9-6-2007

The Daily Egyptian Football Preview, September 06, 2007

Daily Egyptian Staff
The Salukis began their quest with a 59-14 win over Quincy on Aug 30. Next up is Northern Illinois, and the rest of the 2007 season.
Salukis picked fourth in Gateway Conference preseason poll

If he carries for 5.1 this year, we’re going to win a lot of football games. I’ll be happy with that. Anytime you can average four yards a pop on the offensive side of the ball, that’s a good day, because that’s four, four and four, and that’s a first down.”

— Jerry Kill head coach

Scott Mieszala
Daily Egyptian

The SIU football team may have placed fourth in the Gateway Football Conference preseason poll, but Brandin Jordan isn’t buying it.

Jordan, a preseason all-conference selection at linebacker, said he sees the Salukis with the potential to go undefeated, provided everyone does their job and handles their responsibilities.

SIU will need to cut down on giving up big plays, he said, which were often a result of blown assignments last season.

“When certain plays, where somebody would have to be at a certain spot, they’re trying to do more than their responsibility,” Jordan said. “Like instead of being at the A-gap, they try to get to B-gap, so the running back looks like he’s going there, and then he’ll just cut and go to A-gap, and bam, 40 yards like that.

If he’d have went to A, it would’ve been a one-yard, or no-yard, gain.”

Defensive coordinator Tracy Claeys said another missing element last season was forcing turnovers.

“If the Salukis’ defense can force more turnovers while stopping the run and pressuring the quarterback, Claeys said, good things should happen.

On offense, SIU will turn to senior running back John Randle to carry the load in departed Arkee Whitlock’s place.

Randle totaled the ball for 5.1 yards per carry as Whitlock’s backup last season, which head coach Jerry Kill said puts the Salukis in good shape with the ball.

“If he carries for 5.1 this year, we’re going to win a lot of football games,” Kill said. “I’ll be happy with that. Anytime you can average four yards a pop on the offensive side of the ball, that’s a good day, because that’s four, four and four, and that’s a first down.”

When asked about the preseason predictions – the Salukis began the season ranked No. 12 in the nation, behind three other Gateway teams – Randle pointed to the fence as the SIU practice field, which proclaims the Salukis as Gateway champions in 2003, 2004 and 2005.

SIU might be ranked lower at the start of the season, but the ingredients for a good team are all present, Randle said.

“All the doubters outside of our family, we don’t really worry about that,” Randle said. “We just worry about our team and our coaches, and just get better everyday, and that’s the only thing we can do.”

Scott Mieszala can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 256 or smieszala@siude.com.
I learned that throughout the season last year — you just have to have confidence in your abilities, trust your offensive line, trust your teammates and you'll do fine.

Senior quarterback Nick Hill looks for a receiver at the Saluki football season opener against Quincy.

I think one of the best things that happened during camp is I ran a route and I came back to him, and he said, “Next time I’m going to do this,” and I was thinking the exact same thing,” Turner said. “Just knowing that we were thinking the same thing and on the same page is a major improvement in his game in seeing what I’m seeing.”

Sean McGahan can be reached at 516-3315 ext. 269 or mcgahan@siu.edu

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After leaving Kansas, running back John Randle sees SIU as his:

Second chance at first string

Scott Mieszala
Daily Egyptian

While some may consider the transition from a Big 12 school to a Gateway college a downgrade, a smiling John Randle simply considers himself "blessed."

After two tumultuous seasons at the University of Kansas, Randle, a senior running back, was given another shot at a career in college football by SIU head coach Jerry Kill, who coached Randle’s older brother Larry at Emporia State.

"I was blessed to be able to get that opportunity and I’m here and I’m the running back this year," Randle said. "That’s all I can hope for and that’s all I dreamed about — being a starter and coming out and playing ball — so I’m glad coach brought me on."

Randle, who ran for 489 yards and four touchdowns last season as Arkee Whitlock’s backup, had six run-ins with the law during his time at Kansas. The latest came in April 2006, four months before it was announced that he’d play for SIU.

But Randle, who has been all smiles after rushing for 132 yards in the Salukis’ 59-14 win against Quincy, said he left the troubles in Kansas and has grown considerably during his first year with SIU.

"You just got to just say, ‘Hey, I messed up. I got to get over that part of my life and move on,’" Randle said. "It’s like, you got to change, change the way you’re living and change the things you’re doing."

However, Randle’s stay at Kansas wasn’t all bad.

Randle led the Jayhawks in rushing in 2004, tallying 540 rushing yards and six rushing touchdowns. He also caught 35 passes for 274 yards and three receiving touchdowns, a mark of his versatility.

"He can do it all," Kill said. "He can play receiver, he can go over and play corner if we had to play him over there."

Randle did play cornerback at Kansas, even switching numbers midway through the 2003 season so he could play defense at the same time as another Jayhawk who wore No. 1.

Randle said his experience on the other side of the ball sharpened his senses as a running back, and Kill said having played cornerback at Kansas leaves no question to Randle’s football intelligence.

"He started both ways in the Big 12, and there ain’t very many people who can do that," Kill said.

Randle said it was an honor to be asked to play both offense and defense, but he’s not itching to do it again.

"I don’t really miss it a whole lot, but hey, I would do it again," Randle said. "I like defense. I like coming up, hitting and covering, and covering the receivers and all that. I can see the field real good on defense, but running back is where my heart is."

Scott Mieszala can be reached at
536-3311 ext. 256 or smieszala@siude.com.

"You just got to just say, ‘Hey, I messed up. I got to get over that part of my life and move on.’ It’s like, you got to change, change the way you’re living and change the things you’re doing."

— John Randle
Senior running back

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Tremendous transformation

Lockwood locked in to program after shedding rebel image, weight

Sean McGahan  Daily Egyptian

When Aaron Lockwood stepped onto the SIUC campus in 2005 he was a 360-pound aspiring shot putter with 11 inches of hair. This season, the reigning All-Gateway Conference honorable mention guard weighs in at a conservative 288 pounds and sports a much more weather-friendly hairdo.

His appearance, along with his shift in attitude, are a sign of the changing times for a player his coaches call one of the best offensive linemen in the conference.

"That was kind of my young, rebel days," Lockwood said. “This is me grown up a little bit.”

Lockwood attributed his drastic change in appearance to a strict diet, devotion to strength training and overarching desire to get on to program after the pack and forced other players to step up their games to attempt to compete.

"He did it all on his own. He's a beast now. Physically, he's probably one of the best linemen in the conference, no doubt. I look forward to playing with him and I feel really good knowing that Aaron Lockwood is in front of me."

Junior guard Aaron Lockwood runs back to huddle during practice Wednesday. Lockwood has dropped from 360 pounds to 288 pounds in his time playing for SIU.

"He did it all on his own. He’s a beast now. Physically he’s probably one of the best linemen in the conference, no doubt. I look forward to playing with him and I feel really good knowing that Aaron Lockwood is in front of me."

"Wild man," Lowe said with a laugh. "He's just got that knack when the ball is snapped. It's like a war with him every play. He's just got to conquer somebody."

Lockwood has dropped from 360 pounds to 288 pounds in his time playing for SIU.

Lockwood said it wasn’t until he really desired to embrace what his coaches and the football program were instilling in him that he chose to make the change, and the results have definitely paid off.

After redshirting in 2005, Lockwood started all 13 games at left guard in 2006, earning the Gateway’s Offensive Lineman-of-the-Week award after SIU’s 49-0 defeat of Illinois State.

"When it comes to the no-nonsense, gritty-play required in an offensive lineman, Lockwood fits right in, said senior quarterback Nick Hill.

"He did it all on his own," Hill said. "He’s a beast now. Physically he’s probably one of the best linemen in the conference, no doubt. I look forward to playing with him and I feel really good knowing that Aaron Lockwood is in front of me."

He said it wasn’t there at first.

"When he came in, he was fairly immature, and I told him he needed to grow up. That’s basically all I said. I told him he needed to grow up. That’s basically all I said. I told him he needed to grow up.

"I said you grow up, you’ve got a great future.”

Kill said he was not surprised when he fully matured, becoming the three-year varsity starter in two words.

"Wild man," Lowe said with a laugh. "Off the field he’s just fun-loving, a big teddy bear, but when he stepped over the lines and stepped on the field, he’s a different person."

"When he first got down here I remember Coach Kill told me, you’re too fat to play," Lockwood said with a laugh. “He said, ‘You’ve got to lose that weight or I can’t do anything with you.’

"I said, ‘I know what, that’s just got to conquer some body. Lockwood described football as his “release from everyday life” and credited it and the program for turning his life around.

"If you really sell out and buy in to something, when you really put 110 percent into what you believe in, anything can work for you,” Lockwood said. “If you really put 110 percent into what you believe in, anything can work for you.”

Sean McGahan can be reached at 536-3111 ext. 269 or mcgahan@siu.edu.

FOOTBALL PREVIEW GUIDE

Landmark

Breakfast
- Egg white omelet with broccoli and mushrooms
- Bowl of Special K cereal
- Cup of yogurt
- Two liters of water
Lunch
- Two chicken breasts
- Bowl of green beans
- Bowl of plain broccoli
- Two pieces of wheat bread
Dinner
- Repeat lunch

Junior guard Aaron Lockwood runs back to huddle during practice Wednesday. Lockwood has dropped from 360 pounds to 288 pounds in his time playing for SIU.

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"Wild man," Lowe said with a laugh. "Off the field he’s just fun-loving, a big teddy bear, but when he stepped over the lines and stepped on the field, he’s a different person.

Lowe said Lockwood’s determination and desire were among the intangibles that set him above the pack and forced other players to step up their games to attempt to compete.

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### Southern Illinois Salukis

**2006 Record:** 5-7, 1-6 (t-8th, 6th in West)

**Offense:**
- Luke Drone (Sr., QB);
- Zetts (Sr., QB);
- Murphy, the returning star

**Defense:**
- Murphy

**Special Teams:**
- Murphy

**Outlook:**
- SIU had an up-and-down 2006, starting the season 5-0 and beating Indiana of the Big Ten in the process, then losing four of the next five and becoming the first team to lose to Iowa State.
- By the season's end, SIU had fallen to 5-7 and was unlikely to qualify for a bowl game.
- The Salukis finished 3-3-1 in the conference, their first six-win season in seven years.
- SIU is looking to be a contender once again.

**Key Players:**
- Multiple

### Youngstown State Penguins

**2006 Record:** 9-4 overall, 5-2 conference, Tied for 1st place

**Head Coach:** Terry Johnson

**Key Players:**
- Luke Quintero (Sr., QB);
- Jon Heacock (Sr., WR);
- Robert Harry (Sr., WR);
- Jerry Kilgore (Jr., RB);
- Mike T horrible (Sr., OL);
- Prentiss Stokes (Sr., CB);
- Andrew Nigg (Sr., TE)

**Outlook:**
- The Penguins look to the second season of Terry Johnson and the return of Terry Quintero, who finished with a disappointing senior season.
- The Penguins ended the season with an 8-4 record, winning the Horizon League championship and earning a spot in the FCS playoffs.
- For second in the nation last season, the team's defense allowed just 14 points per game, and the offense scored 167 rushing yards.

**Key Players:**
- Multiple

### Illinois State Redbirds

**2006 Record:** 11-3, 6-1 (1st)

**Revision Star:**
- Multiple

**Outlook:**
- Multiple

**Key Players:**
- Multiple

### Missouri State Bears

**2006 Record:** 5-5, 2-5 (6th)

**Head Coach:** Kevin Layher

**Key Players:**
- Key Player: Shelby McIlroy (Sr., QB);
- Key Player: Kevin McIlroy (Sr., FB);
- Key Player: Mike Thomas (Sr., WR);
- Key Player: Devon Canfield (Sr., WR).

**Outlook:**
- The Bears are looking for a return to the Football Championship Season, after finishing the season with a 5-5 record.
- Multiple

**Key Players:**
- Multiple

### Northern Iowa Panthers

**2006 Record:** 7-4, 3-2 (6th)

**Head Coach:** Bob Nielson

**Key Players:**
- Key Player: Chad Wagner (Sr., DT);
- Key Player: BenPayne (Sr., DB);
- Key Player: Nick Beste (Sr., LB);
- Key Player: Joeנר (Sr., RB);
- Key Player: Stacey Morgan (Sr., WR).

**Outlook:**
- Northern Iowa is looking to improve their record this season.
- Multiple

**Key Players:**
- Multiple

### Youngstown State Penguins

**2006 Record:** 7-6, 5-2 (tied for 1st)

**Head Coach:** Terry Johnson

**Key Players:**
- Key Player: Luke Quintero (Sr., QB);
- Key Player: Jon Heacock (Sr., WR);
- Key Player: Robert Harry (Sr., WR);
- Jerry Kilgore (Jr., RB);
- Mike T horrible (Sr., OL);
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**Key Players:**
- Multiple

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**Revision Star:**
- Multiple

**Outlook:**
- Multiple

**Key Players:**
- Multiple

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**Key Players:**
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**Outlook:**
- The Bears are looking for a return to the Football Championship Season, after finishing the season with a 5-5 record.
- Multiple

**Key Players:**
- Multiple

### Northern Iowa Panthers

**2006 Record:** 7-4, 3-2 (6th)

**Head Coach:** Bob Nielson

**Key Players:**
- Key Player: Chad Wagner (Sr., DT);
- Key Player: BenPayne (Sr., DB);
- Key Player: Nick Beste (Sr., LB);
- Key Player: Joe nër (Sr., RB);
- Key Player: Stacey Morgan (Sr., WR).

**Outlook:**
- Northern Iowa is looking to improve their record this season.
- Multiple

**Key Players:**
- Multiple

### Youngstown State Penguins

**2006 Record:** 7-6, 5-2 (tied for 1st)

**Head Coach:** Terry Johnson

**Key Players:**
- Key Player: Luke Quintero (Sr., QB);
- Key Player: Jon Heacock (Sr., WR);
- Key Player: Robert Harry (Sr., WR);
- Jerry Kilgore (Jr., RB);
- Mike T horrible (Sr., OL);
- Prentiss Stokes (Sr., CB);
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- For second in the nation last season, the team's defense allowed just 14 points per game, and the offense scored 167 rushing yards.

**Key Players:**
- Multiple

### Illinois State Redbirds

**2006 Record:** 11-3, 6-1 (1st)

**Revision Star:**
- Multiple

**Outlook:**
- Multiple

**Key Players:**
- Multiple

### Missouri State Bears

**2006 Record:** 5-5, 2-5 (6th)

**Head Coach:** Kevin Layher

**Key Players:**
- Key Player: Shelby McIlroy (Sr., QB);
- Key Player: Kevin McIlroy (Sr., FB);
- Key Player: Mike Thomas (Sr., WR);
- Key Player: Devon Canfield (Sr., WR).

**Outlook:**
- The Bears are looking for a return to the Football Championship Season, after finishing the season with a 5-5 record.
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**Key Players:**
- Multiple

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**2006 Record:** 7-4, 3-2 (6th)

**Head Coach:** Bob Nielson

**Key Players:**
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- Key Player: Nick Beste (Sr., LB);
- Key Player: Joe nër (Sr., RB);
- Key Player: Stacey Morgan (Sr., WR).

**Outlook:**
- Northern Iowa is looking to improve their record this season.
- Multiple

**Key Players:**
- Multiple
SIU coaches pick the minds of Boise State brass

When Boise State’s football team converted on a hook-and-ladder, a touchdown pass from a wide receiver and its own version of the Statue of Liberty play on its way to a shocking overtime Fiesta Bowl victory against favored Oklahoma in January, hope was given to underdogs throughout the nation.

SIU football coaches were paying attention as well.

Head coach Jerry Kill said his offensive staff visited Boise State University in May to meet with coaches and figure out how the Broncos pulled off such a dramatic victory.

Boise State capped a perfect 13-0 season with the 43-42 victory over Oklahoma and earned a share of the BCS national title in the minds of some experts, something unheard of for a team residing in a mid-major conference like the Western Athletic Conference.

They certainly don’t have the athletes that Oklahoma University had, but they beat them,” Kill said. “How’d they do that? So we just look for things that we can get from them.”

Offensive coordinator Matt Limegrover said his staff focused mainly on the ability of Boise State to confuse defenses with constant shifts and changing looks in pre-snap formations.

“We want to find different ways to get into some different formations and do some different things prior to the snap of the football — basically make the defense work a little bit harder, create a little bit of confusion within the defense and still be where we need to be at the snap of the football,” Limegrover said.

Limegrover said the ideas he and the SIU coaching staff picked up have already been implemented into the system, and the offensive players have been working on disguising their movements since camp began this summer.

“Kids have had some fun with it and done a good job with it,” Limegrover said. “It still allows us to be fairly simple once the ball is snapped, but create hopefully some confusion and some chaos for the defense.”

Senior quarterback Nick Hill said the tips have been rewarding to work into his game and he thinks they will pay off.

“After a full game of shifting and motioning and stuff, it’s going to take a toll on that defense because they’re always got to be thinking,” Hill said. “It might not mess them up every play, but one or two plays they might back down and you’ve got to take advantage of it.”

Hill said Boise State’s success also serves as an inspiration to SIU, a team he sees as being in a somewhat similar position.

“Just watching the way they did it over the years, they were kind of knocking on the door, knocking on the door, and then last year they took off, and that’s what we’re looking to do. We’ve been there knocking on the door, and it’s time for us to take off.”

Sean McGahan can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 269 or mcgahan@siu.edu.
**Eyes on the Salukis**

Conference foes look out for SIU

Alejandro Gonzalez

Despite losing speedster running back Arkee Whitlock to the NFL, SIU head football coach Jerry Kill said this year's Saluki football squad could be "the fastest team we've ever had."

The statement, made at the Gateway conference's preseason Media Day in St. Louis, had coaches from throughout the eight-team conference slightly nervous.

"If, in fact, this Saluki team has more speed than any of its previous teams, then that's scary," said Illinois State University head coach Denver Johnson.

Johnson, whose Redbirds defeated the Salukis 37-10 last season on the way to a tie for second place in the conference, said he has always considered SIU a fast team with a plethora of weapons.

"I'm not sure we deserved to win by such large margins, but I'm quite certain that doesn't sit well with the Salukis."

Youngstown State University Head Coach Jon Heacock said his team, which also beat the Salukis last season before taking the Gateway title, wouldn't take the Salukis lightly.

Heacock noted senior quarterback Nick Hill as a special talent.

"I think that guy's a tremendous competitor and I think he takes after Jerry," he said. "If we don't tackle Nick on the last play of the game near the goal line, it's a whole different season."

Heacock said with Hill's leadership and skill, the Salukis have a strong shot at making the playoffs for a fifth-straight time.

"I think they're going to be the team to beat, for sure, in this conference," Heacock said. "It's a tough place for us to go play." Both coaches said the games against the Salukis could be games in which playoff hopes will be sealed or broken.

Alejandro Gonzalez can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 256 or at agonzalez@siude.com.

If, in fact, this Saluki team has more speed than any of its previous teams, then that's scary.

— Denver Johnson

Illinois State University head coach

Western Illinois Head Coach Don Patterson listens as SIU Head Coach Jerry Kill answers a question from a reporter at the Gateway Football Conference Media Day in St. Louis.
Brothers in arms

Two sets of Saluki football brothers live and learn on the gridiron

Frankie Migacz
Daily Egyptian

Brothers who play together stay together.

For the two sets of brothers on the SIU football team, playing together on the same field has been a constant in their relationship.

Brothers in football are a common occurrence. Hope College in Michigan boasts five sets of brothers. UCLA last season had four. Heredity plays a big part in this phenomenon. Families with football pedigrees have a higher chance of having children with athletic tendencies.

This is no exception for Saluki linebackers Trevor and Todd Moe, whose father coached high school football for more than 20 years.

Andrew and Ryan Kernes, who often line up side by side on the offensive line, also attribute their love of football to their father.

From pee wee leagues to high school in their native Bloomington, Andrew, a senior offensive tackle, and Ryan, a sophomore tight end, always seemed to be on the same team.

The Moe brothers also played a lot of sports together.

“We both grew up very competitive,” Todd Moe said. “We always tried to outdo each other.”

The Moe brothers said they still argue about everything from their favorite college football team to baseball.

“I wouldn’t call it a rivalry, but we are definitely very competitive with each other,” Todd Moe said.

For the older brothers it was a thrilling moment when their younger sibling chose SIU. Both Andrew Kernes and Trevor Moe said they tried their hardest to get their little brothers to join them at the collegiate level.

“I wasn’t real sure (about colleges),” Ryan Kernes said. “(My brother) helped me weigh my options.”

Tod actually was about to go to another school but Trevor and his family helped him choose SIU.

As for the younger brothers, the presence of the older sibling helped the shift from high school to college.

“(Trevor) made it really comfortable,” Todd Moe said. “It was easy to make the transition.”

As seniors this year, Trevor Moe and Andrew Kernes have decisions to make about their futures.

As for a future in football, Moe hopes to one day become a football coach, while Kernes said he is only concerned with the present.

“I’m just looking to play some ball through college and have a little fun,” Kernes said.

Despite the seeming fluidity on the field, the brothers still butt heads off the gridiron, especially when it comes to the topic of who is the family favorite.

“I think I’m the favorite,” Trevor Moe said. “Todd is too ornery.”

“Trevor lied,” his brother retorted. “I’m the favorite hands down.”

Frankie Migacz can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 238 or at fmigacz@siu.edu.

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REVIEWS, COMICS AND MUCH MORE.
How THE SALUKIS STACK UP

Saluki Offense

Saluki Defense

Team Offensive Stats (2006 season)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stat</th>
<th>Value</th>
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Team Defensive Stats (2006 season)

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<th>Stat</th>
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<tr>
<td>Interceptions returned</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A group of SIU football fans show their pride while watching the Salukis' last week's victory over the University of Missouri at Memorial Stadium.

Movie reviews online.

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**FOOTBALL PREVIEW GUIDE**

**Sports**

**Saturday, Sept. 8 at Northern Illinois - Dekalb, Ill. - 6:30 p.m. CT**

**Saturday, Sept. 29 at Indiana State - Terre Haute, IN - 12 p.m. ET**

**Saturday, Oct. 13 at Northern Iowa - Cedar Falls, IA - 4:05 p.m. CT**

**SALUKIS FALL OUTLOOK**

The Salukis are poised for a season of growth and success in 2007. With key losses from last year, the team will rely on experienced players and emerging young talent to carry the load.

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**THE HOT AIR BALLOONS ARE COMING**

**Southern Illinois Airport - between Carbondale and Murphysboro**

The Cascade of Colors Hot Air Balloon Festival returns to Southern Illinois Airport on September 7, 8, and 9. This will be a family event that will feature over 20 hot air balloons flying competitively throughout the weekend. Music for all ages, food, beer, a play park for the kids and local wines from Blue Sky, Owl Creek and Starview wineries will be available. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets for a weekend of fun for the entire family. Balloon rides will be available for $150 per person (Call Alyssa Phoenix at (618) 529-1721 to reserve your ride).

Admission is $5 for adults and children under 12 are free. Parking for the event is free. No outside food, beverages, coolers or pets allowed.

Thursday, September 6, the public is invited to Blue Sky Vineyard to enjoy a special evening of wine, music and balloons. Music will be provided by The Natives.

For more information visit cascadeoffcolors.com

**Schedule of Events:**

**Thursday Night**

6-9 PM - Blue Sky Vineyard Balloon Party

**Friday**

4 PM - Gates open
3:40 - Music by St. Stephens Blues
5:30 - Balloon Launch from the Airport
6:30 - Sponsor Party begins
8 - Music by 4-on-the-Floor (Dance Band)
11:30 - Music concludes

**Saturday**

6 AM - Gates open
6:30 - Balloon Launch
9:30 - Gates close and reopen
4 PM - Concessions & tents open
4:30 - Music by Ivas Johns Band
7:30 - Balloon Glow
9:00 - Music by Midlife Crisis
11:30 - Music concludes

**Sunday**

6 AM - Gates open
6:30 - Balloon Launch

Volunteers needed