The congressional race has turned into a sprint. After months of campaigning for votes, Illinois 12th Congressional District candidates William Enyart, Jason Plummer and Paula Bradshaw are making a final push with Election Day less than a week away.

The three candidates are vying to fill retiring U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello’s seat at Congress.

“Right now, we have a very hectic travel schedule,” said James McDonough, the press secretary for Enyart. “We are getting in touch with our base and thanking the people who have supported us over the past few months.”

Enyart, the Democratic nominee, is a recently retired major general who commanded the Illinois National Guard.

The 62-year-old has also worked as an attorney in Belleville and is an SIU graduate with a journalism degree in 1974 and a law degree in 1979.

Enyart will be in Carbondale Friday and Saturday as a last-minute push for votes, McDonough said. He will also travel to other southern Illinois counties.

College Democrats, a group at SIU, will be among Enyart’s supporters, said Chance Tate, the group’s president.

The student Democrats will host a Students for Bill Enyart rally in the free forum area from 3 to 4 p.m. Friday, Tate said. The group will also sponsor an Election Day rally from 12 to 2 p.m. in the free forum area, he said.

“We are abundantly aware that our efforts could pull Democrats over the top, more specifically the 12th Congressional race,” Tate said. “Students on campus are overwhelming in support of Democrat Bill Enyart.”

Plummer is also making a final push for votes.

The 30-year-old Republican businessman from O’Fallon met with medical professionals in Alton Monday about health care reform, said Philip Lasseigne, media representative for the Plummer campaign.

Plummer will also co-sponsor a Halloween night for kids in Bethalto and then travel to the southern part of the state for the rest of the week.

“Jason has been reaching out to voters throughout this entire election, and that is what he is doing leading up to the final days,” Lasseigne said. “Jason has been over every corner of the district.”

William Schroeder, a professor of law and adviser for the College Republicans at SIU, said he did not know of any Republican rallies coming up on campus. However, he encouraged students to get out and vote.

“It’s always important to vote,” he said. “The issues at stake in the election are going to affect students for a lot longer time than the older voters. They will all be dead, and (students) will be stuck with it.”

Paula Bradshaw, the Green Party candidate, is also working until the very end.

Bradshaw, a 59-year-old nurse from Carbondale, spoke at an anti-fracking rally at the Carbondale Crisis Center Tuesday and hosted a fundraiser at the Newell House.

The student activity fee increase has sparked mixed reactions from the university community.

Undergraduate Student Government members supported the $10 fee increase at their Oct. 23 meeting, which would put the fee at $47.70. USG Senate President Adrian Miller said he thinks the increase would benefit students in the long run. He said USG gets many fee proposals, but this is one he strongly believes needs support.

Don Castle, Student Center programs associate director, proposed the fee increase to the group in September, and the Board of Trustees will decide whether to approve it sometime in the spring.

USG Vice President Corbin Doss said students would control how their fee money is spent. USG will allocate the funds.

USG allocated $123,000 to the programming council this year, but, USG would no longer give money to SPC from its budget with the fee increase because $10 from each student would equal $300,000 in Student Programming Council’s budget.

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Castle said the increase would benefit everyone.

“USG will have $120,000 remaining in their account to disperse amongst RSO’s, the SPC will have the proper funding to give students the college experience they deserve, and students can remain on their own campus to enjoy themselves,” Castle said.

Miller said the increase would also guarantee consistent and adequate funding for Student Programming events and allow them to be more mainstream.

“This is a fee that will directly affect the students and will give them complete control because they will determine where the money goes,” Doss said.

USG’s most important goal is high retention and enrollment, and the increase will allow more money to be allocated to RSOs.

“Statistics show that if a student is involved in an RSO and that RSO is doing well, that student will succeed,” Doss said.

Miller said students’ university experiences should be memorable. He said the fee increase will allow them to enjoy the college experience at their own university instead of having to travel to other places.

“If you think about the amount of money spent on driving to another university and the amount of money spent to get into those events, this $10 fee will pay off a lot in the long run,” Miller said.

Offer Keys, a USG senate member who is also a part of the USG funding committee, said allocating money can be difficult.

“This fee can bring bigger and better things to campus as well as give more money back to students when they request it for their individual events,” he said.

While USG members said they think the increase has several benefits, James Phoenix, an undeclared graduate student from Belvidere, said he thinks the university has increased enough fees, and this one will only continue the pattern.
About Us
The DAILY EGYP'TIAN is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale 50 weeks per year, with an average daily circulation of 15,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Friday. Summer editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intersession editions will run on Wednesdays. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale and Carterville communities. The DAILY EGYP'TIAN online publication can be found at www.dailyegyptian.com.

Mission Statement
The DAILY EGYP'TIAN, 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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The Weather Channel® 5-day weather forecast for Carbondale

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Illinois releasing report card on state schools
Associated Press
CHICAGO — State education officials released the last-of-its-kind report card for Illinois schools on Tuesday, offering the confusing and sometimes contradictory findings as Edublog A in their reasoning to toss the system for evaluating students and schools.

The system is part of the federal No Child Left Behind Law, or 2,066,692 public schools, failed to make what is considered adequate yearly progress under the federal law. That is a slight increase from the 65 percent of the schools that failed to meet 2011 standards. Only 11 of the 671 high schools met that standard based on students’ scores on the statewide test. Yet, some high schools that didn’t meet that standard are still ranked "among the best high schools in the country," Koch said. "I think the law is severely deficient because those are fine schools, and they deserve the proper recognition," Koch said during a news conference, where he listed several high schools that routinely receive national recognition for academics yet weren’t among the 11 schools that tested adequate.

The tests did, however, point to problems with the way students are being taught and evaluated in Illinois, particularly in elementary schools.

Koch and Chico pointed out that scores among elementary school students and U.S. scores in many other countries went up slightly. While the percentage of students who met or exceeded state standards on testing was 82.1 percent for elementary school students, it was just 51.3 percent for 11th graders.

"There is no doubt about it, that there is a disconnect between what is going on at the elementary schools and what is expected and examined at the high school level," Chico said. Illinois and many other states have already put in place new "common core" standards or higher learning benchmarks for students.

Illinois has asked for a waiver for some key provisions of the law. Koch said he’s optimistic that the U.S. Department of Education will ultimately grant the waiver, saying the only "stickin’ point" left is a timeline for teacher evaluations. The waiver includes parts of the new evaluation system.

Among other findings in Tuesday’s report card were that there are 2,066,692 public school students in Illinois, or about 8,100 fewer than last year. Minorities make up 49 percent of the state’s public school students, compared to 38 percent in 1999, in large part due to the percentage of Hispanic students during that period climbed from 13.9 percent to 25.6 percent.
Syrian regime launches nationwide airstrikes

BEIRUT — Syrian fighter jets pounded rebel areas across the country Monday with scores of airstrikes that anti-regime activists called the most widespread bombing in a single day since Syrian rebels started 19 months ago.

The death toll for what was supposed to be a four-day cease-fire between the regime of President Bashar Assad and rebels seeking his overthrow exceeded 500, and activists accused the government’s heavy reliance on air power reflected its inability to roll back rebel gains.

“The army is no longer able to make any progress on the ground so it is resorting to this style,” said activist Hisham Nijim via Skype from the northern town of Khan Sheikhun.

Activists said more than 80 people were killed nationwide Monday while videos posted online showed fighter jets screaming over Syrian towns, mushroom clouds rising from neighborhoods, and residents searching the remains of damaged and collapsed buildings for bodies. One video from Maaret al-Numan in the north showed residents trying to save a boy who was buried up to his shoulders in rubble. Another showed the dead bodies of a young boy and girl laid out on a tile floor.

The airstrikes focused on rebel areas in the northern provinces of Aleppo and Idlib as well as on restive areas in and around the capital Damascus. The regime has been bombarding rebel areas in the north for months, but had sparingly used its air force near the capital, presumably to avoid isolating its supporters there.

But analysts say that constant defections and rising rebel capabilities have lessened the regime’s ability to take back and hold rebel areas, making air strikes its most effective way to fight back.

Monday was supposed to be the fourth and final day of an internationally sanctioned cease-fire to coincide with the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, one of the holiest periods of the Muslim calendar. But violence marred the trance almost immediately after it was to go into effect on Friday and continued apace through the weekend.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Monday he was “deeply disappointed” that the warring parties didn’t respect the cease-fire and called on them “to stop this madness.”

“As long as the international community remains at odds, the needs, attacks and suffering will only grow,” he said. “Campaigns are working feverishly for this time of the campaign. The final week of the election is always chaotic,” he said. “Campaigns are working feverishly for their candidates.”

Hildreth also said he noticed the candidates haven’t spent much time on issues that affect college students. He said a large number of student votes could change the way candidates feel about the issues.

“I think that it is incredibly important that all SIU students — Democrats, Republicans, Greens and Independents — turn out and vote in this election,” he said.

Other videos showed fighter jets scannering through the sky and dropping bombs over Damascus suburbs that include Yabroud, Hazat and Harasta.

Videos from the poor neighborhood of Hajar al-Aswad in south Damascus showed what activists said were people killed by regime shells. One video showed a dead family of five, all wrapped in blankets. Others showed three dead bodies in a small bus and the bodies of two young children laid out on a floor.

Activists could not be independently verified because of reporting restrictions in Syria, but they appeared genuine and corresponded to other AP reporting on the events depicted.

Also Monday, a car bomb exploded in the Damascus suburb of Jamarna, knocking balconies off of residential buildings and sending firemen rushing to fight the blaze, according to TV footage.

The state news agency SANA said 11 people were killed and 67 wounded. The Observatory said five people were killed.

SANA also reported a second car bomb in the area later Monday but did not give a number of the dead and wounded.

**ELECTION CONTINUED FROM 1

R.W. Hildreth, an associate professor of political science and adviser for the College Democrats, said the candidates’ efforts are normal for this time of the campaign.

“The final week of the election is always chaotic,” he said. “Campaigns are working feverishly on their game to get citizens to vote for their candidates.”

Hildreth also said he noticed the candidates haven’t spent much time on issues that affect college students. He said a large number of student votes could change the way candidates feel about the issues.

“I think that it is incredibly important that all SIU students — Democrats, Republicans, Greens and Independents — turn out and vote in this election,” he said.

A strong turnout is one great way to reverse this trend.”

Riley Swinford can be reached at rswinford@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 268.
Andrew Copeland, a sophomore from Highland studying environmental biology, reads a copy of “The Atheist’s Bible” at the Fiction 4 Fiction book exchange Tuesday outside Lawson Hall. Where students were encouraged to trade any of their religious books for fiction novels, The Secular Student Alliance held the exchange as a way to inform non-religious students about the group as well as alternatives to religious lifestyles. “A lot of the time when you let people know, ‘Oh, I’m an atheist,’ or ‘Oh, I’m an agnostic,’ it instantly puts this stigma on the person, ‘Oh, they’re weird, they’re weird, they’re whatever,’” Copeland said. “It’s sort of good to have a community of support to help each other out and to be there for one another.”

Winds from Sandy make for good Chicago surfing

CHICAGO — Hundreds of miles from its turbulent center, superstorm Sandy’s outer bands were violent enough to rip up near-record high waves Tuesday on Lake Michigan, sending a community of avid surfers in Chicago into the cold, churning waters despite warnings from city officials.

“Any surfer who’s out there needs to be careful about the storm’s impact,” said Meteorologist Andrew Krein with the National Weather Service.

“People should be thinking about this being a tropical storm, one vast enough to reach hundreds of miles inland. This is the outskirts of a former tropical system,” he said. “...the fact that the system is covering such a large area. I can’t recall another system like this.”

Across the lake in Michigan, winds gusting to 64 mph sent two-story-tall ocean-like waves of around 10 feet crashing into the shoreline around Chicago, where the water can be as flat as glass on calm days and almost as glassy under a bright summer sky. On Tuesday, the water was dark, the color of slate.

“Sand whipped up by high winds spawned by the remnants of the hurricane prompted at least one northern Indiana school along Lake Michigan to cancel classes. The storm is expected to bring as much as 6 inches of rain to parts of the Chicago area, with strong winds and widespread flooding. Officials warned residents to stay away from the lakeshore, and portions of the bicycle path along the shore were closed. Police officers had to chase a few runners off the path.

“Sand whipped up by high winds blown across the lake can be dangerous. The more unprecedented thing about this is that it’s the outskirts of a former tropical system,” he said. “...That’s very unusual. The fact that the system is covering such a large area. I can’t recall another system like this.”

Across the lake in Michigan, winds gusting to 64 mph sent two-story-tall waves crashing onto the shoreline. The thrill of the big surf attracted Cameron Mammina to the waterfront at St. Joseph, where he took his board out for near-record high waves on his home beach.

“Those few moments ... seem like forever. You’re going down that wave,” he said.

And then he paddled off, disappearing between the swells before catching a smooth ride to shore and diving into the foam with his arms outstretched.

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“Those few moments ... seem like forever. You’re going down that wave,” he said.
A look around the conference

Wichita State:
The Shockers finished first in the MVC with a 16-2 conference record. Wichita State was especially successful at home, compiling a 15-1 record at Charles Koch Arena. The university relied on its stellar defense last year to grab hold of the MVC regular season title, averaging a 39.3 percent defensive field goal percentage. The Shockers had the largest scoring margin in the conference at 14.7 and led the conference in rebounding with an average 38 per game. However, the Shockers lost major leadership and production from seniors Joe Ragland and Garrett Stults. Wichita State will need 6-foot-6 freshman Zach Bush and 6-foot-7 freshman Dereal Green to fill the rebounding void in the minutes they are on the court.

Creighton:
The Bluejays scored the MVC last year as they averaged a 50 percent field goal percentage offensively and hit 42 percent from 3-point range. Creighton’s high quality shots last year were made possible by the team’s conference-high quality shots last year were made possible by the team’s conference-level play. For Creighton to score more points or this could be a telltale sign of progress for the team.

Illinois State:
The Bluebirds were one of the better teams in the conference last year and were 1-12 against 3-point competition. Illinois State is one of the conference’s up-and-coming teams. Evansville led the conference in free-throw percentage (76 percent) and was second in 3-point field goal percentage (59 percent) last year. The Purple Aces must improve defensively so they can be in both defensive field goal percentage and scoring defense, allowing 48 percent shooting from the field and 72.7 points per game.

Missouri State:
The Missouri State Bears regressed a little last season as they won only 16 games after winning 26 in the 2010-2011 season. Second-year coach Paul Lusk hopes to right the ship this year and improve his young team’s defensive prowess. The Bears were tight in the MVC in blocked shots per game (2.1) last season, and they were last in steals per game (4.6).

Bradley:
The Braves finished last in the conference last year and were 1-12 in games outside of Peoria. Bradley was last in three offensive categories: scoring offense, scoring margin and field goal percentage. Bradley also finished last in defensive rebounds. The Braves could use production from underclassmen, and the second team coming off the bench has to score more points or this could be another long year for the Braves.

Northern Iowa:
The Sycamores finished seventh in the MVC with an 8-10 conference record, but they were 18-5 against non-conference competition. Indiana State must improve its offensive production without any senior leadership. The Sycamores were eighth in both scoring margin (-0.6) and offensive field goal percentage (49 percent).

Evanville:
Notching back-to-back seasons of 16-16 after finishing 9-21 in the 2009-2010 season, the Purple Aces are the conference’s up-and-coming team. Evansville led the conference in free-throw percentage (76 percent) and was second in 3-point field goal percentage (59 percent) last year. The Purple Aces must improve defensively so they can be in both defensive field goal percentage and scoring defense, allowing 48 percent shooting from the field and 72.7 points per game.

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THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS
1. Gap
2. Cause irritation
3. Rubbing
4. 1960s
5. Article
6. Hulk
7. Female horse
8. Straight up
9. Authentic
10. Amsterdam resident
11. Like a poor attempt
12. 3rd cycle riders
13. Lincoln's nickname
14. Half the diameter
15. Apartment building in the slums
16. Secret
17. Indian
18. Expensive

DOWN
1. Use something
2. Better paycheck
3. A man
4. Janitor
5. Doorway
6. State
7. Gallop
8. Racer
9. Rider
10. The way
11. Coach
12. Door
13. Antlers
14. Mountain
15. Empire 
17. Require willpower, and you have it.
18. Getting more sensitive and stronger.

Gemini — Today is a 5 —

Emotional angles. Don’t share with friends yet, as something has vanished. Study the way of the wise.

Sagittarius — Today is a 4 —

Keep an open mind; you need what you’re learning to do the job well.

Pisces — Today is a 7 —

Your loved ones encourage you to take on a new challenge.

Capricorn — Today is an 8 —

Stand up to critics. Refocus on work today and tomorrow. It’s not always about the money.
The SIU football team has a top-notch defense, and the statistics prove it.

The Salukis have forced 22 turnovers (14 fumbles, eight interceptions) this year. That number not only leads the Missouri Valley Football Conference, but it also is the second-most in the Football Championship Series.

The special teams also has proved to be a game-changer. The team has blocked three punts on the year, and the special teams blocked a field goal and an extra point in Saturday’s matchup with North Dakota State.

The Saluki defense and special teams have accounted for 33 percent of the team’s touchdowns this year with eight of 26 touchdowns.

Coach Dale Lennon said the team no longer is surprised when a kick is blocked, rather it’s expected because of practice preparation.

“It ends up being a belief. Once you’ve done it, you just know that you can,” Lennon said. “We spend a lot of time working on that.”

One thing the Salukis do weekly on the practice field is have what they call a block party. There are four stations set up that help with kick-blocking techniques, and every member of a punt or field goal block team must go through the stations. The stations are designed to help with footwork, hand placement and timing.

Sophomore linebacker Tyler Williamson got in on the block party Saturday as he knocked down North Dakota kicker Adam Keller’s 47-yard field goal attempt.

“At the season has gone on, we have taken pride in special teams and those game-changing plays,” he said. “I have always enjoyed trying to go after field goals and punts. I think we have a good attitude about it.”

Williamson said a field goal block can be a bit painful.

“It stings,” he said. “I caught it on my forearm (Saturday), but it’s not too bad.”

Along with the field goal block, Williamson also recorded a forced fumble for the defense, which is his third of the year. Only 12 other players in school history have forced three fumbles in a season.

BEN CONRADY
Daily Egyptian

Freshman defensive end Adam Brandt tracks down the ball carrier Tuesday during scrimmages at Saluki Stadium. Despite the Salukis’ loss Saturday to North Dakota State University, offensive line coach Phil Meyer was optimistic about the team’s Saturday matchup against South Dakota State University. “Our guys know the importance of the game and that there is a lot at stake,” Meyer said. “We are still in the mix for a conference championship.” Saturday’s kickoff is scheduled for 2 p.m.

NICOLE HESTER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

The Saluki football team practices about six times a week, including a seven to 15 mile run each time — and so does Coach Matt Sparks.

Sparks, who is in his 18th season with the Saluki distance track and field program, has led the men’s cross-country team to Missouri Valley Conference titles in 2004, 2007, 2008 and on Saturday in Normal. He has coached more than 60 MVC scholar athletes, and his team had a cumulative 3.61 grade point average in 2003, which was the second highest in the nation, according to Saluki Athletics.

Sparks won the MVC Cross-Country Coach of the Year for the third time Sunday and said he attributes his success to his athletes and their willingness to buy into his system.

“I tell them all the time that success breeds success,” he said. “This current class has believed in and followed that, as well as previous ones.”

Sparks was born in Nobleville, Ind., where his father coached basketball at the local high school. He said his learned lessons in Indiana that he could apply to cross-country, though the state is geared more toward basketball.

“I grew up seeing the day-in and day-out commitment that the people of Indiana expected out of its basketball programs,” he said. “In basketball, chemistry is very important, but I think any successful team has to have chemistry!”

Junior runner Alyssa Allison said besides being a phenomenal coach, Sparks does a great job of ensuring his players’ well-being.

“He is always willing to pick up the phone and just listen to you, even if you want to vent to him,” she said.

Allison said Sparks’ enthusiasm for the sport and his hands-on approach adds to his coaching ability.

“He still goes out there and runs with us, when a lot of coaches just watch the stations. He is always running back and forth, letting us know how and when we should pace ourselves,” Allison said. “He gets so excited just to practice, it kind of rubs off on us.”

In her first attached season with Saluki cross-country, Allison said Sparks’ ability to individualize each team member gives him great insight on every runner.

“Coach gives thorough evaluations of each one of us . . . it’s through that one-on-one coaching that has helped me build my confidence. He has showed me that I can be great at other things besides running,” she said. “He tries to instill in us that if we can be great at this, we can be great in anything.”

Sophomore runner Lacey Gibson said Sparks’ individualized coaching has helped elevate the team.

“For the rest of the story, please see dailyegyptian.com

SPARTAN

Cross-Country

Sparks flies as MVC top coach

DEMARIO PHIPPS-SMITH
Daily Egyptian

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Salukis host weekly block party

BEN CONRADY
Daily Egyptian

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