City to increase sales, hotel tax to tackle budget

SETH RICHARDSON
Daily Egyptian

Tourists and locals alike will see a tax increase as part of a plan to remedy the city’s nearly $1 million budget deficit.

The Carbondale City Council voted to raise both the sales tax and hotel/motel tax as part of its plan to balance the budget.

The sales tax is set to increase by 0.25 percent and passed with a vote of 5-2 with Councilman Lance Jack and Councilwoman Corrine McDaniel voting nay. The increase takes effect July 1 and has a sunset clause, or expiration date, of April 30, 2017. City Manager Kevin Baity said the increase in revenue should yield around $1 million per year.

However because of the late implementation date, it will only yield $867,000 for FY 2015.

The hotel/motel tax will increase by 1 percent and passed unanimously. It takes effect May 1 and is expected to raise an additional $75,000 annually.

However, the projection still falls short of the $977,000 deficit the city faces. The Council decided to leave several positions open to curb further expenditures, including one police officer, assistant to the city manager and neighborhood inspector coordinator.

With the tax increases and the spending cuts, Baity said he projects a small surplus of more than $40,000. The Council said the fix is only temporary and the same problems could soon arise. Jack said he could foresee the Council becoming complacent with the increases and tried to amend the sales tax sunset clause to 2016 but it failed by a vote of 2-5 with only Jack and Councilwoman Jessica Bradshaw voting nay.

Please see COUNCIL - 2

Red Bus Project rolls to Newman Center

KIA SMITH
Daily Egyptian

A thrift shop on wheels provides individuals a chance to donate to a great cause while shopping on a bright red double-decker bus.

The Red Bus Project arrived at the Newman Catholic Student Center on Tuesday morning, providing residents, students and faculty an opportunity to buy and donate clothing, shoes and accessories. The organization was created to spread awareness about the needs of orphans around the world and raises more than $45,000 annually.

The project experienced a minor hurdle when the bus was not allowed to park on campus. Tim Taylor, director of the Newman Center, said it was not allowed because of limited space.

“One of our members brought the idea to one of our monthly meetings, and we went from there to arrange for them to come,” he said. “We asked if there would be any spots on campus so the bus can be centrally located, and we were told that there just wasn’t space, due to policy.”

Taylor said despite location issues, the employees and interns prevailed at the Newman Center. Using social media and interns, word about the Red Bus Project circulated around campus with postcards, flyers and signs informing people where to go, he said.

Kyndell Dempsey, an employee with the Red Bus Project, said the location was not much of an issue.

“Luckily, the bus does draw attention, but we were also allowed to send people to campus with iPads to explain who we are and where to go if they are interested,” she said.

Please see BUS - 3

Professors work to restore Canadian peatlands

LUKE NOZICKA
Daily Egyptian

Oil companies have altered ecosystems for years. But companies are now investing in research to restore the areas they mine, and two SIU plant biology professors are head researchers in a project to repair the damage.

Professor Emeritus Dale Vitt and professor Stephen Ebbs have a four-year, $1.2 million grant from Syncrude Canada Ltd. to restore the oil sands in northern Alberta, Canada, where the company mines. Vitt and Ebbs received the grant in the summer of 2012.

Vitt is the principle investigator of the project with Ebbs as his co-principle investigator. Ebbs said he and Vitt are the supervisors, or “idea guys,” and will station the team of researchers, including students, at the oiling site from May until September.

Syncrude, along with nearly eight other companies, remove sand and peatland, or wetland, with various waterlogged organic material known as peat, to acquire petroleum needed for oil.

But the process of removing the oil is at least 100 meters below the surface and once mined, all vegetation in the area is gone.

By removing this peat, or partially decomposed organic materials, it is allowed to fully decompose, releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and contributing to global warming, Ebbs said.

He said it’s an issue because aside from the ocean, peatlands are the only sponges in the world that absorb carbon dioxide. He said once bulldozed, peat becomes fully decomposed and sponges are no longer absorbent.

“They’re clearing off the sponges to get to the oil, so they’re actually doubling the problem,” Ebbs said.

Vitt said an inpit about 200 meters deep is left after the oil sands are mined. He said about one-third of the terrestrial carbon pool is in these peatlands.

“If you remove all of the carbon from northern peatlands by some disturbance and it went into the atmosphere, you would double the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which would be a disaster,” he said.

The process of retrieving the oil from the sand requires them bulldozing which once put back into the ground, is bad for the plants, Vitt said.

Jeremy Hartsock, a lab technician on the project who has worked for Vitt for five years, said the area looks like a vast, empty beach once the mining is done.

“The research question is, ‘how do you reclaim the big white pit with tons of sodium back to something that was there before they started?’” Vitt said.

Hartsock said the research team, consisting of four graduate assistants, two graduate students and two technicians, rebuilds the entire landscape. They study the salinity, water balance and many other factors to decide which plants should be used for restoration.

Please see SAND - 3
USG to undergo constitutional changes

LUKE NOZICKA
Daily Egyptian

Changes in the Undergraduate Student Government’s constitution have been proposed in a new document written by the International Affairs Committee. Changes included a name change, distinct student representation and more senator expectations.

IAC met Tuesday evening in Morris Library Room 510B to discuss changes made in the new constitution.

USG will be renamed as the Student Government Association, and will be referred to as SG. USG President Adrian Miller proposed the name change at its first constitutional convention meeting this year.

Sen. Christopher Wheeler said the biggest change is redistricting representation. USG has 42 seats, and the new constitution would include 50.

“45 of those seats would be divided up into the eight academic colleges based on the enrollment numbers of those colleges from the previous year,” Wheeler said.

IAC will use the SIU Fact Book, released in April each year, to decide how representation would be divided for the next academic year.

The other five seats would be at large and will not open until the fall semester. Seats are currently positioned for in the spring. The five would not represent a specific college, yet different characteristics of students within the university. Race and disability were two examples used at the meeting.

The current constitution states representation is divided into colleges, underrad major, the College of Nursing and on campus living areas.

“From conversation with people that were here when the document was originally created, it was that the division was up that year by enrollment numbers by people in those areas and it hasn’t been updated since,” Wheeler said. “So it’s rather out of date.”

Wheeler said divided constituents into individual colleges would narrow each student into one constituency, creating equal representation across the university.

This would eliminate Greek life seats, on-campus housing seats and some of the Nursing seats. While the university has a nursing program through SIU-Edwardsville, there is no college on the Carbondale campus.

Wheeler said terminating the on-campus housing seat would be a hot topic at the next USG meeting April 1. He said the new constitution does not allow on-campus students to be represented twice, along with their distinct college representation.

Off-campus students do not have separate living representation through the current constitution. If senators cannot support the single representation through a student’s college, USG may explore the alternative to have an off-campus representative, Wheeler said.

“It’s just so everybody has one vote,” Sen. Steve Smith said. “It’s kind of unfair to (off-campus students).”

Sen. Kate Hudson said housing is a vital part of the university, and the seat should not be eliminated.

“We need to be aware that certain interest might be different from the major from the actually housing,” Hudson said.

Sen. Daniel Schmidt said the senate should negotiate to find a middle ground. He said the senate should assign three of the five at large seats to housing, one for East campus, one for West campus and one for off-campus.

Smith said this would still be unfair representation, as East campus has more than three times the number of people as West campus, and more than half of the student population lives off-campus.

Another change concerns academic standing with senators. The current USG constitution states executive positions require a 2.5 GPA, but specifies no academic standard for senators. The new constitution states all USG members must have “good standing,” academically with the university.

Smith said senators who fail to remain in academic good standing could be impeached.

Under the new constitution, senators may miss one meeting, and may miss two if a proxy fills in. If these expectations are not fulfilled, senators will be up for impeachment.

USG will discuss amendment changes at the next USG meeting April 1.

Luke Nozicka can be reached at lnozicka@dailyEgyptian.com, on Twitter at @LukeNozicka, or 536-3311 ext. 268.

COUNCIL
Continued from Page 1

Acting Mayor Don Monty said he understood the reservations about raising taxes. He drew a parallel to the city being awarded the Award for distinguished budget presentation for the public.

Cole said she expects the development to benefit the local economy.

“I think it is an economic generator, not just a physical development but an economic development we are truly lucky to have on the table,” she said. “And I truly think that it will help surrounding businesses and the business district in general.”

Monty said he was happy to finally see significant development in the downtown area after such an extended period of discussion.

“It has been talked for a long time that we need to do something about downtown,” he said. “And this represents the first new development project of any consequence in downtown that I can ever remember since I came to Carbondale in 1968.”

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An international charitable organization is helping SIU students in other third-world countries with the underprivileged in Kenya.

The Clean Water Mission is a nonprofit organization and collects used shoes and purses to sell to shipping companies for reuse by Kenyans. The fundraiser begins Friday and runs until April 26.

For more information about Clean Water Mission or the fundraiser, contact Vic Hamer at vichamer@gmail.com.

Vic Hamer, a spokesperson for the organization, said students interested in sustainability, culture, water resources, ecology and environmental issues should consider participating.

Hamers, who visited some of the villages Clean Water Mission has aided, said he targeted the SIU campus because of its heightened awareness regarding world issues.

“In my experience, a lot of times college students are very aware in what is going on in the world and they are trying to be active in some of these events,” he said. “They are also aware third-world countries are not as fortunate as we are in the United States, and a lot of these people in third-world countries don’t have shoes or access to clean water.”

Hamers could still help.

“On the bus, we have pictures of families that have adopted children with the help of Show Hope, so we are raising awareness for that as well,” she said.

The Red Bus Project originated in Franklin, Tenn. and travels two times a year for six weeks to various college campuses across the U.S. This is the first year the project visited SIU. Dempsey said student who missed the opportunity to donate Tuesday could still help.

“College students can do something,” she said. “Whether it’s bringing clothes to us, or volunteering at a local foster care, you can mobilize to do something to make a difference.”

“On Twitter, we use a hashtag called “Every 18 Seconds” because statistics show that every 18 seconds, another child becomes an orphan,” she said. “On the campuses we visit, we have a timer to demonstrate this. So if we are on a campus for six hours, about 1,200 are orphaned.”

Dempsey said many believe orphan care is a problem for adults or families, however, the Red Bus Project aims to dismantle that myth.

“College students can do something,” she said. “Whether it’s bringing clothes to us, or volunteering at a local foster care, you can mobilize to do something to make a difference.”

“The bus is separated into two levels, with the items for sale separated by gender on each level,” she said. The downstairs is for females, and the upstairs is for males. Patrons can also browse the dollar bins, and pay for items using cash, credit or debit in a tent nearby.

Joy Jones, a junior from Elgin studying architecture said she was excited to participate in the Red Bus Project experience.

“This project was so great!” she said. “I feel great that I participated in such a great cause and can’t wait until the bus comes back again.”

Dempsey said the Red Bus Project is a student department of Show Hope, an organization that gives grants to families who want to adopt children.

“The bus, we have pictures of families that have adopted children with the help of Show Hope, so we are raising awareness for that as well,” she said.

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If students who missed the bus want to get involved with donating, we leave clothes bins on campuses for them to drop off their clothes, shoes and accessories,” Dempsey said.

For more information on the Red Bus Project, visit their Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages @redbusproject.

Kia Smith can be reached at ksmith@dailyegyptian.com.

Elizabeth can be reached at ezinchuk@dailyegyptian.com, on twitter at @ElizabethZ_DE, or at 569-331 ext 256.

By participating in the fundraiser, Hamer said students will have the ability to make life a little easier for those who are not as fortunate as those who live in a developed country.

For more information about Clean Water Mission or the fundraiser, contact Vic Hamer at vichamer@gmail.com.

Hiram H. Lesar, a law professor at UC Irvine Law School, is one of the nation’s top experts in constitutional law, federal practice, civil rights and civil liberties, and appellate litigation. He frequently argues appellate cases, including matters before the U.S. Supreme Court, and regularly serves as a commentator on legal issues for national media.

Hiram is the author of eight books and over 200 law review articles.

Erwin Chemerinsky is one of the nation’s top experts in constitutional law, federal practice, civil rights and civil liberties, and appellate litigation. He frequently argues appellate cases, including matters before the U.S. Supreme Court, and regularly serves as a commentator on legal issues for national media.
As supporters of the federal health care reforms push for final signups, a handful of states are trying to press the reset button. They have hitched their handling of the process so badly they already are looking beyond Monday’s enrollment deadline to the next enrollment period starting in the fall.

Many states and the federal government experienced technical problems with the enrollment websites, but implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act has been a relative disaster in Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, Oregon and Vermont.

Rather than focusing on meeting enrollment targets, officials in those states find themselves consumed with replacing top officials, cancelling contracts with software companies, dealing with state or federal investigations and spending tens of millions of dollars on fixes and new contractors. The core of the problem has been the difficulty in building an online health insurance marketplace that syncs up with myriad state and federal databases.

Early projections for those five states were to sign up a combined 800,000 Americans for private health insurance coverage by March 31, 11 percent of the Obama administration’s original target for national enrollment. Yet with just days to go before the six-month enrollment period ends, achieving 25 percent of that target would be considered a success.

Some items not available in some stores. We reserve the right to limit quantities.
NBA age requirement nothing but cash

TYLER DAVIS
Daily Egyptian

How rare is it someone wanting to work and earn a paycheck is denied that opportunity? In what field is it okay for an 18 or 19-year-old to be barred from their natural duty of employment? Just one field, professional athletics, puts restrictions on legal adults’ ability to work.

The NBA has been scrutinized lately for discussing a rule change requiring potential players to be two years removed from high school before getting a shot to play in the league. The current rule is players must be one year removed from high school.

New NBA commissioner Adam Silver stated in multiple interviews that he hopes to push the minimum age of the league from 19 to 20 in an effort to create “more polished and professional talent.”

While it is hard to argue against more education, it is fundamentally wrong to disallow people from working when they are willing and able. A college education is important in today’s society, but these young men are legal adults. They have the right to choose what is best for them—selves and their families.

Silver criticized the “one-and-done” players who run rampant in college basketball. “One-and-done” is a term that refers to college players who enter the NBA draft after completing their freshman year of college. The number of freshmen taken in the first round of the NBA draft, which used to be a rarity, is an all-time high. There were six freshmen in 2010, five in 2011, seven in 2012 and five in 2013.

“We believe the additional year of maturity would be meaningful,” Silver said in a February interview with USA Today. "Talking to a lot of my college coaching friends and college (athletic director) friends, their view is that one-and-done is a disaster.”

Those who favor the increase in the minimum age hope to create an NBA with better professionalism and what they feel is a better product on and off the court. Silver and other big basketball names, such as Syracuse University head coach Jim Boeheim, said the age change would only help players in the long-term.

If the league were to impose the second increase in less than 10 years, players would have multiple options to choose from. The players could go to college for two years, go overseas and play in foreign professional leagues, take a year off or try out for the NBA Development League. Silver and his cohorts would hope players would choose to stay in college. However, some successful NBA players such as Detroit Pistons guard Brandon Jennings have bypassed campus life for paychecks from European teams.

While another year of higher education does not sound like a bad thing, it is the principle of the message that bothers me. Taking away a man’s right to work sounds asinine no matter the circumstances. Especially when players claim they need the money, as St. John University’s Sophomore Jakarr Sampson said, according to NBC reports.

College is an expensive journey and scholarships certainly help. Many players who make it to the NBA receive scholarships, but why should people be required to spend money when they can make money? Do we want our players going overseas and learning a different style of game by themselves? We’re worried about what 19 year olds in our country, but imagine the trouble a young person could get into with loads of money in a foreign country.

Besides, the argument the NCAA creates better players is yet to be proven. The number of programs who stay in college is just as high as it is for high school stars. In fact, some of the best players of the last 20 years have come straight out of high school and turned out to be some of the league’s most mature players (Kobe Bryant, Kevin Garnett, Al Jefferson).

I will admit the one-and-done concept is frustrating. This year’s edition of March Madness has been particularly competitive, so to see the nation’s best players bolt for the NBA is a little disheartening. However, when it becomes apparent the only ones who do not benefit financially from extra time as a student are the studentathletes themselves, all sentimental feelings towards the NCAA are lost.

Of course the NCAA, who works closely with the NBA on this matter, favors a high draft limit. What do they have to lose? More players sticking around means more billions for them.

If the NBA chooses to make players wait to get paid, they should figure out a way to compensate these players for doing what the league demands. We all know the NCAA and NBA don’t want to give college kids paychecks. So what’s the solution? It’s quite simple, actually. If the men are good enough to play, let them play.

Tylers Davis can be reached at tdavis@dailyegyptian.com, on Twitter at TDavis_DE, or at 539-3311 ext. 269.

Editorial Cartoon

Submissions

Letters and guest columns must be submitted with author’s contact information, preferably via email. Phone numbers are required to verify authorship, but will not be published. Letters are limited to 400 words and columns to 500 words. Students must include year and major. Faculty must include rank and department. Others include hometown. Submissions should be sent to opinion@dailyegyptian.com.
Follow your DE Pulse writers @KBurgstahler_DE and @jfsaunders

Graduate student’s transitions on display

Art inspiration can strike anywhere — even on a commute.

Art inspired the spark behind “Transitions,” an art thesis project from Krista Rose Frohling, a graduate student in mass communication and media arts from St. Louis. The art is derived from her drive between St. Louis and SIU while she was pregnant. The show is now on display at the University Museum in Faner Hall.

“My thesis show developed because I commute down from St. Louis three to four times a week, round trip for classes, then in the middle of my program I got pregnant,” Frohling said.

The pregnancy was a surprise to her, but she regarded it as a wonderful experience, she said.

“My husband and I had a little extra battle there, so that’s where my whole show came from,” she said. “And putting on a thesis show has been an uphill climb, though I feel like this last week has been a sprint.”

Frohling said for one week prior to her initial reception for the show on March 21, she spent hours at the museum setting up. Having spent more than $4,000 since the project’s inception, Frohling put photographic pieces together and installed them into place before she would then make her two-hour drive back to St. Louis. She would wake the following morning at 6 a.m. and make the trip back down to Carbondale. Although she’s finishing her degree, she also teaches several photography classes.

“It’s been really difficult and hard on me this week. I’ve been working on this show though for over a year now, taking the photos and working on the concept,” she said.

One of her exhibit pieces is a projection displaying her journey down Illinois Route 3. Outside of the screen are two rocking chairs, placed on either side, littered with milk bags she saved from her child’s nursing in the time she was away.

“That’s kind of symbolic of this ‘absent mother’ with the empty rocking chair and all of these bags,” she said. “They are almost very literal.
Krista Rose Frohling, a graduate student in mass communication and media arts from St. Louis, explains a piece from her thesis project, "Transitions," Friday at the University Museum. "Transitions" documents the last three years of her goal to complete her MFA degree, including her commutes from St. Louis to Carbondale. The thesis project features 250 canvas prints and more than 40 digital inkjet prints of still photography.

Frohling said the journey has been isolating.

"It was stormy and I was exhausted," she said. "There's really no better way to represent how I was feeling except for that video."

Frohling also displays a collage of iPhone photographs, pieces of narration on her art-related thought processes during her pregnancy.

"I didn't stop to take a single one of those photographs," she said. "That's kind of how I felt, it's supposed to be very impulsive and present landscapes of emotion, so I wanted it to be spontaneous and very quick."

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— Krista Frohling, MFA graduate student

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Country music's Man in Black will never Cash in

KYLE SUTTON

The country music world lost one of its most beloved sons in 2003. Johnny Cash left an everlasting impression on how stories are told through music.

Fans of the man in black work now have an opportunity to hear untold stories through his new album “Out Among the Stars,” which released Tuesday.

The album is a collection of studio recordings Cash made with producer Billy Sherrill in Nashville, Tenn. Cash's son, John Carter Cash, discovered the lost tracks and began working on restoring them at the Cash Cabin Studios.

The 12-track album is a timeless representation of the man in black's decades of work. It bridges the gap between his early work with Sun Records and his later collections with American Recordings.

The album begins with “Out Among the Stars,” the title track. Cash's distinctive baritone voice comes to the forefront as he sings the first line of the album: “I'm a roving cowboy voice.”

The album picks up the pace with no hesitation on the second song, “Baby Ride Easy.” A collaboration with his wife June Carter Cash, the song begins with the classic country rhythm of fast-paced bass and snare as Cash strums his guitar. The couple's energy lifts the song up as their passion and love for music and one another become apparent.

The next two songs, “She Used to Love Me a Lot” and “After All,” work together to produce a perfect transition between the faster and slower paces of the collaborations. The songs slow down the foot of the track, as both focus on the theme of love Cash produces. His unique blend of lyricism and vocal strength makes these songs the album's most inspiring pieces.

Cash also performs a cover of Hank Snow's old country classic “I'm Movin' On” in collaboration with country music legend Waylon Jennings. It's apparent the two enjoyed creating this track because of their uplifting spirit and energy throughout.

One of Cash's greatest qualities through the years was his way of using humor to produce classic songs. "If I Told You Who It Was" is one of those humorous songs. With funny lyrics and an upbeat personality, Cash tells a story of meeting a famous musician and creating a short-lived relationship. He continues this humorous composition later in the album on "I Drove Her Out of My Mind."

Cash speaks of months on two of the album's more country influenced songs. "Call Your Mother" is a cheerful song describing the importance of respecting one's parents, while "Empty" speaks of staying true to one's homeland as he tells a story of his love for the state he resided in for more than 30 years.

The album ends on an inspirational track. "I Came to Believe" tells the story of Cash moving from a man struggling with addiction and pain to a man of faith.

The lost tracks show that while music has lost one of the best artists of the last century, his music will forever live on through others.

"Out Among the Stars" is available for purchase through iTunes. The album can also be streamed through Spotify.

Disneys purchase of Maker a boon for LA startups

RYAN NAKASHIMA

Los Angeles — Disney's $500 million purchase of YouTube video producer Maker Studios is a sign that the entertainment industry's content and technology startups are coming of age and proving to be as valuable to Hollywood as app makers are to the giants of Silicon Valley.

The deal announced Monday also signals Hollywood's new openness to technological innovation, acknowledging media giants don't have all the answers.

The acquisition comes a month after The Walt Disney Co. launched a technology startup accelerator called Disney Accelerator, which promises to seed 10 companies with $120,000 each to develop ideas that'll have a big impact on entertainment and technology.

Disney's purchase price — which could hit $950 million if Maker hits performance targets — also validates the increasing value of so-called "multichannel networks." Those are the mini media empires that deliver video ads on a massive scale.

Only a handful of such networks have reached the size of Maker, which went from startup status in 2009 to a network with 55,000 channels that generate 5.5 billion views a month, the vast majority from people aged 13-34. Other big network players include Machinima, Big Frame and Fullscreen, all based in the Los Angeles area.

Disney's purchase price — which could hit $950 million if Maker hits performance targets — also validates the increasing value of so-called "multichannel networks." Those are the mini media empires that deliver video ads on a massive scale.

"I think the big media companies just have a hard time being nimble on the new ideas that'll have a big impact on the entertainment and technology industries," says Dana Lobberg, co-founder of San Francisco-based digital marketing company MovirtuLa, says the Maker deal provides encouragement to entrepreneurs like herself who are looking to the studios for business and investment.

"To have a buyer in Los Angeles like a studio that can make big purchases is really big and good for the ecosystem of LA," she says. "I'm super happy to see studios are acquiring and paying attention to the digital space."
Mid-season review: Men’s tennis

TONY MCDANIEL
Daily Egyptian

Saluki tennis is on a roll and will look to keep rolling into conference play and the Missouri Valley Conference tournament.

The Salukis record currently stands at 7-5, but the team has won seven of its last eight matches dating back to Feb. 1. A large part of the Salukis’ success has come from the team’s freshmen, Jeremy Dixon, Filip Alekic and Michal Kianicka, who are a combined 16-8 in the spring season.

Coach Dann Nelson said the production from the three freshmen comes at little surprise.

“Mike and Filip were among the 14th ranked mid-major recruiting class from ten months ago and we have all the big things out of them,” Nelson said. “When Jeremy joined, us I didn’t know what to think, but he has already secured a spot at three doubles, so all three of them are contributing.”

Kianicka is not only contributing, but also leading with his play on the court. Kianicka is the No. 2 singles player on the team, and his 8-3 record is second best on the team behind Sophomore Jonny Rigby who is 9-2.

Kianicka said despite his stellar play, he still has plenty he wants to improve.

“I want to keep a higher standard to hold a match. Sometimes I lost impatiently one or two games against opponents I shouldn’t have lost to,” he said. “I’m working on it and hopefully by conference play I will be ready.”

Another area where the Salukis have been impressive has been their work in doubles action this season. The Dawgs have gotten strong chemistry as a pair.

“Adversary is that we get up big in our first two singles,” he said. “It really helps us… We really feed off of wins.”

The team of juniors Jorge Cavero and Seymon Opieczonek has been particularly impressive this season.

Cavero and Opieczonek have been dominant in doubles play this season. Their record currently stands at 8-3 and they’ve won eight of their last nine matches.

Opieczonek said he and Cavero have strong chemistry as a pair.

“Adversary is that we get up big in our first two singles,” he said. “I really understand him. I don’t even have to talk to him, we already know what we’re going to do for the next point. We don’t really waste much time talking to each other. We understand each other pretty well.”

Nelson said Opieczonek is in a group which contains his most improved players this season.

“Stoyan is right up there. Filip (Alekic) has improved based on his performance in the fall to what he’s done this semester, and I don’t know how you leave out Jonny Rigby who is 9-2 this semester,” Nelson said. “Everybody is improving as I’m very happy with that.”

The Salukis are coming to the end of their season, but now begin their toughest stretch of games yet.

This weekend, SIU will travel to Middle Tennessee State University for a three-day tournament, followed by five matches against tough MVC opponents such as Drake University, and defending champions Wichita State University.

Nelson said it is hard to judge how well his team will handle the upcoming conference schedule.

“The thing we have to do is take our young group in to the conference season,” Nelson said. “These guys haven’t been there yet, the upperclassmen can tell them what it’s like and that these are big matches, things like that, but they won’t know until they experience it for themselves the first time.”

Nelson said it would be a challenge for his team to be crowned conference champions.

“To be honest, it might be pretty tough for us to win the MVC tournament, but let’s see how we do in the regular season,” Nelson said.

“The good thing about the tournament is if you get hot, maybe you can make a run.”

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Cold conditions freeze Dawgs’ clubs

TYLER DAVIS
Daily Egyptian

The thermometer was not the only cold object on the course at the First Tee Classic in Little Rock, Ark., Monday and Tuesday. The Salukis’ golf game was pretty cold too.

In the event, hosted by the University of Little Rock-Arkansas, SIU managed a last place finish in the field of 14 teams. The team never seemed to get it going at Chenal Country Club as temperatures threatened to dip into the 30s and winds made it colder.

The Salukis were not the only team that struggled with the weather. In the final round, not one team shot below 300 and individual scores skyrocketed.

SIU Coach Lenoy Newton said conditions were much tougher on Tuesday compared to Monday.

“One of the kids who was winning the tournament yesterday (McNeese State’s Geoff Fry), I shot an 85 today after shooting a 69,” Newton said. “I think it is (a lack of practice),” Newton said. “I think it is (a lack of practice).”

“I think we can turn it around,” he said. “We just got to do what we need to do. We need a few days on the driving range.”

Newton said the minimal practice time the team has had could be causing them.

“I think it is (a lack of practice),” he said. “They haven’t hit enough balls other than in tournaments and you don’t do anything but play well in tournaments.”

Newton said the team likes to practice one aspect of the game at a time and tournaments are too important to worry about anything but a good score. Newton said the lack of practice is a negative factor but the team should be able to overcome it.

“It would have been nice to get out and practice when we had snow on the ground but I think at this point of the year most of the rust needs to be off,” Newton said. “We just got to keep working hard, getting ready for conference and keep getting better.”

After starting the season with a third place finish, the team have played poorly in two of the last three tournaments. At the Samford, they finished second to last, and then ended a tournament in Tennessee in fifth before this week’s last place finish.

However, the teams are not worried about their play just yet. Harms, a captain on the team, said they just need a few days on the driving range.

“I think we can turn it around,” he said. “We just got to do what we need to do. We need a few days on the driving range.”

The teams have a few weeks off before they tee off in Jonesboro, Ark., at the Arkansas State Red Wolves Intercollegiate. SIU has just two more tournaments before the conference tournament on April 28.

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Saluki basketball gets final standing ovation

TYLER DIXON
Daily Egyptian

For the final time this season, fans were able to admire and show their appreciation for the SIU men's basketball team as more than 300 fans gathered in SIU Arena.

The voice of the Salukis, Mike Reis, was the moderator for the 2013-2014 men's basketball postseason celebration. Along with words from Reis, Director of Athletics Mario Moccia, Chancellor Rita Cheng and Coach Barry Hinson spoke.

Reis said generations of Saluki fans have come and gone since the last signs of success from the basketball team. He said there was a buzz around campus that has been gone a while, but current fans will have something to talk about in the future.

"You get to experience how things were rather than hear about how things were," Reis said.

Every player was presented with a plaque along with the managers and special recognition was given to the four seniors who sat in the front row.

Fans were also able to get autographs from the entire team as well as Hinson. Fans of all ages gathered around their favorite players and were able to bond with them in a different way than watching them on the basketball court. Some fans even discussed March Madness picks with the Salukis.

Sophomore guard Anthony Beane was the first player to sign for fans as they lined up on the court. Beane said this was a different atmosphere than how he usually sees fans.

"With them showing up, you usually can't find them in the crowd, cause we're so focused into the game," Beane said. "But being able to see them come support us, just being able to see their faces and meet all of them is a good feeling."

The Salukis will lose four key players from this season's roster in Desmar Jackson, Davante Drinkard, Bronson Verhines and Colby Long, but Hinson said the team is headed in the right direction.

"We will be the youngest in the Valley if not the youngest in the country," Hinson said. "70 percent of our squad will most likely be freshmen and sophomores."

The Salukis have signed four players for next season but Hinson said he could not talk about a potential fifth player. Guards Chaz Glota and Jordan Caroline along with forwards Armon Fletcher and Deion Lavender will wear the maroon and white next season.

Hinson said many athletic programs at other universities do not get the support from administration SIU does. He said athletic directors, chancellors and presidents at other universities, do not do half as much as they do at SIU.

"They go far and beyond what their call of duty is and they are absolutely an integral part of every bit of the success that we have, will have and are going to have in the future of this athletic program," Hinson said.

Hinson said only positive comments about SIU would be accepted in the future.

"When it comes to this program and this university, anything that comes out of your mouth that is less than positive is 100 percent unacceptable," he said. "Go Dawgs."

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