Area rivers expected to crest

Southern Illinois could miss excessive flood waters

Jenn Lofton

Though precautionary sandbags don’t seem to be in the region’s near future, workers throughout southern Illinois are taking measures to avoid the record-breaking flood levels that have devastated states throughout the Midwest.

Local rivers are expected to crest this week, helping the area avoid the peril of other regions that have seen their worst flooding in 15 years. More than 24 deaths have been associated with the flooding in six states throughout recent weeks, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Throughout Illinois and Iowa, farms, local businesses and residential areas have been hit hard with damaged homes and broken levees. The relatively dry conditions of the past week should keep southern Illinois at safer levels, said Dave Purdy, meteorological technician for the National Weather Service.

Purdy said local reports have been about minor flooding, including at Bridge Street in Murphysboro where the Big Muddy River runs. The current height of the river is 24 feet, which makes it two feet above flood-stage level, Purdy said.

In an effort to keep updated on the potential danger, the United States Geological Survey Water Resources for Illinois has collected and published data for rivers throughout the state, said John LaTour, a hydrologist for the agency.

If the water came onto the runways, we would just have to shut down completely,” Roth said.

Purdy said the only rivers in the region that are a serious threat to residential areas are in Thebes, Cairo and Cape Girardeau, Mo.

The Mississippi river in Cape Girardeau was at 41.5 feet Monday, which would make it almost 10 feet above flood stage.

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The Big Muddy River overflowed its banks, causing high water on LaRue Road near Murphysboro Sunday. In Grand Tower, the Army Corps of Engineers river gage report showed the Mississippi River 13.73 ft. above flood stage.

LaTour, a hydrologist for the organization, various gauges placed throughout the state record the height of the water every 15 minutes. LaTour said that if the water is at a relatively high level, a crew is sent to visit the site and measure the water flow.

Southern Illinois Airport could potentially see flooding on its runways as well.

Aviation Weather Dispatcher Shannon Roth said the Big Muddy River, which surrounds the airport, is higher than usual, but has not gotten close to overflowing onto the land yet.

Roth said flooding of the river has not been much of a concern, but if it gets to that point, airport personnel are prepared.

“If the water came onto the runways, we would just have to close part of them. If it got too bad then we would have to shut down completely,” Roth said.

Purdy said the only rivers in the region that are a serious threat to residential areas are in Thebes, Cairo and Cape Girardeau, Mo.

The Mississippi river in Cape Girardeau was at 41.5 feet Monday, which would make it almost 10 feet above flood stage.

“If it’s not going to go down much over the next few days and some homes in the area have already been required to evacuate,” Purdy said.

See FLOOD, Page 10
“A lot of times when you’re in an interim situation things just kind of stand still — noth- ing happens, nothing moves forward,” McCurry said “...But she has stepped in from day one and pulled the staff together and we’ve made great progress.”

As executive director for the Alumni Association and associate vice chancellor for institutional advancement, Suarez will work to strengthen alumni relations with the university. The Alumni Association represents more than 220,000 graduates and nearly 300,000 alumni.

Suarez, who is on vacation for the week and could not be reached for comment, said in a release she hopes to serve alumni worldwide.

“My drive and enthusiasm will serve as assets in engaging our alumni to stay connected, support the initiatives of the Alumni Association and SIU Carbondale and move this institution forward,” she said.

Suarez replaces Ed Buerger, who served in the position for 17 years. It was Buerger who first selected Suarez for a job in the association, McCurry said, so she is the ideal choice to further his work.

McCurry said he consulted the opinions of members throughout the university and association in the decision. He said much of the feedback he received noted Suarez’s communication skills and team-building strengths.

In her work with the association, which began in 2003 as director of membership services, Suarez has worked to strengthen alumni relations with the university. She said back-ground with the university played an important role in an alumni services position.

The search cost less than $10,000, McCurry said, most of which paid for advertisements in higher education magazines and Web sites.

During open forums with the two candidates, community members were encouraged to ask questions of the finalists. In Cole’s forum, several community members voiced concern that the university post might disrupt his ability to serve as mayor.

“McCurry said the potential for a conflict of interest did not play into the decision at all.”

“There’s absolutely no conflict in my mind and no impropriety associated with it. Mayor Cole has excellent qualifications for the job,” McCurry said. “I can’t say there was a ground swell, if you will, of people, wish to run and seeing this as a conflict of interest. That did not happen.”

Suarez said she is free; each additional copy 50 cents.

"She's had an opportunity to meet and interact with many alumni all across the country, so I think she really has a good feel for our alumni and what their needs are,” McCurry said.

Cole, the other finalist for the position, is also a two-degree graduate of the university. John Jackson, a visiting professor at the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute who led the search, said background with the university played an important role in an alumni services position.

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Goldman’s got game

Interim chancellor described as ‘73 going on 33’

Allison Petty

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

The university’s newest leader has a secret.

He is a Cubs fan (though he said he likes the Cardinals too).

But interim Chancellor Sam Goldman hardly has time to watch baseball since he took office in mid-April. His schedule keeps him at work from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day by attending a student reception, recital or awards ceremony, Goldman said.

“He’s not going to use the club that’s what we’re all about. We do all kinds of things here, for students, adults, for the citizens and so on,” Goldman said. “But it gives me a lift, it does.”

The former member of the Board of Trustees might need a lift given the pressures of his new job. Recent history of SIUC’s chancellorships has not proven positive. Goldman’s predecessors, Walter Wendler and Fernando Treviño, were fired by SIU President Glenn Poshard in November 2006 and March 2008, respectively, for failing to solve problems that have become Goldman’s: declining enrollment, deteriorating buildings and diminishing funds, to name a few. The office’s turnover has aggravated a need for stability and solutions, Goldman said.

The interim chancellor has tremendous energy to deal with those problems, said interim Provost Don Rice. Rice contrasted his decision with Treviño’s.

“Frankly, I think we’ve gone from one end of the spectrum to the other,” Rice said.

Rice is not the only person close to Goldman who commented on his voice.

Peter Goldman is the younger of the interim chancellor’s sons. (Elder son Joseph Goldman works as assistant director of golf operations at a Hawaii resort.) The 38-year-old office manager is a graduate student studying computer science at Northeastern Illinois University. He said he’s heard his dad described as “73 going on 33.”

Sam Goldman said he plans to devote that energy to take a more aggressive role in Saluki Way, fix the dilapidated buildings on campus and recruit quality hires for the university’s top positions.

He recently took over Rice’s responsibility of supervising dean and director searches. When speaking about this transition of power, Goldman’s voice was quiet but warm.

“Frankly, I want to make sure about that, that’s all.”

Goldman also addressed his decision to place the draft of the revised Student Conduct Code online in early June so students, faculty, staff and community members could offer opinions.

Though he said he’s confident the current policy needs little work, Goldman said he wanted to make sure the revision process was an open one.

“I don’t want anybody to say that we did it in the dark of the night. I don’t want that for anything I do,” he said.

When he makes decisions — about the conduct code or anything else — Goldman said he remembers a time in the Student Center when he sat down next to three young women. Goldman said he had a wonderful chat with the students after he introduced himself.

Those moments fuel him, said son Peter Goldman.

“He really feels better when he’s working or when he’s doing something,” Peter Goldman said. “Especially in difficult times like (the university is) going through now, it’s a particular challenge and I think he’s just thrilled to be able to help and to lend a hand.”
Residents keep fighting rising river

Cheryl Wittnauer
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINFIELD, Mo. — With a few days to go before the last stretch of studies ended, the Mississippi River breaches its crest, people toiled around the clock Monday to reinforce levees already holding back water as high as the pressure of the rising water.

Officials in Lincoln County asked for volunteers to help fill sandbags to fortify the 2-12-mile-long Pin Oak levee, an earthen berm that was so waterlogged that it was like "walking on a waterbed," said county emergency management spokesman Andy Binder.

If the levee breaches, the river will swamp 100 homes in East Winfield, as well as farm fields and a city ball park. A masknet bunched in the soft, ground during the night, releasing a geyser of water, and officials said it took nearly six hours to check it.

"We've got a winning battle here, but we need to stay on top of it," said Jeff Steenope, a structural engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Only a handful of residents remained in Winfield on Monday, after emergency workers went door to door urging them to evacuate. Among the holdouts was Shannon Jones, 56, who was all alone in his house except for his dogs, Mango and Jazzie.

"There is no place to go but the high school. I am not going to leave 'til my first are well," Jones said. "It's been a rough year, but we'll get through it.

Elsewhere in the hard-hit county a few dozen miles north of St. Louis, National Guard soldiers patrolled levees looking for soft spots.

Down river in Canton, Mayor Richard Hark said that with the river dropping, he could focus on other things that might discourage tourists — such as high gas prices.

Democratic presidential nominee Sen. Barack Obama attends a roundtable discussion on women's issues in Jason's Deli restaurant in Charleston, S.C., on Jan. 25. As recently as Monday, Obama has talked about women's issues to try to gain female voters.

Strained states to make cuts felt by everyone

Andrew Welsh-Huggins
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

With a new fiscal year beginning in most states next week, budget cuts are about to hit. That means less money for school children in Florida, the end of help with utility bills for poor Rhode Islanders and a good chance tuition will increase at Auburn University in Alabama.

Overall, the state fiscal picture is gloomy and the pain from reductions, many of which take effect July 1, will be widespread.

—In Florida, basic spending on schoolchildren will drop by $332 per student. And bonuses for schools that earn top grades from the state will shrink to $85 per student from $100.

—In California, with the nation's biggest anticipated deficit at $37 billion, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed deep cuts in Medi-Cal, the state's health insurance program for poor families and children.

—In New Jersey, lawmakers have proposed eliminating free state police patrols for rural communities that lack police departments. Under the plan, those communities would pay a combined $12 million for the service, the first time they'd be charged a fee.

The fee doesn't sit well in Shoamong Township, a 4-square-mile municipality with a budget of less than $3,500 and several state-owned properties, including a park and state forest.

A midyear survey of state finances by the nation's state budget officers showed state spending nationally will grow by just 1 percent in the new fiscal year. That's down from average growth of 6.7 percent over the last three decades.

The survey also found that 18 states reported their upcoming balances will be smaller than spending plans for the current year.

Washington

Supreme Court allows fence building despite environmental concerns

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday let stand in the way of a U.S. military project in California that would extend its security fence hundreds of miles along the border with Mexico, allowing bulldozing to proceed full speed despite claims that it harms the environment and animals who live in the area.

In a second case, the justices agreed to consider an appeals court ruling that limits the Navy's use of sonar off the Southern California coast because of potential harm to dolphins and whales.
Steve Tran had no way out. His bare back pressed against a bed of nails as 20 concrete bricks weighed down on his chest with only a thin board separating the tower of concrete from his body.

The moment the board was placed on Tran's chest, two sledgehammer-wielding men began to smash the bricks as quickly and forcefully as they could. The board tilted and the tower collapsed as Tran remained lying on the nails. The crowd of young martial artists watched quietly, waiting for a positive sign. After a few moments, Tran got to his feet and executed a jumping front kick to show he was OK.

Tran failed to break the world record at the 2008 Alliance Grand Nationals in Bowen Gym Saturday as only seven of the 20 bricks were broken before the tower fell.

Despite not setting the record, the former Tae Kwon Do power breaker national champion said he had no complaints.

“I thought the break went very well actually,” Tran said. “I'm still alive, so it went great.”

The USA Martial Arts Hall-of-Famer was a main attraction at the Black's Martial Arts Academy annual tournament over the weekend. The tournament included 31 schools from 13 states.

Thomas Black, director of the academy, said while participation was down because of the cost of travel, the tournament still accomplished its goal.

“Everything in martial arts is education, you're learning all the time,” Black said. “That’s what the Alliance is all about; bringing these schools together and having students learn all styles.”

Competitions in the tournament ranged from Olympic sparing to breaking to grappling tournaments. But it was in the forms competition that one of Black's younger students, 13-year-old Trevan Kirby, dominated.

The Carbondale native unleashed a lethal combination of blocks and strikes in a memorized sequence that earned him the title of junior grandmaster champion in forms.

Kirby said he was surprised he got first place and was glad he met so many other students.

“I was happy I won the forms competition. I practiced it every night when I went to practice, and I didn't think I was going to get first place with the guy I was going up against,” Kirby said.

One of the people Kirby and the other competitors met is one of the most decorated speed breakers in martial arts, Richard Bell Jr., who is nicknamed “Headache,” set another world record Sunday when he broke six stacks of four concrete bricks with his head in 3.6 seconds.

Bell said he surprised himself with the time and was glad he could do it at Black's event.

“When I break I set it up and I don't think about anymore, I just go. It was great to do it at an event like this because a lot of these local martial artists come out and I can show people you can move up.”

Bell's next world record attempt will be July 12 when he will try to break 100 bricks with his head in less than one minute.

Tran and Bell were just two of many distinguished martial artists who attended the tournament. Vera Harrison, the highest-ranked female black belt in the world, brought her students from Poria to compete.

Harrison said so many renowned martial artists coming to a non-national event is a testament to the bond Black has established with his colleagues over the years.

“We all love Mr. Black,” Harrison said. “We’re all one, big happy martial arts family and we would do anything for him.”

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“We all love Mr. Black,” Harrison said. “We’re all one, big happy martial arts family and we would do anything for him.”
Summer’s not-to-do list in Carbondale

ANDY FRUTH
afruth@siu.edu

Last week I focused on the things to do while surviving your summer in the ‘Dale, so this week I figured I would take a look at things not to do while living in Carbondale this summer.

Do not walk through the trees. The deer that live there get very territorial during fawning season, and it seems that a radical, fundamentalist version of Bambi's mother bullies one unlucky student each year.

All in all, be careful when using the trails. Who actually wants to be death-charged by a deer on their way to the library? Not me.

Do not get excited for a fun-filled day at the Carbondale city pool because there isn’t one. I find it hard to believe that in a town like Carbondale, where it gets so hot during the summer, there is not a public pool.

Perhaps the city should look into building a public pool instead of sending their paper pushers around town hassling people about their kiddie pools. Is it too much to ask to have a child-sized pool in your front yard to beat the heat? Apparently it is to the city that also rejects the notion of a city pool.

What's next, regulation of heat during the winter?

Do not expect to get as much at the grocery store for $30 as you could last summer. The prices of some things are ridiculous.

Common things such as milk, eggs, peanut butter, bread and just about everything else are skyrocketing.

Do we not have enough cows in Wisconsin making milk? Maybe we could make a car that runs on milk because the prices are about the same as gas.

The point is, do not expect to get the bang for your buck we all used to.

Do not stay inside and become planted in your recliner or sofa. Go outside and do something. Play frisbee, horseshoes or even invent your own game. Once a few guys and I spent two hours playing with a horse dart using tree trunks as the hoops.

Three hours later, the game had evolved into combination of golf, lawn darts, horse and the javelin but played with the intensity of the movie "Batterfield." Go outside and do something.

Do not drive around town if you can easily make the same trip by walking or riding a bike.

Even though we all still buy gas at the ridiculous prices it is, we can all help save a few bucks by leaving the car in the parking lot.

Walk to class or to your buddy's house down the street; do not drive. Who knows, maybe you will save enough to buy a loaf of bread.

Do not expect things in Carbondale to get "wild" during the week like they sometimes do when school is in session.

Remember that this is summer. Thousands and thousands of students made a mass exodus home after spring semester. Sundays through Wednesdays can be somewhat non-existent around here. Be creative.

If you don’t have any business there and are going just to see the flood, do not go. You will see plenty of it on the news.

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Tuesda y, June 24, 2008

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Blogging Junkyard Cars and trucks, wrecker, running on, found, hooded, cash available, no pick up, cash only.

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- 1 & 2 BR Apartments and Houses for rent, call 367-9330.

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- salvage or junk yards, 1, 2 BR apartments, 650-0000, call 812-351-4715.

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Love lewd-ru proves far from lovely

Mike Myers fails to bring more than ‘ewws’ and ‘ahhs’

Amber Fijolek
DAILY EGYPTIAN

“Get Smart” gets by

Chris McGregor
DAILY EGYPTIAN

FLOOD
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Since crops are already damaged and the time is expiring to plant new ones, those farmers are at risk of losing money this season.

As humidity and unstable air continues, Purdy said, there is a chance for more rain and more flooding. Light rain will not cause much of a problem, but if a big storm hits anywhere in the path of the rains, residents could be at risk again, Purdy said.

Floodwaters continue to rise around the path of the Mississippi River, which flows through the area.

Amber Fijolek can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 275 or fijolek@siu.edu.

Gloria Bode says check back tomorrow for music you may want to add to your collection.

Page 10
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
June 24, 2008

‘Get Smart’ gets by

The Mississippi River that runs through Thalles and Cairo is expected to crest this week and should not pose a real threat for any of the nearby residents, Purdy said. However, Purdy said farms already flooded in Cairo would not be able to do anything with the crops or the land until the water recedes.

The special effects are on par with any other summer blockbuster and the movie featured a redundant and grotesque Hindu-disguised Austin Powers. The more amusing parts happened while Myers’ vulgurities were interrupted by cameos roles, including Mini-Me star Verne Troyer as Coach Punch Chenko, the Maple Leafs’ coach. Just when the audience thinks they’d be spared any more embarrassment from sitting uncomfortably through the inappropriate feature, their guts plummet beyond the bottom of their seats in its final moments. The inspiring underdog tale is completely ruined by an elephant-mating scene that will surely turn any movie date sour. No need to think twice about this one: the few lines that will actually leave you laughing out loud don’t make this flick worthwhile.

Amber Fijolek can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 275 or fijolek@siu.edu.

With nearly every bad TV show from the 1960s and 1970s being remade into equally poor movies recently, the film adaptation of “Get Smart” had a great chance of succeeding right away because of the high quality source material upon which it is based.

For the most part, filmmakers do the job. “Get Smart” is a smart and savvy TV show and justice by boil- ing it down to a pretty funny couple of hours of film.

The film’s script must have been written with Steve Carell in mind for the title role of Maxwell Smart, the intelligent but incompetent secret agent who goes by the name “86.” Carell becomes the film’s main attraction by putting his own spin on the character instead of merely mimicking the original Maxwell Smart, Don Adams. His antics in the film have much more in common with Michael Scott (Carell’s character on "The Office").

Smart is an agent for secretive U.S. agency CONTROL and begins the film decoding conversations taken from members of the agency’s Russian equivalent KAOS. This is a job at which Smart excels, but he becomes a field agent after a surprising decision by CONTROL’s chief (Alan Arkin). Working with a clever sidekick and help from some ingenious gadgets, Smart makes his way to Russia to fight KAOS.

Along with Carell, the supporting cast also fills out their roles nicely. Anne Hathaway plays Agent 99, the super-sexy, field-tested agent with some baggage from the past. Hathaway flirts flawlessly with Carell’s side, never taking the spotlight away from him but looking magnificent the whole time. On the other side of the film’s battle of good vs. evil is a perfectly cast Terence Stamp as the main villain. Bill Murray also pops in as Agent 13 to carry out his usual laughter induction.

The official press release of the film states: “Get Smart” is not exactly a must-see this summer, but it does contain numerous laughs and a fun, comedic performance from Steve Carell, making this one worth a trip to the theater on a boring afternoon.

Chris McGregor can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 275 or christmas@siu.edu.
The Cubs have the best record in baseball for a reason. Even with some major injuries — Alfonso Soriano’s broken hand and Carlos Zambrano’s strained shoulder — and a subpar run record, the Cubs haven’t really needed a streak with their bats or their arms all season. Sweet Lou has built a sweet team, and the red line ride won’t end until the Cubs bring home the hardware.

The Cubs are pretty much unbeatable at home, as demonstrated by two excruciating comeback victories during the weekend. The wave the White Sox have been riding will only take them so far, but it should be enough for them to return the favor this weekend with a home sweep of their own. Come September through, the Cubs will be in better shape with a 100-year “ Curse” playing in their favor.

Consumer watchdog warns of lead in artificial turf

Margulis, a plaintiff’s group for the suit, said the lead was unaccept- able it could be wiped away with a clo- thing, the Oakland, Calif.-based group said.

Testing by the New Jersey Health Department found high levels of lead in nylon and nylon-blood fields, but only in fields that had endured a lot of wear. The lead found at the New Jersey turf fields could be absorbed by humans, a follow-up test showed, but the team spokesmen said the lead levels were not high enough to cause poisoning to people who play on the fields.

Margulis said the team has begun notifying 15 turf manufacturers and the representatives of their intent to sue California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxics Enforcement Act unless the companies agree to recall the products or reformulate artificial turf so it contains less lead.

### Quick Hits

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

My biggest start for picking talent is number of injuries. I cannot tell you how many times I’ve been heartbroken while checking the daily updates on Fred Taylor early on in his career. That kid could have broken every rushing record ever conceived by man had he not gotten hurt three or four times the year he was on our team.

Related to the wise from a fool: if a player has a knack for being hurt, no matter where he’s ranked in the top 200 or what his team or the NFL says, he’s going to be missing games because no one in his central can go pound nails in the ground. Look at what’s going on with the Rocky Mountain High players.

Thursday should steal a league title with multi-purpose running backs.

It’s become common knowl- edge that running backs are always the most sought after position. Usually the top 20 backs are gone within the first five to ten rounds of the draft. However, just because you have two top five backs on your team doesn’t always mean you’ll end up in the top five. I’m a believer in the running back who’s more than just a straight 25-carry, 100-yard-a-game guy.

Brian Westbrook is by far my favorite fantasy player because week in and week out he’ll gain 100 total yards if not 200 in a single game. He also has that knack for being in the game when his teams are in the red- zone. Having Steven Jackson is nice, but looking at past sea- sons, those who owned Marshall Faulk, Priest Holmes, and now Brian Westbrook became foibles in the post season.

### Bryant, James to lead U.S.

Andrew Seligman
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — MVP Kobe Bryant has a shot at another big prize after falling short of the NBA championship, and he’ll have plenty of help along the way.

LeBron James is there. Dwyane Wade, too. They will lead a U.S. Olympic basketball team that was announced Monday and hopes to capture the first Olympic gold medal in Beijing in August after a third-place showing in Athens four years ago.

The team already has “ re- estab- lished itself” on an international level, USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo said during a conference call.

The next step is to bring home the gold, and the U.S. will send a deep, versatile team to China.

### Angela Dalli Santi

The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — An envi- ronmental watchdog group said Monday it found excessive amounts of lead in several fields of artificial turf, and it warned some of the biggest manufacturers and sellers that it will sue unless they reformulate their products.

The report from the Center for Environmental Health comes after New Jersey officials found unaccept- able levels of lead in synthetic surfaces and federal authorities recom- mended lead testing on playing fields in April.

The center’s tests, conducted by an independent lab, were beyond sports- field levels. They found excessive levels of lead on indoor/outdoor carpeting, artificial lawns and playground grass made with nylon and polyethylene, said Charles
Basketball

Blaylock ink s five-year deal

Softball

Blaylock signs five-year deal

News

It's gridiron time

The powers that be in the SIU athletic department have given the softball team renewed continuity and the head coach a new contract. Head coach Kerri Blaylock signed a new five-year contract Thursday and assistant coach Christy Conover was promoted to associate head coach the same day.

Blaylock has been the softball coach at SIU for eight years, and the new contract might allow her to remain a Saluki for the rest of her career, she said.

“When we started, it was just Kerri and I," Blaylock said. "This is where I want to be.”

She said she has fielded numerous offers for interviews from other schools over the past few years, but her decision was always to remain in Carbondale. Blaylock had been working with Athletic Director Mario Mosica to get a new deal ironed out, something she said both parties wanted.

Moica and Assistant Athletic Director Mark Scally did not return several phone messages seeking comment.

Blaylock said the contract adds continuity to the program. The most frequently asked question by recruits is how long the coaching staff plans to stay. "Now I can tell them that it’s my goal to stay here a long time, and that’s what we want to do," Blaylock said.

Sophomore outfielder Katie Wilson said Blaylock recruited her from a young age, and she said it means a lot to her knowing her coach will be around for the long haul.

“I came in and she was my coach and I wanted her to be my coach for all four years,” Wilson said. “So, it looks like it’s going to happen.”

She said it is easier from a player’s standpoint to have the same coaches the system remains the same and there is less adjusting from year to year. Blaylock also does a good job recruiting and that should help the team be successful in the coming years, Wilson said.

Blaylock said Conover’s promotion, as well as the continued services of veteran assistant Mark Cosgrove, will help with recruiting and retention as both coaches are aptly qualified.

Coach Kerri Blaylock talks with junior pitcher Katie McNamara during the April 20 doubleheader against Creighton. Blaylock signed a five-year contract Thursday.

Conover has been at SIU for three seasons, and she was previously the head coach at Tulia, according to Saki Media Services.

“Christy has a lot of experience,” Blaylock said. “She’s very, very good at what she does and she deserves the [promotion].”

Conover did not return several phone messages seeking comment.

Now that she has the added job security of a new contract, Blaylock said she would be working hard to improve upon last season’s performance.

The softball team was upset by Missouri State in the first round of the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament and finished with a 30-24 mark. The Salukis missed the NCAA Tournament for the first time in five seasons in 2008.

Blaylock said the last season was hard on her personally and her goal for next year is to return to the playoffs and advance to super regions.

“We really are trying to do something pretty special here, and we’re going to continue to try to do that,” Blaylock said.

Since she became head softball coach, Blaylock has compiled an overall record of 315-132, including 135-52 in the MVC, according to Saki Media Services. Blaylock grew up in Herrin and pitched for the University of Evansville in the early 1980s — where she still holds many school records, according to Saki Media Services.

“Christy has been a bit of a teacher to me in my fantasy tenure, even though I follow NFL and college football religiously. The reason I’ve never taken home rookie quarterback, but I keep playing year after year. NFL football is 18 weeks of shooting craps. No matter what the odds you had, there is no way of knowing what will happen week from week. I have been hit by the injury bug just about every year I’ve drafted a team, most of the time losing two to three of my top 10 picks. That is why I have vandettas with Jacksonville running back Fred Taylor, former Vikings’ quarterback Daunte Culpepper — they were both top-10 picks that I’ve only seen those names on rosters. Consider them the laws for having a healthy and pleasurable relationship with your team. So without further ado, I give thee my three fantasy football commandments.

1. Thou shall worship the game year round, not just August to January.

Fantasy football is an all-year game. The draft is a weekend holi- day along with the annual weeks of free agency. Every day in the summer, I’m looking over the trans- action portion of papers to see who went where. Yeah, that might seem a little senseless, but if last year taught us anything, it’s that squads that spend money and make good, well- rounded squads create fantasy gold mines. Just look at the New England Patriots. This team’s free-agent drop has been a bit weak with not a great deal of fantasy studs switching squids. In terms of fantasy pro- duction, former San Diego backup Michael Turner has been the only real big name since hell’s no doubt be the new franchise back in Atlanta.

2. Thou shall not give in to temptation of injury prone players.

When I woke up yesterday morn- ing, I was amazingly filled with energy and excitement, knowing I know me best know I am not a morning person or even an early afternoon person, let alone the fact it’s a Monday. However, yesterday was different because when I awoke, my first thought was the subject of today’s column. Today we’re talking fantasy foot- ball.

This season will be the 10th — that’s right, the 10th season — I have participated in a fantasy football league. For the record I am also 21, which is disturbing now that I think about it. For only three years was I running my own fantasy league and I kept playing year after year. I fall football is 18 weeks of shooting craps. No matter what the odds you had, there is no way of knowing what will happen week from week. I have been hit by the injury bug just about every year I’ve drafted a team, most of the time losing two to three of my top 10 picks. That is why I have vandettas with Jacksonville running back Fred Taylor, former Vikings’ quarterback Daunte Culpepper — they were both top-10 picks that I’ve only seen those names on rosters. Consider them the laws for having a healthy and pleasurable relationship with your team. So without further ado, I give thee my three fantasy football commandments.

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