As its one-year anniversary approaches, the Varsity Center for the Arts is in the process of becoming a local landmark, said Chris Wal- lace, senior planner for the city of Carbondale.

The Varsity Center could be granted landmark status in early Nov- ember — just one week after its Oct. 24 anniversary — pending ap- proval from both the Nomination and Hardship Review Commission and the Preservation Commission, Wallace said. Formerly known as the Varsity Theater, the building was turned over to the city by the Keraotes family in February 2008 and passed on to the partnership of the Jack- son County Stage Company and Carbondale Community Arts, who transformed it into the Varsity Cen- ter for the Arts, said President of the VCA Board of Directors Jack Langowski.

Wallace said the criteria for a property to become eligible for land- mark status, which includes a building’s architectural significance and location in Carbondale, are met by the Varsity building.

“The Varsity definitely fits at least a couple of those criteria, (and) it only has to meet one of those criteria to be eligible,” Wallace said. Langowski has also sent an ap- plication to the IRS requesting the Jackson County Stage Company operate as a charitable organization. “Because of our obvious focus on the arts, (we would) certainly (be) a valid charitable organization,” Langowski said. “In order for this building to be revived completely, it’s going to take some money.”

Langowski said he has already received an estimated $320,000 from the community, which he and more than 70 volunteers used to renovate and replace essen-
tial features such as the Varsity’s heating and air conditioning, plumbing, sewage and electrical outfitting. New theatrical-related additions, such as a storage meza-
zine, dressing rooms and set shops have been completed al- ready, he said. See VARSITY | 10

The event was called Sports Fest until last year and was very competi-
tive, Bennett said. Students from floors in the residence halls could sign up and compete against students from other floors.

“We wanted to change that,” Ben-
nett said. “It created a very competitive environment.”

Bennett said a name change and the discontinuation of the signup forms led Res 2 Rec to be more about fun and games. This allowed the Rec-
reation Center to let students sample what the center is about, he said.

“If we can show them what we can do and what we can offer them in way of a recreational activity and a way to relieve that stress, that’s what we care about,” Bennett said.

University Housing also helped sponsor the event by grilling ham-
burgers and hot dogs for hungry athletes.

“It’s a way to show students that it is a lot of fun to be on campus,” said Beth Scalz, associate director for University Housing.

See RECREATION | 3

SIUC hosts weekend welcome festivals

Students get a taste of the Recreation Center

Erin Holcomb

Daily Egyptian

stevie@siue.edu

Stress from the first week of col-
lege led some students to take their frustra-
tions out on one another — rec-
motionally.

A variety of outdoor games in-
cluding kickball, whiffleball and football were spread across the Sam

Risella Playfield at the Res 2 Rec fest-
ival Saturday.

Students then moved indoors to the Recreation Center to play sports and attend free fitness classes such as yoga and boot camp.

Shane Bennett, assistant director of intramural sports and sports clubs, said the event was a chance for the Recreation Center to welcome back students and bring them together for fitness.

“Every kid needs an outlet,” Ben-
nett said. “We want to give them an outlet.”

Trey DeBoer, an undecided freshman from St. Charles, is by the mechanical bull at the Back to the Pound: Saluki Fest 2009 Festival in front of Shryock Auditorium Saturday.

Erin Holcomb

Daily Egyptian

stevie@siue.edu

Saluki Fest welcomes students

Christina Spakosky

Daily Egyptian

3421@siue.edu

Saluki Fest did not get as much attention as anticipated, but volunteers said they still considered the event a success as they presented the free festival, outside Shryock Auditorium Saturday.

Coordinator of student programs Joseph McGilboney said the Student Programming Council wanted to make the event as big as possible, while Un-
iversity Housing wanted to welcome freshmen and give them a chance to meet with each other. The two organi-
izations collaborated for five months to put the event together, he said.

“You are now a Saluki, and this is what it means to be a Saluki — come-
ing together,” McGilboney said to the crowd of roughly 600 people.

See FEEST | 3

A dispute between the Faculty Senate’s Judicial Review Board and Chancellor Sam Goldman dating back to March has been resolved.

Board chairman Farzad Pour-
boghiat said the JRB met Friday and made the decision to reopen in order to hear faculty grievances.

“We’re just going to start it again,” Pourboghiat said. “If it were not there, some of the grievances would not be heard.”

Pourboghiat said the meeting did not last very long and it was agreed to reconvene with little discussion.

The dispute began in March when Peter Alexander, then-dean of the School of Law, placed associate profes-
sor Jill Adams on two-year probation for “not meeting the expectations of the School of Law.”

Adams appealed the decision to the JRB, a 12-person committee that reviews faculty complaints against other faculty and administrators. The board, supported by Chancellor Sam Goldman sided with Alexander and reversed the board’s decision. The board, with Gold-
man’s decision, decided to halt meetings.

Goldman said he did not ignore the board’s decision, but he believed Alexander was right in putting Adams on probation.

“The issue is not ignoring. The issue is a difference of opinion,” Gold-
man said. “The chancellor has a role to play. If you go back in history, you’ll find that chancellor’s have had a differ-
ence of opinion.”

See BOARD | 10

JAMES McDONOUGH | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Robin Grosse and Cal Meyers, both of Carbondale leave the Varsity Center for the Arts Saturday night after the Festival Galla, an event for those who have contributed to the community theater group. The Stage Company, the Varsity Center, which is undergoing extensive remodeling to become an art

foal point in southern Illinois, is the home to The Stage Company. Saturday night’s event included a single act play and a reception afterward. “It was a lovely event and a lovely play!” said Grosse.

See VARSITY | 10

McDONOUGH | DAILY EGYPTIAN

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As its one-year anniversary ap-
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I llinois man on trial for 7 deaths

Karen Hawkins
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Sixteen years after seven employees were killed insid e a suburban Chicago fast food restaurant, their families are bracing to hear details of the death — for the second time in two years — as the last suspect goes on trial.

While some say closure is just one more violent verdict away, others aren’t sure.

Opening statements begin Monday in the capital murder case against James Degorski, one of two men accused of killing everyone inside a Brown’s Chicken and Pasta restaurant in the quiet bedroom community of Palatine in 1993.

A jury convicted Degorski’s high school friend, Juan Luna, in 2007 and sentenced him to life in prison. Luna once worked at the restaurant and told authorities he thought it would be an easy target at closing time. The robbery netted less than $2,000.

Prosecutors said the men shot and stabbed restaurant owners Richard Ehlert, 50, his wife Lynn, 49, and five of their employees: Michael Casno, 26; Rico Saul, 27; Marcus Nolles, 31; Thomas Mennes, 32; Guadalupe Maldonado, 46.

Victims’ families said justice is long overdue, but the emotional ending they hope to walk away with differs. “It’s hard to get it over with so we can get on with our lives,” said Robert Mennes, whose younger brother Thomas was killed. “For me, it’s just a long, long time,”

But Dana Sampson, who lost both of her parents during the ambush of their restaurant, said she isn’t looking for closure.

“I can’t say I’m going to shut the door, then it’s also shutting the door on my parents life,” said Sampson, who plans to again travel from her Arizona home to attend the second trial. “I want that door open, I want the memories of them.”

Degorski faces the death penalty, though prosecution may have less con
ing evidence this time around.

They had physical evidence including a fingerprint and DNA in Luna’s case, and a lengthy videotaped statement in which he implicated himself and Degorski in the killings. But a statement taken from Degorski after his arrest was brief and far less detailed, and prosecutors haven’t indicated that any physical evidence ties him to the crime scene.

Degorski and Luna were ar
rested in May 2002, after Degor
ski’s former girlfriend told police that both men confessed about their roles in the crime just after it happened. She and another woman who made the same claim are expected to testify.

As they did during Luna’s trial, victims’ families plan to crowd the ornate Chicago courtroom of re
monence Cook County Judge Ven
cent Gaughan.

Sampson watched as Luna was tried and convicted. As she prepares for Degorski’s trial, she said she doesn’t know which is worse: the fear that came with the first, or the anticipation that is coming with the second.

Her aunt, Ann Ehlert, also said she doesn’t know what to expect.

“I don’t know what closure is,” she said. “I have no idea what I’m going to feel like after it’s over. I would imagine a sense of relief.”

She helped out at the Brown’s Chicken franchise that her brother and his wife were building together. After their deaths, she said it took years before she could overcome her fear and go inside a fast food restaurant — and even longer to visit Cracker Barrel.

“The first time I went into a fast food restaurant in the evening... I felt like I was sitting duck,” she said.
Jennings, a senior from Oak Forest studying exercise science, said she enjoyed Res 2 Rec because it encouraged students to stay active after high school.

“It’s a great way to get people out and meet other students,” Langdon said.

After the indoor and outdoor activities, organizers scheduled a dive-in movie in the Natatorium where students could sit on rafts in the pool and watch the movie.

Bennett said even though no prizes were given out to winners this year, the real prize was the chance to come out and socialize with friends and new people.

“That’s all I really care about is the kids going out and having fun and relaxing before they start work two,” Bennett said.

McGibboney said they expected at least 2,000 people to be present, but the 600 that showed by 5 p.m. was considered a success.

“We hope that in the future we can do this again — to build a campus community where everyone can go,” McGibboney said.

Students enjoyed hot dogs and hamburgers and tried their hand at a variety of games including laser tag, Guitar Hero, bull riding and rock climbing.

Local artists sketched caricatures for a long line of patrons. Jim Heil, 55-year-old artist from Granite City, said he enjoyed sketching the students and did his best to complement their forms.

Colin Norman, a freshman from Roselle studying architecture, was one of the many students who attempted bull riding, though his ride lasted only five seconds. Norman said he was impressed with the event and especially enjoyed the live music.

“I like the Dave Matthews Tribute Band,” Norman said. “They’re pretty good.”

The Dave Matthews Tribute Band played two 70-minute sets on the steps of Shryock Auditorium. Ryan Clifford, 28-year-old lead singer and guitarist from Chattanooga, Tenn., said Dave Matthews Band music inspired him to learn guitar. Eventually his love for the music evolved into a tribute band.

“I heard Dave Matthews for the first time, fell in love with the guitar, and the next day I bought one,” Clifford said. “The rest is history.”

Megan Frisk, a freshman from Yorkville studying nutrition, left, and Michelle Lanteigne, a freshman from Naperville studying zoology, practice ultimate Frisbee at the Res 2 Rec festival Sunday. According to Louis Rotvis, SIUC student and employee of the intramural sports department, the event is “a good way to meet people and stay in shape.”

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**Julia Riddleman (Daily Egyptian**

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**News**

DAILY EGYPTIAN

Monday, August 31, 2009

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Bigelow brings best with ‘Hurt Locker’

Luke McCormick
Daily Egyptian
August 31, 2009

“The Hurt Locker”
Rated: R
Starring: Jeremy Renner, Anthony Mackie, Brian Geraghty
Directed by: Kathryn Bigelow
Runtime: 131 min.
Rating: A

It only took all summer, but Carbondale is officially screening the best film of the year.

Kathryn Bigelow’s “The Hurt Locker” is an intense, brutal and engaging filmmaking experience. Bigelow’s characters engulf the viewer as they saturate the senses with their selfless and sometimes senseless actions.

The film follows an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit during the post-invasion period in 2004 Iraq. The soldiers get stuck in the most dangerous of places, actually searching out bombs instead of avoiding them. This particular unit loses its staff sergeant during a mission, which brings in Sgt. 1st Class William James (Jeremy Renner) to assume the leadership position.

Renner’s turn as James must be on the short list for best actor nominations at the end of the year. After some great television work (he was ace in “Deadwood”), Renner has positioned himself on the precipice of movie stardom with his first starring role.

His unit is made up of two more soldiers played by Anthony Mackie and Brian Geraghty. These two men are almost like security for Renner’s character as they are onlookers while he is shuffled into a large bomb-defusing suit. The scenes where the unit is disassembling these bombs are nearly too suspenseful. It riles up the inside of the viewer to care for these soldiers doing near-impossible tasks.

The film also exists outside of the hostile Baghdad streets as Bigelow gives an insightful look into the soldiers’ lives when they are off duty. The men smoke cigarettes and drink and do their fair share of roughhousing, but they are also extremely complex.

Anyone spending their days putting their life so close to an end would have some demons and these characters are no exception. They attempt to mask their hurt through humor and booze, but eventually Bigelow bare’s the characters as each emotionally explodes in his own way. Each actor puts in a career-making performance, but this is Renner’s film. Even when he has no dialogue he is chiseled in emotion. Renner’s James is one of those characters who only come along once or twice a year and this one is to be remembered.

For all the accolades Renner demands, Bigelow’s directing is just as inspiring. Her vision of Iraq is raw and immediate and her technique turns the film into a lifelike experience. She gives a vision of Iraq that is choked with dust and sweat that seems to leave the screen and fill the theatre — it’s as if someone flipped off the air conditioning and turned up the heat.

Each avenue of this film rarely, if ever, falters. It is without a doubt the greatest film on the Iraq War. During a summer of mostly action film duds, Kathryn Bigelow has made a muscular, complex and engrossing film on a shoestring budget that must be seen.

“Anyone spending their days putting their life so close to an end would have some demons and these characters are no exception.”

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American commander: U.S. on the road out of Iraq

Chelsea J. Carter
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD — The U.S. military is picking up to leave Iraq in what has been deemed the largest movement of manpower and equipment in modern military history — shipping out more than 1.5 million pieces of equipment from tanks to antitanks along with a force the size of a small city.

The massive operation already under way a year ahead of the Aug. 31, 2010, deadline to remove all U.S. combat troops from Iraq shows the U.S. military has picked up the pace of a planned exit from Iraq that could cost billions.

The goal is to withdraw tens of thousands of troops and about 60 percent of equipment out of Iraq by the end of next March, Brig. Gen. Heidi Brown, a deputy commander charged with overseeing the withdrawal, told The Associated Press in one of the first detailed accounts of how the U.S. military plans to leave Iraq.

Custodians carrying everything from armored trucks to radios have been rolling near daily through southern Iraq to Kuwait and the western desert to Jordan since President Barack Obama announced the deadline to remove combat troops, leaving up to 50,000 troops under a U.S.-Iraqi security agreement until the end of 2011.

First out, Brown said, will be the early withdrawal of an Army combat brigade of about 5,000. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said a brigade would leave by the end of the year, months ahead of schedule, if violence in Iraq did not escalate beyond current levels.

That will be followed by the Marine Corps, which has already shipped out about half of its 22,000 troops and more than 50 percent of its equipment since May.

"In about six months or less, they will be gone," she said.

The U.S. military also plans to shrink the contractor force from roughly 130,000 to between 50,000 and 75,000 by September 2010. Those remaining would pick up additional duties from departing troops, Brown said.

The nearly 300 American bases and outposts currently remaining in Iraq will shrink to 50 or less by the president's deadline, Brown said.

The Al Faw Palace in Baghdad, which serves as the U.S. military headquarters, is among U.S. operations expected to be turned over to the Iraqis, she said.

The price tag to move the American force has not been fully calculated by the Pentagon because it was not immediately clear how much equipment would be returned to the United States, donated to the Iraqis or shipped to Afghanistan, according to officials.

However, the independent Government Accountability Office reported to Congress earlier this year that the withdrawal would be a "massive and expensive effort" that would likely increase war costs by billions. It also estimated an additional $12 billion to $13 billion a year would be needed for two years following the withdrawal for maintenance, repairs and replacement of equipment returned from Iraq.

Not since Vietnam has the U.S. withdrawn so many troops and so much equipment with a looming deadline.

The military anticipates keeping the majority of its 130,000 combat troops currently in Iraq until nearly two months after the Jan. 16 national elections, then rapidly drawing down troops and equipment in the weeks that follow.

"We would stay steady with troop strength until after the election plus 60 days," Brown said. "You don't know who will win the government and how long it will take to seat the government."

Ernie Hill | McClatchy Tribune

Spc. Karlin Swearingen gets reacquainted with girlfriend Carisoe Wohlgemuth upon his return from Kuwait and Iraq Tuesday Aug. 18 at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport in Alaska. Swearingen was among 11 U.S. Army reservists returning to Alaska following year-long deployments.

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Daily News

Recycled Paper
In politics, words matter. The change of one simple word can sway public opinion for or against something.

Don’t believe me? Most Americans support a public option. However, most Americans oppose a government option.

The only problem here is that a public option is a government option. They are the exact same thing.

The change of one word could mean the difference between the public support of health care reform and the continuance of our broken, high-priced horror show of a healthcare system that leaves 50 million uninsured and millions more at the mercy of unscrupulous, greed-driven, death-eating insurance companies. Words matter.

The language that is used by politicians, pundits and interest groups frame the public’s understanding of a particular issue.

While some sick, deluded people like myself spend hours a day trying to follow and make sense of our depressing and absurd political “debates”, most people spend only a few minutes, if any, a day following politics.

Those people have kids, work, hobbies, and better things to spend their time on than I do.

The last thing we use to discuss politics has more of an effect on public opinion often than whatever facts exist. That is why we keep ending up with ridiculous debates about “death panels” and “government rationing.”

Some, of course, are just too indoctrinated or stupid to think rationally. Nobody is going to convince people like Sarah Palin that Obamacare isn’t going to euthanize grandma when she gets glaucoma and healthcare is already rationed by the private insurance swine.

But hey, to the Sarah Palins, the earth is just a few thousand years old, the Flintstones was based on a true story and the glorious free market dictates that women should pay for their own rape kits. Real America.

But even to those of us with a brain and a pulse, rhetoric still does matter. Americans aren’t as dumb as many would believe.

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Wildfires force evacuations

Christopher Weber
John Antczak
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A growing wildfire sending massive billows of smoke into the sky north of Los Angeles nearly tripled in size Saturday, injuring three residents, destroying at least three homes, knocking out power to many more and spurring evacuations in a number of mountain communities.

Mandatory evacuations were extended into neighborhoods in the canyons on the northwestern edge of Altadena, Glendale, Pasadena, La Crescenta and Big Tujunga Canyon, Forest Service spokesman Bruce Quintineller said.

The flames crept lower down the slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains despite winds blowing predominantly in the other direction, threatening more than 2,000 homes in the La Canada Flintridge area. Officials estimated that 1,000 homes had been evacuated.

“Today what happened is what I call the perfect storm of fuels, weather, and topography coming together,” said Captain Mike Dietrich, the incident commander for the U.S. Forest Service. “Essentially the fire burned at will, it went where it wanted to and it wanted to.”

At least three homes deep in the Angeles National Forest were destroyed, and firefighters were searching for others, Dietrich said.

Evacuation centers were set up at La Canada High School and Jackson Elementary School in Altadena.

The fire was the largest and most dangerous of several burning around southern and central California and in Yosemite National Park.

It made a run of 6 to 8 miles to the north and west in just four hours, Dietrich said, bringing new concerns for the community of Acton and the area around Santa Clarita, Dietrich.

Flames knocked out power to at least 164 residences in La Canada Flintridge on Saturday, according to Southern California Edison. Repair crews were ordered to stay out of the area because of fire danger.

More than 31 square miles of dry forest was scorched by the fire.

It was only 5 percent contained.

At least three people were burned and airlifted to local hospitals, Dietrich said. He had no further details on their injuries. Two of them were hurt in the Big Tujunga Canyon area, the third on the Angeles Crest Highway.

Aircraft waged a fierce battle against the southeast corner of the fire, burning dangerously close to canyon homes. Spotter planes with tankers on their tails dove well below ridge lines to lay bright orange retardant then pulled up dramatically over neighborhoods, and giant sky crane helicopters swooped in to unleash showers on the biggest flareups.

The amount of smoke was hampering air operations in some areas, officials said.
Certified nurse midwife Joy Wayman sits with some of the children she has most recently delivered in Carbondale at an event held in her honor, A Time for Joy, Saturday. The event was organized by women who delivered babies with Wayman. “We wanted an opportunity to celebrate Joy and thank her for her work in the community,” said event organizer Anna Robinson. Wayman was fired from her position at Shawnee Women’s Health in May after a dispute left her at odds with her collaborating physician.

Addressing the roughly 50 people in attendance, Wayman said, “You women did all the work. I was just there to help. Remember, southern Illinois needs this (midwifery).”

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Jackson County Stage Company Publicist Tammy Charles also said the landmark status would bring the partnership national attention. “Naturally, we're hoping it will help us in our fundraising efforts, but the primary (function) of achieving the landmark status is to preserve the building and restore it to its former glory,” Charles said. Langowski said he believes the community is as passionate about restoring the Varsity Center as he is, and cites the building’s history as a prime reason. “This place holds memories that are very fond and meaningful to many people,” Langowski said. “They don’t want to change this into a parking lot and that’s what we were on the verge of doing. Another couple of years and this building would have deteriorated to a point where I would say ‘Tear it down.’ We caught it just in time.”

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408 W. Cherry Court
409 W. Cherry Court
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512, 514 Beveridge

507 S. Hays #1
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6299 Old Highway 13

507 S. Hays #1
507, 509, S. Beveridge
512, 514 Beveridge
Former Israeli Prime Minister Olmert indicted

JERUSALEM — Former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was indicted on corruption charges Sunday, becoming the first Israeli premier to go on trial and highlighting a series of cases that have shaken the public’s faith in the political system.

The charges likely end the three-decade career of a man who just three years ago seemed poised to lead his nation to a bold withdrawal from the West Bank and an aggressive push for peace with the Palestinians.

Olmert, who was forced to step down because of the case, was accused of illegally accepting funds from an American banker, double-billing for official trips abroad and pocketing the difference, concealing funds from a government watchdog and cronies.

All of the alleged crimes took place before Olmert was elected prime minister in 2006.

Olmert, 63, issued a statement pro-

fessing his innocence. "Olmert is con-

vinced that in court he will be able to prove his innocence once and for all," said a spokesman, Amir Dan.

The formal charges in the indict-

ment include fraud and breach of trust.

The Justice Ministry did not say when the trial would begin or what penalties Olmert could face. But Moshe Negbi, a leading legal commentator, said the fraud charge alone could carry a prison term of up to five years.

A rancored political comeback would be highly unlikely unless he is cleared. "In the immediate future it doesn’t seem possible, but it all de-

pends on the court," Negbi said.

Olmert, a lawyer by training, has repeatedly been linked to corruption scandals throughout a three-decade career that included a lengthy stint as Jerusalem mayor and a series of senior cabinet posts. But until Sunday, he had never been charged. He is the first premier, sitting or retired, to be charged with a crime.

The indictment follows a string of high-profile trials that have soured an already cynical public toward the na-

tional leadership.

Olmert’s former finance minister was sentenced to five years for embezzlement in June, and another member of his Cabinet was sentenced to four years for taking bribes. Israeli former ceremonial president, Moshe Katsav, is being tried on rape and sexual harassment charges, and a longtime Olmert aide has been charged with illegal winetapping, fraud and breach of trust.

The most damaging allegations against Olmert accused him of ac-

cepting hundreds of thousands of dollars from an American business-

man during trips abroad.

The businessman, Moshe Ta-

lansky, testified last year that he delivered the cash in envelopes and painted Olmert as a greedy politi-

cian who enjoyed first-class travel, fancy hotels and expensive cigars.

The testimony helped turn public opinion against Olmert and played a large part in forcing him from office.

The indictment said Olmert used his connections to help Talansky’s business, but did not charge Olmert with accepting bribes.

In another case, Olmert was charged with double-billing non-

profit organizations and the gov-

ernment for trips he took abroad and then using the extra money to pay for private trips for his family.

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# Low Cost

Are You Ready To Turn Your Dreams Into A Career?
FOOTBALL
continued from 16

Lennon said the team does not focus on the opponent’s division. Rather it judges teams on talent alone.

“We could look at what conference or division one opponent comes from,” Lennon said. “We just need to go out there and play our game, and we’ll see what happens from there.”

“We just need to go out there and play our game.”
— Dale Lennon head football coach

Though they may not be hitting as hard on the field, defensive coordinator Boba Schweigart said the weeks before games begin are when the team is pushed the most.

“We are entering thepregame week, which is when these guys will truly be tested about what they’re made of.”

Volleyball continued from 16

Brown also shined as she posted a match-high 44 assists, along with three digs, three kills and three block assists.

Saturday’s action started off much like it did on Friday with the Salukis sweeping University of Illinois-Chicago (25-19, 25-22, 25-22). The final match of the tournament saw SIU defeat Western Illinois 3-1 (18-25, 27-25, 25-21, 29-27). The Salukis fell behind early by losing the first set, but came roaring back to win the next three. Three Salukis entered double digit digs in the closely contested match. While Bervanger contributed with her second double-double of the tournament (18 kills, 17 digs), and Brown added 46 assists, freshman Alyssa Mayes impressed off the bench. Mayes scored 10 kills in 15 attempts in her first action of the season. Winkeler was impressed by the effort of the freshman.

“I had told her before the match she was going to get her Saluki debut today,” Winkeler said. “We were tired and it was the fourth match of the weekend. She came off the bench and had some incredible kills and played really well. It was exciting.”

The team returns to action on Sept. 4 for the Stetson Holiday Inn Invitational in DeLand, Fla.

SCHIRMER
continued from 16

Schirmer’s grandmother died during his freshman year at SIU and he said it was his teammates who helped fill the void.

“I don’t know what I would have done without the support from my teammates when my grandmother passed away,” Schirmer said.

Schirmer’s teammates say that he is as good a person as he is a runner.

“He has a strong and independent personality,” said senior runner Jason Ondray. “He plays the role of being the big brother and he cares for everybody on the team. He really looks out for everybody’s best interest.”

Junior runner Greg McBride said Schirmer has been an inspiration to him and has helped him keep everything in perspective.

“He inspires me even though I’ve been dealt a good hand because he is a reminder that I could have been dealt that hand and things could have been worse for me,” McBride said.

While Schirmer has garnered praise for his athleticism and perseverance, he has also been awarded in the classroom. Schirmer was selected as one of two Prairie Farms/Missouri Valley Conference Scholar-Athletes of the Week in November 2008 for having a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 in accounting.

He is a reminder that I could have been dealt that hand and things could have been worse for me.
— Greg McBride junior cross country runner

Cross country coach Matt Sparks said if there was one person he could count on, Schirmer would be at the top of the list.

“You always hear those horror stories about the foster care system,” Sparks said. “But for a kid who grew up in the foster care system, he is the one guy on the team that if I ever needed somebody to babysit my 2-month-old baby and 4-year-old son, he is the first one I’m going to call.”

Freshman outside hitter Laura Thole celebrates with her teammates after scoring the match point in the Aug. 22 scrimmage. The Salukis swept the NIU Invitational and started 4-0 for the second season in a row.

Evan Davis Daily Egyptian
I hate seeing him against my team, but the Vikings’ Adrian Peterson should be the consensus top pick. Even before Favre became his quarterback, Purple Jesus would have racked up the yards. With a potential deep-threat quarterback now in purple, Peterson should only be better.

Since Voyles so kindly took my pick, I’m going to go the homer route and pick Frank Gore. He’s a great running back and he plays for my team, so why wouldn’t I go with him? I mean, it’s not like head coach Mike Singletary is going to be giving the ball to Shaun Hill, who is only slightly less terrible than backup quarterback Alex Smith. I am sure Singletary dislikes the prospect of a team with as many interceptions as pass attempts. Expect runs on every down. Many points for Gore.

I think Philip Rivers is my No. 1 overall. He is a great playmaker and he has quality receivers around like Malcolm Floyd, Vincent Jackson and Legedu Naanee. He also has Antonio Gates at tight end who is good for red zone opportunities. I expect him to put up good numbers.

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**CROSS COUNTRY**

Runnin’ past tough times

Cross country runner Jeff Schirmer, left, spends his free time Thursday playing Guitar Hero with his roommate and fellow runner Jason Ordway. Members of the team view Schirmer’s childhood as an inspiration and an example of perseverance.

**Schirmer uses past for motivation**

**Ryan Simonin**

*Daily Egyptian*

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Jeff Schirmer has spent his life running through obstacles.

On the track, Schirmer has worked his way into the top-25 cross country runners in the nation. Off the track, he has become a standout collegiate athlete and student despite his difficult past.

At age 13, Schirmer was placed in the foster care system. His mother was only 13 at the time of his birth.

Schirmer said his mother had problems with drugs and alcohol and would be gone for days at a time. Eventually the state intervened and split up Schirmer, his two sisters and brother, placing them into foster homes, he said.

Schirmer said he and his sister Amanda were put in one home while his sister Royal and brother Cody were put in another.

After Schirmer’s foster family, he was old enough to choose whether he wanted to be adopted, but he decided against adoption and went to a boy’s home so he could keep his name.

“I wanted to keep my name because I wanted to make a better name for my family,” Schirmer said.

Schirmer moved to a boy’s home in Altoona before he was put in a second foster home, which lasted all the way through high school. It was at Triad High School in Troy where Schirmer said he got his first taste of cross country.

Schirmer said his high school coach Andy Brendel was a major influence on his competitive nature.

“Jeff expects to be the best and win. When he gets second or third, he’s just not satisfied,” Brendel said.

Schirmer said his grandmother was the biggest influence in his life. She would scrounge up money just to take the bus to see him compete in his high school track meets and football games.

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**FOOTBALL**

Salukis prepare for Saturday’s kickoff against Marshall

**Salukis prepare for Saturday’s kickoff against Marshall**

**Ryan Voyles**

*Daily Egyptian*

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After more than nine months, the Salukis are ready for kickoff.

The Salukis begin preparation today for their first game of the season Saturday against Marshall University. It will be the Salukis first game since New Hampshire cut their season short in last season’s Football Championship Subdivision playoffs Nov. 29.

Head coach Dale Lennon said the players are ready to face opposition on the field again.

“We’ve had a good showing at camp, and hopefully we can carry that over into our pre-game this week,” Lennon said. “I trust that they will do that.”

With the preseason behind them, the Salukis hope to continue their success against Football Bowl Subdivision teams.

The Salukis have gone 2-1 against FBS teams the past three seasons with wins over Indiana and Northern Illinois before losing to Northwestern last year.

Marshall, which plays in the Mid-American Conference, is coming off a 4-8 record.

To prepare for the jump in competition, practices will be a little different than they have been the last several weeks.

The Salukis will no longer just fill out the depth charts. Instead, the main focus will be on game schemes against Marshall, Lennon said. The Salukis will practice the offensive and defensive schemes used by Marshall.

The Salukis are also adding video to their preparation this week, as they will now study Marshall’s past games to see what they should expect from the Thundering Herd.

“**We’ve had a good showing at camp.**”

Dale Lennon
Head football coach

See FOOTBALL | 14

**Volleyball**

SIU starts season 4-0

**SIU starts season 4-0**

**Salukis win NIU Invitational**

**Derek Robbins**

*Daily Egyptian*

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Freshman setter Rachael Brown didn’t take long to show why head volleyball coach Brenda Winkler said the newest recruiting class could be her best.

Brown posted a double-double with 30 assists and 10 digs in her first career match as the Salukis took Downhill by storm, sweeping the NIU Invitational.

Winkler said she was proud of her freshman’s first match.

“She did an excellent job,” Winkler said. “She played very strongly and exhibited leadership in her position. It was a great effort for her first collegiate competition.”

Brown, along with junior outside hitter Sydney Clark and Jennifer Berwowenger, earned all-tournament honors for their play over the weekend.

SIU starts the year 4-0 for the second time in a row.

The Salukis played their first two games Friday, defeating Stephen F. Austin State University in straight sets (25-18, 25-22, 25-23) in the first game. Berwowenger led the team with 14 kills while on defense senior Lauren Blumhorst led the team with 13 digs.

In the second game, SIU defeated host Northern Illinois University 3-1 (25-22, 28-30, 25-19, 26-24). The match was highlighted by Berwowenger’s first double-double of the season as she led the team with 17 kills and 20 digs.

“Fifth in just a consistent, solid performer in every aspect,” Winkler said. “You don’t see many players who can play every aspect of the game like that. She is really impressive.”

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