it again. I'm an American and I'm a petrol-holic. I'm an American and I'm addicted to crude oil and all the manifestations it has created. Acceptance is the first step to recovery. We are a country of junksies, deep heads, freaks, cranks and addicts jonesing for our oil fix.

Oil was the second catalyst essential to building this nation's vast (undistributed) wealth — slaves were the first. The brutal and ongoing history of America's oil industry is a topic for books. It's like most Americans, you would rather just watch the movie, there's a lot of them out there ("There Will Be Blood" is good but long, like Hollywood long). Unfortunately, humans can all too easily fall into spheres of false assurances. We can tell ourselves everything is OK, or it is going to be OK.

Even the "smartest" of us justify things we know are wrong. The people who are responsible for the sub-prime mortgage meltdown perfectly illustrate this. Those folks were idiots, they were fools.

We all do it in some way. If you don't agree with our arguments charged? How did this possible appointment of Mayor Brad Cole as the executive Director of the Alumni Association at SIUC? McCaughan thinks he perceives a payback by the university in return for the $30 million in sales tax that Carbondale has earmarked for Suburban. Bicycles are as American as apple pie. We are the last jake of the rest of the world. I'm sick of America being filmed from the neck down. Bicycles are a zero emission, cheap and fun way to get around town. And with the invention of the bike shake and bike rack, one would be amazed at what one could bike with them. I've seen my aunt bike with three gallon jugs of water and four laps of groceries. If she can do it, you can do it.

Regardless of Bush, gas prices were still going to rise significantly, just as they will continue to rise. It's likely the oil companies. It's China. It's speculation. It's the calculated desecration of the American dollar. It's those damn baby seals in Alaska. It's anything but me.

I'm an American and I'm a petrol-holic. Say it again. I'm an American and I'm a petrol-holic. I'm an American and I'm addicted to crude oil and all the manifestations it has created. Acceptance is the first step to recovery.

We are a country of junksies, deep heads, freaks, cranks and addicts jonesing for our oil fix. Oil was the second catalyst essential to building this nation's vast (undistributed) wealth — slaves were the first. The brutal and ongoing history of America's oil industry is a topic for books. It's like most Americans, you would rather just watch the movie, there's a lot of them out there ("There Will Be Blood" is good but long, like Hollywood long). Unfortunately, humans can all too easily fall into spheres of false assurances. We can tell ourselves everything is OK, or it is going to be OK.

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Two minutes of truth
Professors: it's about the students

Paul Flowers
hope4usa@yahoo.com

Socrates once said that the wisest man admits he knows nothing at all. Well, it is obvious that Socrates has never had a conversation with a person wielding a doctorate — especially a college professor. I have had my fair share of instructors at SIUC, but none as interesting to learn from than those that call themselves "Dr. Xye." Some of them are almost childishly naive. I'm not alone in my thoughts. There are even professors that think the same way and have begun to do something about it. Have you ever had a professor that is too smart for his or her own good? They write their syllabuses using more jargon and three-dollar words than the medical profession.

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By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday — You will be tested this year in more ways than one. Don't be knocked around by contradictory opinions. Get an objective in mind and don't forget what it is. Better write it down.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 5 — Make it easier for yourself to reach a decision. Think of everything you can now. Do it before you make changes that are hard to reverse.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Information you can find nearby will help you get farther away. That may not make sense initially, but it will soon. Keep studying and surf the Internet.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 3 — There's a lot of confusion out there. To work to your advantage, be in the right place with cash and you'll make out like a bandit.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — You're good at coming up with the perfect one-liner that says it all. Wait until the other guy has worn himself out, and then pop it on 'em. They'll admire you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 5 — They say if you don't learn from your mistakes, you're doomed to repeat them. If that seems to be happening now, try something completely different.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — 300-yard dash. Stay tuned to the controversy that возes around you. Maintain your objectivity. Only good publicity? If so, do your homework.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 5 — They're not a people who get involved if they lose all sight of the intended destination or outcome.

March 31-April 20) — Today is a 6 — They're not a people who can make out like a bandit. Be in the right place with cash and you'll make money.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — 300-yard dash. Stay tuned to the controversy that возes around you. Maintain your objectivity. Only good publicity? If so, do your homework.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 5 — They're not a people who get involved if they lose all sight of the intended destination or outcome.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 7 — Your judgment is being questioned. Your authority is being challenged. Can you take this kind of coaching and use it to become stronger? Of course you can, and you will.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 6 — Don't tell everybody what you're doing. Wait until you're sure this plan is going to work. There are still changes going on, and you'll have to adapt to them quickly.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — A person you've known for years could surprise you. Don't take anybody for granted. They don't like it when you do that, anyway. Don't make assumptions.

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Soprano singer offers talents at Shroyer

Luke McCormick
DAILY EDITION

Christine Brewer may be a Grammy Award winning, gleaming soprano vocalist, but she’s still a small-town woman at heart.

Brewer hails from Grand Tower (or “Grantville,” as she pronounced it) and is scheduled to perform in Carbondale for the first time since she was a senior in high school.

Her performance is part of the Southern Illinois Summer Music Festival at 7:30 p.m. today in Shroyer Auditorium. She plans to sing Richard Strauss’ “Four Last Songs” and Rachmaninoff’s “Vespers.”

“Grandville” is all about summers in the South. It really reminds me of where I grew up,” Brewer said.

Growing up in Grand Tower, Brewer traveled to SIUC’s campus to participate in music contests. During one such contest in her senior year of high school, she caught the ear of a McKendree University music professor.

Brewer said she was all set to attend SIU when she got a call from McKendree.

“They asked if I could come audition and said they would also probably be offering me a full scholarship,” Brewer said. “I liked the aspect of such a small campus and of course, the full scholarship.”

Brewer graduated in three years and began teaching music to young children. She said whatever surprising joys you might find about singing as a career until she was performing operas theater in St. Louis and fell in love with it.

“I just thought, This is it. You get to wear costumes and makeup and they pay you for it!” Brewer said.

She said that her career didn’t only begin to blossom until she was in her late 20s and early 30s.

Her career graduated to a full bloom in 2006 when William Bolcom (American composer) wrote Songs of Innocence and Experience for her. She was the piece’s soprano soloist.

Brewer was touring in London when she found out the piece won.

“I was in London doing concerts and I missed all the excitement,” Brewer said. “I think my manager or someone called to give me the good news.”

When she’s not performing in New York, London, or Malasia, Brewer makes her home in the small town of Lebanon. She said she enjoys the quietness of the town and the fact that it’s close to an airport.

However, when duty calls and she must leave the comfort of Lebanon, Brewer is often not alone on her travels. She said that her husband looks at her schedule and “picks the fun ones” to go to.

Tonight’s performance will be one of “The Incredible Hulk” because of her love for “Four Last Songs.”

“They’re songs about life and death, all sung in German and it’s probably my favorite piece to sing,” she said.

Luke McCormick can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 275 or lmccorm2@sisu.edu.

An offbeat M. Nightmare

Shyamalan shocks a curiously captivated crowd with new thriller

‘The Happening’
Rated: R
Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Zosia Mamet, Edward Norton
Directed by: M. Night Shyamalan
Runtime: 99 min.

Amber Fijolek
DAILY EDITION

It’s the sole fact of “The Happening” being so crazy-ridiculous that will keep you watching as everyday people become infected by an incredible virus-like suicidal impulse.

This thriller of a film follows a small group of panicked Philadelphia natives in their escape from a “happening” that seems like it could wipe out the world. The group, consisting of a science teacher (played by a one-dimensional Mark Wahlberg) and his standoffish wife (Zosia Mamet), tries to piece together the creepiness, but doesn’t reach any more conclusions than the clueless audience does.

It’s shocking and entertaining, but not for any of the reasons one might expect from a freaky flick. The crowd couldn’t help but chuckle at the whacked-out nature and absurd plot and dialogue (not to mention Wahlberg’s stoic-compelling performance), but the film certainly makes for a merry group experience.

With all the hope surrounding M. Night Shyamalan’s first R-rated film, it’s really not that scary. It had the audience glued, not because they were jumping out of their seats, but their curiosity kept them captivated.

Shyamalan’s strange stream of consciousness is certainly enough to keep you entertained with a story that may be more absurd than the Hulk. It’s still a fun summer blockbuster, with enough explosions and in-your-face action to excite the 10-year-old in all of us. But that’s about all it is.

The film investigated how scientist Bruce Banner/Banner’s newfound powers affect him and those around him. In this summer’s Hulk, Banner/Banner/Hulk (Edward Norton this time around) crushes and smashes seemingly the entire U.S. military every 10 minutes on his quest to rid himself of the gamma radiation causing his Hulk-dom.

Banner becomes this monster because of radiation tests he was doing with U.S. Military General Thaddeus Ross (William Hurt, with great mustache) and Ross’ scientist daughter (Natalie Portman), Banner’s former love interest, Betty Ross (Liv Tyler). Banner is so conflicted in his findings he decides to use himself as a test subject. This obviously doesn’t go as planned. He then escapes the country and heads to Brazil, living as a handyman in a soda-bottling factory.

George Ross learns of Banner’s whereabouts and enlists former Russian super-agent Emil Blonsky (Tim Roth and his gigantic old-man ears) to lead the retrieval process, a hunt that fails in Brazil and also when Banner returns to America to continue the search for a cure to his little problem.

Blonsky isn’t one to take defeat lightly and forces Banner’s cure research-partner (Tim Blake Nelson, goofy as ever) to inject him with the same substance in Banner’s veins, creating a monster even more massive and destructive than the Hulk.

Blonsky’s new incarnation, Abomination, squares off with Hulk in New York City for an epic showdown in the city’s streets and on its rooftops. The fight lasts nearly twenty minutes as Hulk and Abomination destroy building after building.

This final battle looks super up on the big screen. Cars are torn apart, walls get burst through and two monsters knock the crap out of each other while Liv Tyler’s face stays in the same pose its been in since “That Thing You Do.”

This battle and the rest of the action sequences in the film are top-notch, along with Norton’s performance, these two avenues make up the film’s backbone.

While this “Hulk” might be inferior to its 2003 counterpart, you could still do a lot worse at your local multiplex until “The Dark Knight” comes out on July 18.

Luke McCormick can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 275 or lmccorm2@sisu.edu.

Hulk gets his smash on

‘The Incredible Hulk’
Rated: PG-13
Starring: Edward Norton, Liv Tyler, William Hurt
Directed by: Louis Leterrier
Runtime: 114 min.

Luke McCormick
DAILY EDITION

Universal Pictures couldn’t have picked a better actor to portray the newest incarnation of “The Incredible Hulk.”

Captivating on the success of super hero movies over the past few years, the company and all those involved are set to make a fortune with a film that isn’t as good as Ang Lee’s 2003 version. 2003’s “Hulk” is still a fun summer blockbuster, with enough explosions and in-your-face action to excite the 10-year-old in all of us. But that’s about all it is.

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What do the Lakers and Aaron Rowand’s nose have in common? They’re both afraid of the nine-ringed fingers that Jordan Farmar leaves wide open.

Lennon said he plans to utilize what both will bring to the offensive. Derek does offer a slightly stronger arm than both, but Rowand has the on-field experience and is a much better scanner than his counterpart.

Defense is where the Salukis will be the strongest in 2008. Led by a talented linebacking corps featuring Brandin Jordan and Chauncey Musson, SIU will switch to a 3-4 defensive formation utilizing three down linemen and four inside backers with one of the linemen playing a hybrid between defensive end and inside linebacker.

In the secondary, the Salukis look to a host of players to pick up the slack left behind by graduated all-conference cornerback Craig Turner.

As much as I’d love to see the Lakers win just so those championship-bustin’ Boston sports fans can’t enjoy hosting another celebratory parade, it just wouldn’t happen. Winning an elimination game in L.A. is one thing, but walking into Beantown and leaving a champion is going to be impossible, even for Kobe. I hate to say it, but the Celtics are going to win.

What does the Lakers and Aaron Rowand’s nose have in common? They’re both afraid of defence. The Lakers won’t get over their crip-pling fear overnight, and Phil Jackson will again cover his face with his nine-ringed fingers as Jordan Farmar leaves Eddie House wide open from the corner off an inbounds play again and again tonight. It’ll be a long plane ride back to the land of dreams and another championship parade in Beantown.

CEO:

No. Even though I have yet to be impressed with Boston throughout the playoffs, they are a force when they’re home. They proved to me in Game 4 they’d take the Lakers’ best shot and still pound for pound with them. I would love to see this series go to seven, but Garnett, Pierce and my boy Ray-Ray have come too far in their careers and this season to choke at the end. Look for the Celtics to come out firing in Game 6 and blow the Lakers away.

Four EPL teams reached the semifinals of the FA Cup, which will be played Sunday.

The L.A. Lakers hold a 3-2 lead and return home for a chance to clinch the championship. No team in the history of the NBA has come back from a 3-1 deficit to win the title. Can the Lakers pull it off and make history?

Woods outlasts Mediate for third Open, 14th major

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Tiger Woods cruised the silver U.S. Open trophy in his right hand and limped toward the edge of the 18th green with each step as much a burden as the 91 holes he played at Torrey Pines for a major that might have been his most amaz- ing yet.

Out of competition for two months because of knee surgery, Woods came to the 18th hole one shot behind and over a huddle of players to avoid a shocking collapse.

His knee throbbing and heart pounding, he delivered. He always does.

An epic U.S. Open finally ended Monday afternoon on the 19th hole of a playoff when Woods outlasted fellow American Rocco Mediate, 1 up, for the title. Woods won in a sudden-death playoff after Mediate missed a 4-foot birdie putt to avoid a shocking collapse on the 18th.

Phil Jackson will again cover his face with his nine-ringed fingers as Jordan Farmar leaves Eddie House wide open from the corner off an inbounds play again and again tonight. It’ll be a long plane ride back to the land of dreams and another championship parade in Beantown.

As much as I’d love to see the Lakers win just so those championship-bustin’ Boston sports fans can’t enjoy hosting another celebratory parade, it just wouldn’t happen. Winning an elimination game in L.A. is one thing, but walking into Beantown and leaving a champion is going to be impossible, even for Kobe. I hate to say it, but the Celtics are going to win.

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The Titans held on Sunday to beat the Denver Broncos 103-98 in Game 5 of the NBA Finals. Boston leads the series 3-2 and returns home for a chance to clinch the championship. No team in the history of the NBA has come back from a 3-1 deficit to win the title. Can the Lakers pull it off and make history?

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No championships, no worries

Riley takes second in hammer throw, Stuart seventh in long jump

Brandon Augsburg
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Winning a championship is nice, but it just isn’t everything.
Senior thrower Brittany Riley finished tied for second in the women’s hammer throw for the second time at the NCAA Track and Field National Championships in Des Moines, Iowa, over the weekend.

“Getting a championship was good...but I want to win,” Riley said. “I was happy to have a second place finish because I was able to save it at the last second,” she said.

Perhaps Riley could have added an outdoor national championship to her accomplished resume — she has two indoor weight throw championships — but it just wasn’t meant to be.

Riley only recorded two marks — her first and last throw — during the finals as she fouled on her other four attempts, she said. But her final throw of 67.44 meters was good enough to vault her back into second place. Before her last throw Friday, Jessica Presley and Sarah Stevens, both from Arizona State University, bumped Riley to fourth place, she said.

Riley said she almost forewent her final throw as well, but was able to save it at the last second, something she had never done before. Despite the second place finish, Riley will take momentum from the championships into Olympics qualifying in Oregon in July. She will be looking to make the U.S. Olympic team to represent her country in China this August.

But Riley isn’t the only Saluki track athlete who used the national championships as a tune-up for a bigger stage. Junior jumper Bianca Stuart, a native of the Bahamas, finished seventh in the women’s long jump Thursday with a jump of 6.47 meters.

“I’ll take a jump like that — it gives me my all,” Stuart said. “I was happy with the seventh-place because I was happy to get into the finals. That was an accomplishment in itself.

Stuart fouled on her first two attempts in the finals, but she said she tried to stay positive and not get frustrated like she normally does. Her third attempt was clean, and solidified her position in the final standings after jumping on back-to-back days.

“Nothing really held me back,” she said. “That was the best I could do. Two jumps is a lot on the body.”

Stuart will be back to the Bahamas later this month where she will attempt to qualify for the national team there. If she makes the squad, she is not only able to represent the Bahamas in the Olympics, but she will also compete in other international meets, she said.

With Riley and Stuart both making the finals, the Salukis scored 10 team points, good enough for a four-way tie for 25th place.

Senior thrower Brenton Simmons competed in the men’s shot put preliminaries Thursday. His throw of 17.49 meters was good enough for 21st place, but only the top 12 moved on to the finals.

Salukis rebuild team structure

Lennon looks to develop depth

Ian Preston
DAILY EGYPTIAN

With so many new faces, uncertainties abound on the SIU football team’s practice field. Many are pondering what to expect from a program that came within a few minutes of going to the Football Championship Series title game last season.

The biggest question mark will come from the sidelines, where new head coach Dale Lennon takes over for Jerry Kill, who led the Northern Illinois University’s football program.

Lennon, who coached the last nine seasons at Division II North Dakota, comes in as a rising star in the college football coaching ranks after amassing a 90-24 record and one Division II National Title in his career.

After a fast-paced spring in which Lennon had three weeks to recruit and get situated in Carbondale with his staff, the 47-year-old entered spring practice knowing next to nobody on his depth chart, which was hit hard by graduation in the offseason.

“The spring was good. We accomplished what we wanted to do. Number one was to install our offense and defense. Number two was to get to know the players and third was just to get to know the depth of our team,” Lennon said.

Lennon said there is a lot of power, especially at the skill positions on offense. But after losing starting quarterback Nick Hill, the three top wide receivers and running back John Randle, the depth on this year’s squad is short on experience.

“Our running backs look good,” Lennon said. “We have some younger guys that are ready to step up and contribute. Overall I really like how the offense came together and Jellyll.”

Saluki seniors Deji Karim and Larry Warner and sophomore Richard White return to the backfield. Each had significant amounts of playing time in the regular season. Lennon did not name a starter in the spring though, instead choosing to stick with the running back by committee approach coach Kill used a season ago.

“His idea of ‘molding our offense more to everybody’s ability’,” Warner said. “It’s more of a spread offense and more of a put-points-on-the-board offense.”

Heading into the spring, the quarterback position was up for grabs between three sophomores.

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Starting over again

Ian Preston
DAILY EGYPTIAN

So here we are in the middle of June, and you’ve been going on a complete tear through your fantasy baseball league on your laptop.

Your first pick, Albert Pujols, has of course been living up to his rep as the most feared hitter in baseball. Your second choice has done just as well. Your third pick happened to come together since the return of Alfonso Soriano, who appears to be comfortable coming again and could be a legit 30-30 guy for the season.

Hell, even your latest pickup of James Shields is quietly putting together a baseball god (even though he got handled by a dude named Cisco Daley)

Then it all comes crashing down, leaving your team looking more like the Kansas City Royals than a legit fantasy contender.


This is a look at the top five free agents typically out on the market right now that may just keep you afloat until your starting pitcher Chris Young gets the implants of that baseball out of his forehead.

1. Eric Hinske, 1B, TB

Personally, I hate having this guy on my team, but that’s only because this former Arkansas Razorback and I have some history. I drafted him back in 2003 and then again in 2004 expecting great things from the 2002 All-star rookie of the year, but ended up getting a guy whose sophomore slump would extend the next six seasons.

But like the rest of the Rays, Hinske is playing well beyond his potential to the potential to hit 30 home runs and drive in about 80 RBIs this season.

4. David Murphy, OF, TEX

Now you’re probably thinking the same thing I thought — Who the $%& is David Murphy? Looking back, he actually talked about this guy is a hint of a mystery. He was a first round pick by the Red Sox back in 2003. He batted .340 in 43 games for the Rangers a season ago, and now that he has a full-time gig he’s making the most of it, hitting .282 with 20 dingers and 47 RBIs.

3. Gavin Floyd, SP, CWS

This kid is quietly putting together a pretty solid season and I was a huge fan of the reasons for the resurrection of the white Sox. He is 7-3 with an ERA of 3.30 and came within two outs of a no-hitter back in early May.

Like Murphy, he is a first round pick (fourth overall back in 2003) who finally getting a chance to play every day. He’s already started more games this year than in his previous four seasons in the majors. The only knock on him is he walks way too many guys. But he doesn’t give up a crazy amount of