

BRIEFLY

CARBONDALE

Patrol car involved in traffic accident: A Carbondale Police patrol car and two civilian vehicles were involved in an accident at 5:55 p.m. Saturday at the intersection of Giant City Road and Illinois 13.

Sgt. Heather Reno with the city's police department said a passenger in a civilian car sustained minor injuries, but everyone else, including the officer, was unharmed. The officer was responding to an emergency call. Reno said the patrol car was damaged enough that it had to be towed from the scene. No further information was available as of Saturday evening.

— Codell Rodriguez

REGION

Health departments receive West Nile grants: Several Southern Illinois health departments were awarded grants to perform surveillance and control mosquitoes to prevent the West Nile virus.

The primary purpose of the grants from the Illinois Department of Public Health is to perform surveillance, which includes collecting and testing mosquitoes and birds for the virus. Health departments can also use the funding for mosquito control, to inform the public about actions they can take to prevent the infection and to inspect areas where mosquitoes are likely to breed.

Grant amounts are based on documented West Nile activity, including the number of human cases of mosquito-borne diseases.

Departments that received the grants include:

- Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health Department, \$13,821.88.
- Jackson County Health Department, \$14,640.64.
- Jefferson County Health Department, \$8,000.

• Monroe-Randolph Bi-County Health Department, \$1,000.

Scientists research earthquake lights

BY LAURA CHAPMAN THE SOUTHERN

Some scientists believe unusual lights sometimes seen before earthquakes could be helpful in predicting when tremblers might strike.

A Chicago man is gathering eyewitness reports to see if the geophysical phenomenon known as "earthquake lights" occurred during the magnitude 5.2 earthquake that struck Southern Illinois April 18. David Johnson, a self-described hobby scientist and storm chaser, is

collecting reports from people who think they saw lights before the quake. Johnson will send his information to Friedemann Freund, a leading NASA researcher in the field, he said.

"All I'm doing is getting the word out," Johnson said. Although there are no conclusive theories to explain the lights, the U.S. Geological Survey describes them as being a white to bluish flash or glow that lasts for several seconds before or during moderate to large earthquakes.

"We have probably made a breakthrough discovery that helps us understand all the types of signals the

earth sends out before earthquakes," Freund said.

Based on the earthquake's location, Johnson said, it is possible the people throughout the region could have seen a light. Past reports of earthquake lights suggest they can be seen as far away as 100 to 200 kilometers from the epicenter, he said.

After the April earthquake, Freund said he heard some people in the area had seen lights just before the earthquake, which happened at 4:37 a.m. He asked Johnson to look into the

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WSIU reels in the dough

Station raises funds through fantasy auction

BY CODELL RODRIGUEZ THE SOUTHERN

CARBONDALE — Without a whole lot of commercials, WSIU has to do some fundraising now and then to stay on the air.

The Friends of WSIU hosted the annual Fantasy Auction, a major fundraiser, Saturday night in the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Student Center ballrooms. The night included food and live and silent auctions. Friends of WSIU Board President Emil Spees said the event is a major player in the station's existence. "Without it we would be in dire straits," Spees said. "We use it not to purchase but to match funds for grants."

More specifically, Spees said the funds match grants that help the station stay on the cutting edge with necessary upgrades such as digital conversion. Delores Kerstein, interim director, said the fundraiser usually makes between \$80,000 and \$100,000 a year.

The auction featured a wide assortment of items available for bidding, including a Caribbean vacation, a week in a condo in Fort Meyers, Fla., and a 4.35 carat fantasy-cut Peridot ring worth nearly \$3,000.

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Larry Dietz, vice chancellor of Student Affairs at Southern Illinois University, looks over one of the items in the silent auction Saturday at the fantasy auction in the Student Center to benefit WSIU.

DAVE TAYLOR / FOR THE SOUTHERN



CHUCK NOVAKA / THE SOUTHERN
Andrew Aken stands beside his array of servers, which run an application that gives him information of what type of jobs are available.

Instructor gets jump on creating job guide

CLICK & CONNECT: For more about the information technology guide, go to www.thesouthern.com.

BY SCOTT FITZGERALD THE SOUTHERN

CARBONDALE — Southern Illinois University Carbondale instructor Andrew Aken has already begun working on what college of business administration officials say they need to enhance the school's recruiting efforts.

The former founder of GlobalEyes Telecommunications has been working since April 2007 on an information technology guide for SIUC students to plan their curriculum and eventually land jobs in the lucrative information technology field.

"Right now, it's just a research tool," he said about continuing work on a Web site that when finished, will have thorough information regarding skills tailored for particular users whether they be students and job-seekers, educators, industry representatives and

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Trailblazers brave the heat for nationwide celebration

BY CODELL RODRIGUEZ THE SOUTHERN

MURPHYSBORO — It might have been hot as blazes near Lake Kinkaid, but the sweltering heat was not enough to keep trail enthusiasts from some food and celebration.

The Trails Day Celebration at

and volunteer coordinator for the Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District.

The people who use trails had several activities to occupy their steamy Saturday, including an exhibition of birds of prey. Bev Shofstal, director of Free Again Inc. in Carterville, brought five raptors to display, including a small Kestrel and a large, majestic Red

Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl. Kathleen Baer of Carbondale brought her son, Robby, to meet the characters. Robby, 3, especially liked Woodsy Owl, unaware that his father, Bryan, was inside the suit.

"Other than being hot, this is really great," Kathleen said. Bob Rubright, chairman of the board



AUCTION: WSIU hosts fundraiser to help station stay on the air

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SIU President Glenn Poshard had his eye on a couple of the vacations.

Though winning a relaxing trip would be nice, Poshard said his main reason to attend was to ensure the station gets the support it needs.

"For all the enjoyment we all get from WSIU, this is a wonderful tribute," Poshard said.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Larry Dietz lent his signature to a few of the items up for bid and said the prizes and food provided for a pretty good time.

"I think it's an opportunity



DAVE TAYLOR / FOR THE SOUTHERN
Gloria Davis of Marion is reflected in a chest during the auction Saturday night. She and her husband, Ed, had their eyes on several items, both in the silent auction and in the following live auction.

for members of the community to come out and have fun," Dietz said.

"It's a great event, and we need to support this station."

Barbara Lesar said she knows the importance of supporting the station because she has been on the board for nearly 20 years.

"I've been on the board for 19 years, and I'll continue to be until they kick me off," Lesar said.

She said the station has a massive outreach to the community, and that it's important that people show their support for the station and the Fantasy Auction is the perfect time to do it.

"This is one time when friends can come enjoy themselves and give," Spees said.

codell.rodriquez@thesouthern.com
351-5804

TODAY'S EVENTS

Benefit spaghetti dinner:

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Christopher Grade School Cafeteria. Cash drawing and auction. \$7 adults, \$3 children 10 and under. Proceeds benefit Deirdre (Leek) Bates.

Debt workshop: 7 p.m. today and Monday, Herrin Church of Christ, 3101 S. Park Ave. "No debt, no sweat" financial workshop instructed by Steve Diggs.

OBITUARIES

Harvey Anderson

CARBONDALE — Harvey L. Anderson, 74, died at 10:45 a.m. Tuesday, June 3, 2008, at his home.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday in Wall Street Church of Christ with Brother Adell Anderson.

Jr. and Brother Willie Headspeth officiating. Burial will follow in Oakland Cemetery.

Jackson Funeral Home in Carbondale is in charge of arrangements.

Wayne Jackson

JOHNSTON CITY — Wayne Jackson, 84, of Cisne, formerly of Johnston City, passed away at 5:12 p.m. Friday, June 6, 2008, in Cisne Rehab and Health Center.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 10, 2008, in Lakeview Cemetery in Johnston City, with the Rev. Larry Marrs officiating.

There will be no visitation.

Murman and Wilson Funeral Home in Johnston City is in charge of arrangements.

Wayne was born Aug. 25, 1923, in Johnston City, the son of Andrew and Edna (Fairbanks) Jackson.

He is survived by two sisters, Eleanor Boyd and husband, Dewey, of Sikeston, Mo., and Imogene Foll of Jackson, Mo.; four nieces; and five nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Cecil Jackson and Harry Jackson; and two sisters, Myrtle Potts and Marie Smiley.

To sign the guest register or for more information, visit www.murmanandwilson.com.

WHAT'S COMING

Swim camp: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, Carbondale Park District. Swimming lessons, water safety and water games, arts and crafts, travel to local swimming holes and a trip to Splash City in Collinsville. 1335 Carbondale residents, \$167 others. 549-4222.

Flag football clinic: 9 to 10 a.m. for children ages 4 to 6, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. for children ages 7 to 10, Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday June 9 through 21, Parrish Park, Carbondale.

Program to teach fundamentals of football, with sportsmanship, teamwork and safety. \$20.25 Carbondale residents, \$25.50 others.

Cynthia McKinney dinner and rally: 6 p.m. Monday,urma Hayes Center, 441 E. Willow St., Carbondale. Dinner at 6:30 p.m., speaker-phone question and answer call from McKinney at 7:30. Dinner cost is \$10. Rich Whitney at 549-5159 or Charlie Howe at 457-4626.

Knitting with audio books: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Carbondale Public Library. Bring your own materials, no sign-up necessary, must be at least 13 years old. Mary Stoner or Jessica O'Brien at 457-0354.

LIGHTS: Scientists researching lights that accompany earthquakes

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claims to see if any could be followed up and recorded as evidence.

So far, Johnson said, he has had three reports from people in the region. Two of these reports, he said, sound like earthquake lights.

Robert Bauer, an

engineering geologist for the Illinois Geological Survey at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, said he had not heard of any reports of earthquake lights related to the April incident.

Based on his knowledge of earthquake lights, Bauer said, he did not think Illinois

was a likely place to observe them.

Once earthquake lights are better understood, Freund said his thinks scientists could use the lights to predict when an earthquake will strike.

"We are at a point where we can contradict all the seismologists who in the past

said earthquakes are unpredictable and just happen."

People who think they might have seen an earthquake light on April 18 can reach Johnson at (773) 376-4471.

laura.chapman@thesouthern.com
351-5816

GUIDE: SIUC instructor working on creating job guide for students

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researchers. "The interface for students is not completed yet. We are working on funding sources."

Aken's efforts to provide an aid for people at SIUC in the information technology field is a collaborative effort from the university's management department at the College of Business Administration, information systems and applied technologies department in the college of applied sciences and arts and computer science department in the college of science.

He's aware of what SIUC business administrators lobbied for and got last spring in the way of differential tuition that will allow for more money in services that has been designated to create more opportunities such as future employment for business students.

"It's a battle cry I've been singing for six years. A voice in the wilderness got heard. It's definitely the right path to be taken. Hopefully this application will contribute to that effort," Aken said.

Aken has constructed an

array of servers running data. He designed the software himself.

"We have collected more than 775,000 job ads and extracted 12 million skill references," Aken said in the perusing of employment Web sites such as Monster Jobs, Hot Jobs and Simply Hired. "This will be an aid for students to choose classes and an aid for them finding jobs in any industry within information technology."

Although the dot.com bubble burst and sent stocks plunging earlier this decade, people then out of work have been

absorbed into lucrative jobs again in a field that is burgeoning, Aken said.

"The fastest growing job opportunities now are in information technology. People argue that those kinds of jobs are going overseas and the dot.com bust hurt it. But we suffered only a single-year decline because of the dot.com bust. I see the U.S. economy basing much of its strength on information technology the next 20 years," Aken said.

scott.fitzgerald@thesouthern.com
351-5076

Homeowners:

Act now on home improvement plans to:

- Update a kitchen
- Install a pool
- Build An Addition
- Landscape

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