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DE

Daily Egyptian
Since 1916

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Thursday, July 22, 2010

Music bands diverse sounds for Sunset goers



PAGE 4

Volume 95, Issue 179, 8 pages



Shortly after minimum wage *increased*, sales tax *increased* also. What *good* is that?

—Tom Siegrist, 28
Carbondale resident



Enjoy the **Outdoor** activities. I just **Wish** Carbondale housed more **organic** storefronts.

—Ahmed Alghamel, 20
freshman from Saudi Arabia
studying dentistry

The **zoning** is **poor** and there are **little** housing **options** to choose from.

—Greg Nofsinger, 24
university alumni
and resident



The **Strip** is **10** more than just a name.

—Jonquill Curry, 21
a junior from Chicago
studying radio/television



I like to travel to **St. Louis** to shop. I wish there were more **international** stores and restaurants in town.

—Majdah Aseer, 26
a graduate student
from Saudi Arabia
in English



there is a clear **distinction** of the **good** part and bad part of Carbondale due to housing.

—Andrew Griffin, 22
a senior from Chicago
studying marketing
and management



Enjoy the **Nature** in **Carbondale**, but **businesses** should be easier to reach.

—Ramiro Crego, 26
graduate student
from Argentina
in forestry

Students want more options from city

MICHARA CANTY
Daily Egyptian

Mallory Lindberg, 22, born and raised in Carbondale, said while Mayor Cole has done a great job creating more businesses, there is still a need for store options and store proximity.

Carbondale is set to prepare a Comprehensive Plan to address the development of the community, and Carbondale residents and SIUC students said they are keeping an eye on the plan to see how it will affect them.

The Comprehensive Plan is comprised of six chapters, which address

several points of the community's development, according to a city's public document. The Comprehensive Plan was drawn by a review committee, which monitored the planning process.

Lindberg said her parents attended SIUC and they found the then-communal atmosphere attractive. She noticed an exchange between traditional "mom and pop" stores with new major corporations like Wal-Mart.

City councilman Chris Wissmann said Carbondale has been considered a college town since 1992, but has been steadily falling financially due to its economy, which

partially relies on the universities' enrollment.

"The Comprehensive Plan is a fascinating policy ... how to bring students into that is a tough thing," he said. "The plan aims to make the community more attractive."

The chapters of the plan include community overview, land use character and community growth, community mobility, housing and neighborhoods, economic development and implementation. The plan also includes a future land use plan and a thoroughfare plan, according to the document.

Greg Nofsinger, 24, alumni student and member of Students for

Peace and Democracy, said there are too many bars in town, which push students to drink rather than build community.

"There should be more safe zones for people to build community and urbanization," he said. "There has been a business shrinkage on the Strip; now it's a place for the homeless."

The Comprehensive Plan Review Committee held a community symposium March 26 where key stakeholders were interviewed, in efforts to gain as much community input.

Although local businesses such as QQ Bubble Tea, Harbaugh's Café, and Paglia's Pizza have maintained

the character and sense of community for Carbondale in the past, the city does not reflect the diversity of the community, said Phil Hocher, a senior from St. Louis studying philosophy and history.

While some students said there are resourceful businesses in town, they said their locations tend to be inconvenient for students.

Ramiro Crego, a graduate student in forestry from Argentina, said he walks 15 blocks every week to buy groceries because grocery stores are too far.

Please see PLAN | 3

Quinn: Higher education will have to 'soldier through' economy

RYAN VOYLES
Daily Egyptian

Higher education will have to look elsewhere for emergency funds as the state is unlikely to spend more on universities.

Gov. Pat Quinn said Monday he has done everything he could do in re-

gard to funding higher education.

"They gave me a lump sum budget and I invested as far as we could go," Quinn said. "At this point it looks like we'll just have to soldier through and try to get our economy back on track."

Of the \$3.4 billion lump sum appropriated by the General Assembly to the Governor's Office, \$180 million

remains unallocated as of July 1, according to the state's budget website.

Of the projects funded through the lump sum appropriations, the Board of Higher Education received only \$27 million. The Department of Human Services received the most money, at \$1.19 billion, while the Department of Healthcare and Family

Services received \$1 billion.

SIUC Chancellor Rita Cheng said the university had already started to prepare a budget for the fiscal year 2011 based on the \$122.1 million in state appropriations given to the SIU last year. However, she said the appropriations are likely to be \$114.5 million due to the loss of the 7 percent federal

stimulus money.

Cheng said she has asked all university units to reduce their budgets next year by an average of 4 percent. Layoffs and furloughs remain a last minute option.

Please see FUNDS | 3

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The DAILY EGYPTIAN is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale 50 weeks per year, with an average daily circulation of 20,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Friday. Summer editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intercession editions will run on Wednesdays. Spring break and Thanksgiving editions are distributed on Mondays of the pertaining weeks. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale, Murphysboro and Carterville communities. The DAILY EGYPTIAN online publication can be found at www.dailyegyptian.com.

Mission Statement

The DAILY EGYPTIAN, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

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Reaching Us

Phone: (618) 536-3311
Fax: (618) 453-3248

E-mail: editor@dailyegyptian.com

Editor-in-Chief: Lindsey Smith ext. 252
Editor-at-Large: Jeff Engelhardt ext. 256
Campus Editor: Ryan Voyles ext. 254
City Desk: ext. 263
Sports Editor: Jeff Engelhardt ext. 256
Features Desk: ext. 258
Voices Editor: Jeff Engelhardt ext. 256
Photo Editor: Jess Vermeulen ext. 270
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Upcoming Calendar Events

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RANKING
CONTINUED FROM B

SIU Athletic Director Mario Moccia said a top-10 ranking is always praiseworthy, but preseason opinions don't matter because anything can happen during the football season.

"I know every coach will tell you a ranking doesn't mean much, which they don't; you have to prove it on the field," Moccia said. "Whether you're ninth, third or seventh, a lot of things shake out."

Moccia did give preseason rankings a little purpose when it comes to the end of the season. He said it is good to start with a higher rating because of the way playoff home seeds are set. If a team finishes the season as a top-four seed, it will have home-field advantage in the postseason.

Philsteede.com also published a list of the players it thinks will be members of the all-conference and All-American teams. Corey Lindsey and Mike McElroy, seniors in the Saluki defensive secondary, and John Goode, junior full back, were named to the FCS All-American team. Junior offensive tackle David Pickard represented SIU on the second team.

Seven players were named to the All-MVFC team. Junior defensive end Kyle Russo, senior wide receiver Joe Allaris and senior kicker Kyle Dougherty will join Lindsey, McElroy, Goode and Pickard.

Philsteede.com ranks Lindsey as the top cornerback in the FCS. The standout defender said he and his teammates don't let the rankings bother them. He also said Northern Iowa's higher ranking would not disrupt the Salukis as the two teams will battle as they do every year.

"We really don't get into that; it's really about where you end up at the end," Lindsey said. "I'm a self-motivated person, so with or without that I'm coming with a high motor, just knowing this could be my last time playing."

Brandon LuChance can be reached at bluchance@dailylegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 282.

City clerk Vaught to retire in February

Janet Vaught, the Carbondale city clerk since 1979, has announced she will retire effective Feb. 18, 2011.

Vaught, 58, has worked for the city since 1976. She announced her retirement to the city council in a closed meeting Tuesday.

Her husband Chuck, 60, who has worked in the city's Finance Department

since 1975, will also retire Feb. 18, 2011.

"Chuck and I met when I went to work for the City in 1976 and a year later got married," Vaught said in a press release. "He was ready to retire and I just couldn't imagine working in City Hall without him. We both want to travel and I have promised him that I will take up golf so we can play

together. Most importantly, we want to spend more time with our grandsons."

Mayor Brad Cole said Janet Vaught was always a true professional and will be missed.

The mayor, with the consent of the city council, appoints the city clerk. No plans for her replacement have been announced.

WIRE REPORTS	<p>WASHINGTON</p> <p>Ag Secretary Vilsack says he offered Sherrod 'unique' post; she says she's considering return</p> <p>WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said Wednesday he has apologized to ousted employee Shirley Sherrod and offered her a unique new position at the agency.</p> <p>Sherrod, in an interview with The Associated Press, said she was considering it.</p> <p>"They did make an offer," she said in a telephone interview. "I just told him I need to think about it."</p> <p>Vilsack told reporters that Sherrod accepted his apology. He said, "She was extraordinarily gracious." The new job offer comes after an embarrassed White House apologized to Sherrod Wednesday for ousting her over her remarks about race to an NAACP banquet in Georgia earlier this year. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said the administration did not know all the facts when it acted.</p>	<p>WASHINGTON</p> <p>Triumphant Obama signs financial overhaul, says it will protect consumers, rein in Wall Street</p> <p>WASHINGTON — Reveling over a new milestone in his presidency, a triumphant Barack Obama on Wednesday signed into law the most sweeping overhaul of lending and high-finance rules since the Great Depression, adding safeguards for millions of consumers and aiming to restrain Wall Street excesses that could set off a new recession.</p> <p>The president's signing ceremony capped nearly two years of intense debate over how to avoid a recurrence of the 2008 financial meltdown that buckled the U.S. economy and has left sharp, lasting imprints on the nation's politics and in Americans' homes.</p> <p>In a heated midterm election season that has put a dent in his public support, Obama sought to put the complex law in pocketbook terms. Emphasizing provisions that guard borrowers from abusive lenders, he claimed "the strongest financial protections for consumers in the nation's history."</p>
	<p>FUNDS</p> <p>CONTINUED FROM 1</p> <p>SIU is still waiting for more than \$80 million in state appropriations for FY10, with a deadline for money to be given to universities by the end of December.</p> <p>SIU President Glenn Poshard said SIU would be able to make it to mid-October, but would have to look at furloughs and layoffs if more money does not come the university's way.</p> <p>Illinois has given all state universities the opportunity to borrow money to replace what is owed to universities in appropriations by</p>	<p>PLAN</p> <p>CONTINUED FROM 1</p> <p>Poor sidewalk construction and zoning of housing has made living conditions difficult for individuals, said Jonquil Curry, 21, a junior from Chicago studying radio and television.</p> <p>Lindberg said students lose the sense of community and fun that comes with the disappearing businesses.</p> <p>"It's a disappointment watching the Strip dwindle</p>

September, but Poshard has said borrowing money would only be used in a last case scenario.

Moody's Investors Service lowered Illinois' credit rate in June to A1, which matches California as the lowest-rated state. Poshard said this would result in the university facing interest rates on money borrowed as high as 3.5 percent to 4 percent — which would mean millions more the university would have to pay back.

"We're going to do whatever we can to not have to resort to borrowing money," he said. "We need to wait for the state to give us the money that we are owed."

and tons of business shutting down — businesses that built community," Lindberg said.

Wissmann said the city has to remember to accommodate all of its residents.

"We have different lifestyles that we have to consider," he said. "Carbondale is better off as an intermingling community."

Michant Canty can be reached at mcanty@dailylegyptian.com or 618-536-3311 ext. 263.



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Band diversity keeps sunsets colorful

Marquee band "unlikely" to ever play at Sunset

LAUREN LEONE
Daily Egyptian

Don Castle said the summer concert series would be about two things — free, diverse music.

Choosing with diversity in mind allows the series to reach out to a larger audience, said Castle, Student Programming Council adviser and assistant director of the Student Center.

John Masear, concert director for the Student Programming Council and a junior from Carbondale majoring in meteorology and photography, said the search for band diversity starts early.

"Early in the year, we (SPC) look at live videos of performances, their studio albums — we try to narrow it down," he said. "This year, the committee had to listen to hundreds of bands that showed interest in us, before narrowing it down to just seven."

The concert committee includes the series' four sponsors: the city of Carbondale, Carbondale Park District, SPC and the Student Center, Castle said. He said the committee tries to sign all contracts with the bands by April 1.

Castle said it is SPC's role to be experts on what bands are available

and to stay in contact with agents throughout the year.

"It's like a two-way street. We either contact them or they contact us," he said.

The Sunset Concert Series costs roughly \$40,000 each year, divided equally between the four sponsors, Castle said. He said each band receives on average \$1,750 for their performance, not including a free hotel room.

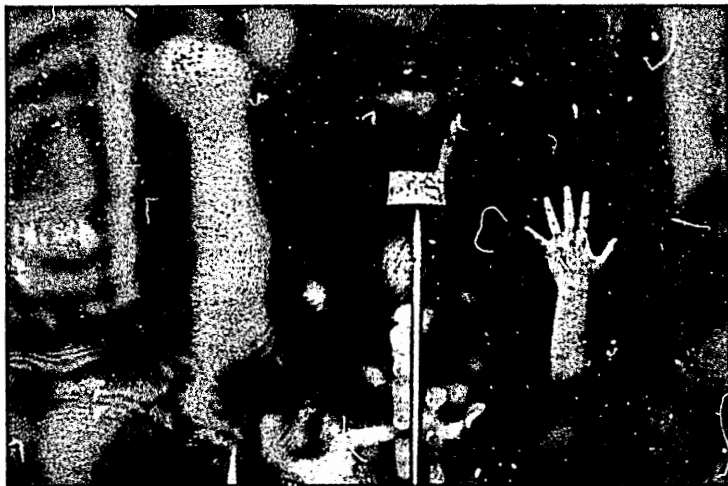
Masear said each night's \$1,000 production budget is used mainly for supplying sound, which they do through SoundCore Music and Video, located in Carbondale.

He said SoundCore comes out a few hours early to set up the stage each night and production cost doesn't change much year to year.

Priciliano Fabian, executive director of SPC, said the committee wants the community to get a different flavor of music week to week.

"You get the stereotype of having just country bands in the southern Illinois area," he said. "But with sunset concerts, we want to keep the music diverse."

Castle said SPC has never discussed bringing in a big-name band that would require a cover charge to cover expenses. He said even if the idea was brought to the table, the venues wouldn't be able



DIANA SOLIWON | DAILY EGYPTIAN

George Dybas waves the head of "Janessa," a cosmetology tool left in his friend Colin Morris' possession after Morris and his girlfriend, who practiced

makeup on it, broke up. Dybas and Morris were dancing to Shaggy Wonda's performance July 15 at Shryock before the concert was cut short due to weather.

PAGE 1 PHOTO REFER Teedy Jones rips on the saxophone while Colby Miller plays guitar during Shaggy Wonda's performance at Shryock July 15. The band formed in Bloorfington, Ind., and inspired the Carbondale crowd to dance before rain and thunder overtook the concert.

to handle such a large-scale production. "When you start selling tickets, there's other costs that go with that," Castle said. "The actual tickets, the ticket-takers, the ushers, security and the fences."

He said having a big-name band is outside anything that could even be considered within their price

range. The series would probably never have a big-name band perform because it would not be practical, Castle said.

He said one aspect the community loves about the sunset series is they know what to expect each year.

"It's tradition for the sunset concerts to be free," Castle said. "It's

always been free."

The Sandcarvers, a Celtic/rock band from Milwaukee, Wis., will perform at 7 p.m. today in Turley Park.

Lauren Leone can be reached at lleone@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 255.

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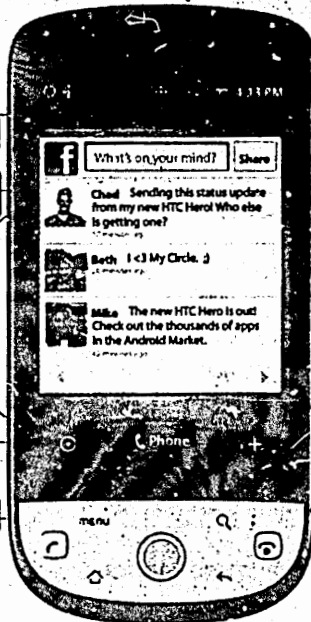
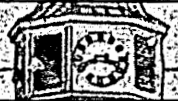
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- Fax us a copy of what you would like printed/advertised at (618) 455-5248
- Go to www.seu.edu and click the "Classifieds" link.

Rates

All line ad rates are based on consecutive running dates. For more information, contact Sarah at (618) 536-3311 ext. 231

Payment Options

The Daily Egyptian will accept cash, check or credit cards as payment. The amount due must be paid in full prior to the placement of your ad. There is also a returned check fee of \$25.00 per offense.

Deadlines

Line Ads: 12 noon, 1 day prior to publication
Display Ads: 12 noon 2 days prior to publication

Please be sure to check your classified advertisements for errors on the first day of publication.

The Daily Egyptian cannot be responsible for more than ONE day's incorrect insertion (no exceptions.) Advertisers are responsible for checking their ads for errors on the FIRST day they appeared and the FIRST day they are to cease appearing. The Daily Egyptian will not be responsible for more than one day's insertion for the classified ad that it is to be stopped. Errors not the fault of the advertiser which lessen the value of the advertisement will be adjusted.

Classified advertising running with the Daily Egyptian WILL NOT be automatically renewed. A callback will be given on the day of the expiration. If the customer is not at the phone number listed on their account, it is the responsibility of the customer to contact the Daily Egyptian for ad renewal.

Classified advertising must be paid in advance except for those accounts with established credit. Early cancellations of classified advertisement will be charged a \$275 service fee. Any refund under \$275 will be forfeited due to the cost of processing.

All advertising submitted to the Daily Egyptian is subject to approval and may be revised, rejected or cancelled at any time.

For Sale

Auto
BUY, SELL, AND TRADE AAA Auto Sales, 605 N Illinois Ave, Carbondale, 457-7181

BUYING JUNK CARS, running wrecked, flooded, cash paid, any year, call 618-201-3492.

WANTED TO BUY: vehicles, running or not, trucks & cars, \$25-\$500, call anytime, 218-6289 or 439-6561.

BUYING JUNK CARS, running wrecked, flooded, cash paid, any year, call 618-201-3492.

Parts & Service

STEVE THE CAR DOCTOR, Mobile Mechanic and Linn Service, 457-7984 or mobile, 525-8303.

Mobile Homes

1892 FLEETWOOD 14X52, 2 BDRM 1bath, w/d, a/c, many renovations. price 16,000 only, (618) 926-1802

Appliances

\$100 EACH WASHER, DRYER, stove, refrigerator, 90 day guar, Able Appliances, 457-7767.

REFRIGERATOR, 4 yr, \$195, glass top stove, \$250, w/d, 3 yr, \$150, side by side refrigerator, \$250, 457-8372.

WE BUY MOST refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, window a/c, Able Appliances, 457-7767.

Yard Sales

LOTS OF CLOTHES, furniture and much more, 650 W. Beard St., Thursday, Friday, from 12-4

For Rent

2 BDRM CDIALE HOUSE for rent, air, w/d hook up, stove & fridge incl, avail Aug 1, grad students, \$575/mo, 618-687-1245

TRAILERS FOR SALE/RENT... 2 bdrms... CALL 549-3850

Rooms

RECEIPT OPENING, 2 ROOMS available, 1207 S. Swartz, \$330/mo, incl. call Tina, 815-469-7885

5 MIN WALK TO campus, clean 1bath, private parking, only \$235/mo, incl. call, 519-7931.

Roommates

MALE OR FEMALE roommate wanted, behind the rec center, 1 yr lease, starting Aug 1st, \$300/mo, Call Claudia (773) 655-7020

ROOMMATE WANTED ON ILL Street, M or F, 1 semester ok, please call Clyde Swanson at 549-7292 or 924-3793

Apartments

LOVELY 2 BDRM APT NEAR SUCC, \$600/mo 457-4422 www.universityofseu.net

CDIALE, NICE, LARGE, 1 or 2 bdrm, avail May or Aug, 400 N.Westridge, upscale neighborhood, laundry, \$480-\$550, 920-3581 or 618-1028, no pets, www.2allwestapts.com

BEAUTIFUL 3 BDRMS, 1-2 baths, near lake, \$595-\$950/mo, 993-1779, or see us at www.bcll.us

2 BDRM W OF CDIALE near new Walmart, 1bath, C/H is quest w/ patio, carpet, laundry, lockup on-site, avail June or Aug, \$470/mo, cats ok for add'l fee, 457-3321.

NICE 1 or 2 BDRM, 320 W WALNUT, 605 w oak 304 w/cycamor carpet, a/c, avail now or Aug, \$300-\$350/mo, 529-1820.

ASPEN COURT, HOW LEASERS, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, and 3 bdrm, 3 bath apartments, Fall 2010, 618-549-1700.

EFFICIENCY APT, \$250/mo, good neighborhood, clean, quiet, low util, trash & water incl, on-site washer & laundry, for PhD or grad, 624-5127.

CDIALE, SOUTHWEST, UPSCALE living, \$895-\$950, call 549-7500.

NICE 1 & 2 BDRM, rental list at 2006 Woodhewer, a/c, near shopping/Nease 3 dept, no pets, 529-2535.

2 BDRM apartments next to campus, available aug \$450 and \$500 call 618-526-0053

AVAIL JUNE, 1 BDRM, ACROSS from SIU, hi-speed internet, satellite TV, laundry, parking, water & trash, \$250-275.

LG 1 BDRM, 203 W Oak, lg deck, shady yd, \$325/mo, some util incl, no pets, 549-3973.

412 E HESTER 2 bdrm, w/d, c/h, wood deck, lg rooms, \$900/mo, call 528-0744.

1 BDRM, 2 rooms, hardwood floors, close to campus, \$285/mo, water and trash incl, avail now, 687-2475

1, 2 and 3 BDRM, WALK TO CAMPUS, ref & dep req, avail now, \$315-900/mo, 687-2520

1 BDRM OR lg studio, pref grad, clean, quiet, water & trash, parking, laundry, 1 yr lease, no pets, \$345 to \$395/mo, 529-3815.

APARTMENTS & HOUSES, close to SIU, 1, 2 & 3 bdrm, avail now, Bryant Rentals, 529-1820 or 529-3581.

NOW LEASING 2BROOKSIDE Apts, ALL UTILITIES INCL, spacious 2 & 3 bdrms, c/h, on-site laundry, on-site mgmt, pet friendly, free banking, \$99 deposit, 549-3600.

SPACIOUS FURN STUDY, near campus, 549-6990, www.lincolnhillapts.com

VAN AWKEN RENTALS

Nice 2 and 3 bdrms apartments available, call 2010 annotated hwy chrs, granite countertops, as low as \$235 per bdrm, avail as early as Aug 1st

AFFORDABLE 2 bdrm apts, 2 full baths in each, w/d, d/w, 1 mile east of University Mall, 618-751-6052.

402 E. Snider, studio, unfurn, water/trash incl, w/c near SIU, avail July 27, \$250/mo, 529-3513

CDIALE COUNTRY 2 BDRM & Den \$650/mo, elec/atl incl, no pets, 815-469-1782.

OUR NEW HOUSING option, get-carbondaleapartments.com, offers an interactive, way to search for housing solutions by price, amenities and location. The search engine also offers a way to view pictures and floor plans of the property to make your housing search a breeze. In addition, the online accessibility makes it available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call a classified advertiser at 636-3311, option 2, for information on how to list your vacancies on get-carbondaleapartments.com.

WEDGWOOD HILLS, 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, aprt, fireplace, pool, grad or prof. adults preferred, 549-5596.

2 BDRM DUPLEX, NICE, quiet area, c/h, no dogs, quiet people only, avail Aug 6, 549-0681.

VERY NICE, 2 & 3 bdrms, across the street from campus, all amenities, and parking, please call Clyde Swanson at 549-7292 or 642-3793

NICE, CLEAN, 1 BDRM apt, avail May or Aug, 509 S. Wall or 313 E. Mall, \$295/mo, no pets, 529-3581.

SAFE QUIET SOUTHWEST 2 BDRM Near the Westside's Best Shopping

Coastlight Willowbrook Apts. 618-529-2535 10-12 mo Leases - No pets Rent-21 keys - 2006 Woodhewer

ONE BDRM, GREAT location on campus, w/d, d/w, very nice, 549-8000, www.universityheightsrentals.com

2 BLKS TO SIU, lg studio, newly renovated, laundry, w/d, \$330/mo, 411 E. Hester, 618-457-8798

CDIALE, 1 BLK from campus, studio, \$295/mo, also 1 or 2 bdrm avail, no pets, call 687-9292 or 687-4577.

BEST BUY IN studio apt, starting \$265/mo, near SIU, furn, laundry in building, call 457-4422, www.universityheightsrentals.com

SCHILLING PROPERTY 635 EAST WALNUT www.schillingprop.com 618-649-0885

LEASING NOW FOR 2010-2011 3 BDRM 408 W ILL

Sports

8 • Thursday, July 22, 2010

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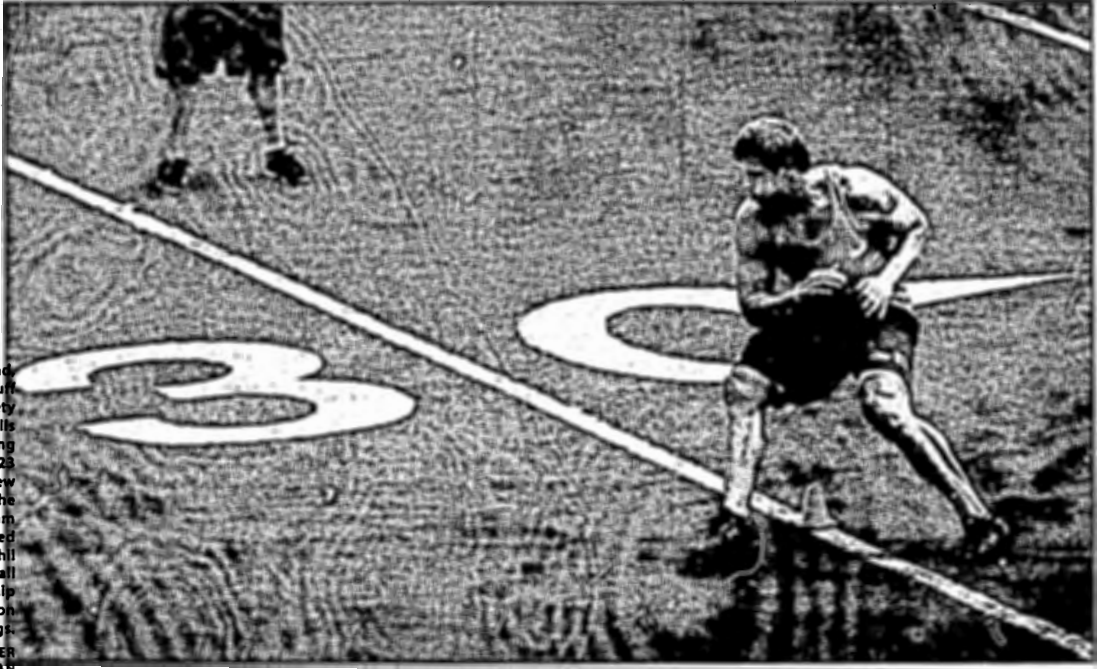
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FOOTBALL

SIU picked No. 7 in preseason rankings



Senior tight end Kyle Harru leads a variety of running drills during a training session June 23 at McAndrew Stadium. The football team has been ranked No. 7 in Phil Steele's Football Championship Series preseason rankings. DAN DWYER DAILY EGYPTIAN

BRANDON LACHANCE
Daily Egyptian

The football season is two months away, but the speculation has already started as to which team is the best in the nation.

PhilSteele.com, a website devoted to college and professional football, has published its preseason rankings, placing the two-time defending Missouri Valley Football Conference champion Salukis at No. 7.

Conference rival University of Northern Iowa is ranked two spots ahead of the Salukis at fifth place.

“I know every coach will tell you a ranking doesn't mean much, which they don't; you have to prove it on the field. Whether you're ninth, third or seventh, a lot of things shake out.”

— Marlo Mocella
SIU Athletic Director

The Panthers did not make the playoffs last year and were defeated by SIU at the UNI Dome. William and Mary, who defeated SIU in the quarterfinals and lost to Villanova in the Football Champions Series National Championship game, is No. 1 in the nation.

Jim Seman, FCS coordinator

for philsteele.com, said the website looked at what the teams had coming back to the roster and the high school rankings of the incoming freshman class. He said despite missing the playoffs last season, Northern Iowa has more depth.

“SIU's defense has only three starters returning and six on

offense,” Seman said. “They lost five linebackers who had a combined 49 starts.”

Seman also said Northern Iowa's strong showing against the Big Ten's Iowa Hawkeyes last season showed the Panthers' potential.

He said the new-look Salukis were ranked seventh because of their

game-day strategies. Seman said former head coach Jerry Kill used a defensive rotation that wouldn't allow the youth or inexperience affect the team. In this system, Kill didn't play an entire game with his starters. He mixed and matched freshmen and sophomores with the upper classmen.

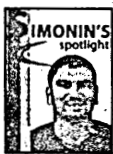
Seman said SIU head football coach Dale Lennon has done well in implementing the same procedure.

“If someone falls, there is always someone to fill his place,” Seman said.

Please see RANKING | 3

STAFF COLUMN

Brett Favre's final chance for a second ring



It is hard to believe Brett Favre is about to enter his 20th season as an NFL quarterback and has only one Super Bowl ring to show for it.

Does that mean he should hang it up because of the lack of rings on his fingers?

Absolutely not. Favre has a list of personal achievements that runs as long as the football field he plays on.

He is the only player to win the Associated Press Most Valuable Player three consecutive times. Also, he has appeared in eight divisional champi-

onship and five NFC championship games as well as two Super Bowls.

With such an impressive track record, how could No. 4 not be respected among NFL coaches, players and fans alike?

There is no real reason at all why Favre should hang it up.

While there is concern about Favre's recovery from his ankle surgery, it surely doesn't mean he still can't play the game at a high level. Favre is the toughest quarterback out there as shown by his unblemished record of playing through any injury and holding the record for most consecutive starts.

Favre is a machine and with the

Minnesota Vikings as good as they are now, he could play for years to come, but this year will be the final chapter of his career. Favre clearly wants to feel what being a world champion is like one more time because of the way the Vikings finished last season, but there will be a price to pay in order to get another ring.

The NFC North has gotten considerably stronger in the past year as Green Bay shows promise with its passing offense and Chicago's Mike Martz offense will be better as long as Jay Cutler stays focused. Also, Detroit is not the automatic loser that it once was a few years ago as it has been putting together a nice offensive package

with the young Matt Stafford leading the way. Minnesota has some work to do, but there is no one better than Favre to lead the young squad.

Minnesota's record last season was 12-4 with an amazing offense. Favre has Bernard Berrian and Sidney Rice to throw to all day, while Adrian Peterson is running out of the backfield to help him. Hopefully the fumbles will not be a problem this season.

Favre is also coming off one of his best seasons in his career. It must be the purple uniform that has given him Merlin-like powers, or maybe he is just that good.

Last year at the age 40, Favre had a 107.2 QE rating and threw 363

completions for 262.6 yards per game with 33 touchdowns. Those statistics are comparable to his 1997 season when he won the Super Bowl with Green Bay.

Favre has certain qualities that only he possesses and he is only getting better with age. Usually quarterbacks in the NFL have limited careers because of injury or just not living up to expectations, but not Favre. He keeps producing year after year, and there is no reason to believe it will be different this season.

Ryan Simonin can be reached at rsimonin@dailylegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 269.